



## OUR 2016 DAAS

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### AUP WINS AWARD

Auckland University Press is a finalist in the London Book Fair International Excellence Awards. The Press is one of three publishers shortlisted in the Scholarly Kitchen Academic and Professional Publisher Award which will be announced at the London Book Fair on 12 April. Also vying for this award are Higher Education Press (China) and Teseo (Argentina).

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### LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS

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### EDUCATING THE GIFTED

Gifted and talented students in New Zealand schools cover the spectrum from above-average to profoundly gifted. In general, they are the top 10 percent in any domain, although we have no common definitions and each learning community has been left to decide on its own definition, selection processes and provisions. The result, as one of our researchers is discovering, is a Tower of Babel. Everyone is speaking a different language and communication between groups is, at best, difficult.

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## A RIGHT FOLLY

Architecture graduates Alexander Sacha Mилоjevic and Raphaela Rose, alongside Master of Architecture (Professional) student Ryan David Mahon and geotechnical engineer Edward Roberts, have won the 2016 Brick Bay Winery’s Folly Competition. Their entry “Daughter of the Swamp” is based on an enormous eel-pot or hīnaki form. Viewers are invited to enter the multi-coloured arched structure which is made of flexible steel bars normally used for concrete reinforcing. These allow the installation to sway in the breeze.



## A SCHOLARSHIP FOR REFUGEES

Rez Gardi is a student for whom a University scholarship support has made an immeasurable difference. Rez was born in a refugee camp in Pakistan and moved to New Zealand when she was six years old. “At my first school [ in Pakistan], my teacher hit me with a big stick and dragged me across the classroom by my hair for mispronouncing a new word”. Today all that is behind Rez and she is a strong supporter of refugees getting opportunities to have a university education. Read more of her story on page 3.



## TOP AWARD FOR SCIENTIST

Distinguished Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, founding director of the Liggins Institute and the Prime Minister’s chief science advisor, has won the 2015 Award for Science Diplomacy. The international prize, awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), recognises an individual or a small group working in science, engineering or foreign affairs making an outstanding contribution to furthering science diplomacy. Sir Peter is the first awardee outside the United States in five years.



## MEETING THE QUEEN

University academic and poet Selina Tusitala Marsh met Queen Elizabeth II after she had performed her poem Unity at the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey on 14 March. Selina’s three-minute poem which she was invited to perform begins by linking London in the UK to London in Kiribati. It then shifts in homage to her Tuvaluan granddad, to Tuvalu where the smallest Commonwealth nation speaks for all, and Tuvalu’s oceanic navigational mastery is placed alongside conventionally celebrated European expeditions. tea.



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COVER PHOTO: The University 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards From left: Graeme Wheeler, Dr Divya Dhar, David Williams QC, Professor Karen Willcox, and David Mitchell.

Photo by Richard Ng

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 PHOTOGRAPHY: Godfrey Boehnke, Judy Wilford  
 DESIGN: Mike Crozier (University Marketing)  
 PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland

Published by:  
 The University of Auckland  
 Communications,  
 Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant,  
 Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142

[www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews)

## PREPARING NZ FOR TECH FUTURE

A new information and communications technology graduate school will be the first of its kind in New Zealand and the University of Auckland is pleased to be leading the project, says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce visited the University in February to officially launch the school, a collaboration between the University of Auckland and the University of Waikato. The new school will have satellite locations in Hamilton and Tauranga.

The Government has committed \$28.6 million over four years for the development and delivery of ICT graduate schools in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. The schools will accept not only computer science graduates but students who have studied in non-ICT subjects who show strong critical thinking, communications or business planning skills.

Industry and businesses in the ICT sector will have significant interaction with the school, including providing guest presenters and workshop facilitators and helping connect students with industry through networking and internships.



The Vice-Chancellor with the inaugural director of the school, Professor Gill Dobbie and Steven Joyce.

## FLOURISHING ROLE MODEL

Former Auckland City Missioner Dame Diane Robertson will deliver the keynote address at **ASPIRE, the University's Professional Staff Conference – to be held on 5 July.**

"We wanted to find a keynote speaker that embodied the conference theme of 'flourishing,'" says conference organiser Karen Davies, Staff Development Manager in People and Organisational Development.

"Dame Diane is an inspiration to everyone who needs a role model in the art of flourishing in adversity and achieving amazing personal and professional goals."

Dame Diane was formally acknowledged in October last year when she was invested as a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her work at the Mission over the last 22 years. (She has now left the Mission to take up a new role.)

Originally trained as a teacher, she then worked as a counsellor, and went on to be the first woman and the first non-clergy appointment to the position of City Missioner, a break in 75 years of tradition. Under Dame Diane's watch, the Auckland City Mission has grown from 15 to

85 staff, all focused on raising awareness and providing assistance to hundreds of families as well as to Auckland's homeless. In 2015 more than 1700 new clients used the mission's food bank, more than ever before.

More information about the conference can be found on [www.aspireconference.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.aspireconference.auckland.ac.nz)



## A SCHOLARSHIP FOR REFUGEES

The University is working with its alumni and friends community to create a significant new scholarship for our newest New Zealanders — students from refugee backgrounds.

The scholarship will not only offer practical support to students who have themselves or whose parents or primary guardians have been granted refuge in New Zealand; it demonstrates that the University community welcomes them and wants them to succeed.

More than \$20,000 has been already donated but more funds are needed.

Education is central to positive refugee resettlement. A university degree gives an opportunity to redress marginalisation and disadvantage that come with forced migration and resettlement. It helps provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to both understand and contribute to New Zealand society.

However, research suggests that people from refugee backgrounds are more likely to delay their entry into tertiary education because they cannot afford it. Potential students may be supporting their families financially both here and in their country of origin, all while trying to meet the costs of student life in Auckland. To donate, please visit [www.givingtoauckland.org.nz/refugee](http://www.givingtoauckland.org.nz/refugee)

Rez Gardi (above) is one such student for whom scholarship support made an immeasurable difference to her studies in Law and Arts. Rez was born in a refugee camp in Pakistan and moved to New Zealand when she was six years old.

"You have made it possible to purchase essential textbooks and take advantage of every opportunity the University of Auckland offers," she writes. "From participating in sports and cultural clubs, to going on an international exchange to Indiana and becoming the first New Zealander to be invited to be a Human Rights intern for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi, Kenya — you helped me do it all.

(You can read more about Rez in the feature "A place of safety" in the 2014 Spring issue of *Ingenio*).

## STAFF FUNCTION

More than 400 staff members attended the Vice-Chancellor's annual staff cocktail function on 9 March in the Alumni Marquee on the Old Government House lawn. The event, which is open to all staff, celebrated the start of the academic year and the return of the students. The trio of musicians were led by staff member Dr. Trevor Thwaites (pictured below, on drums) from the Faculty of Education.



## AUP UP FOR AWARD

Auckland University Press is a finalist in the London Book Fair International Excellence Awards. The Press is one of three publishers shortlisted in the Scholarly Kitchen Academic and Professional Publisher Award which will be announced at the London Book Fair on 12 April. Also vying for this award are Higher Education Press (China) and Teseco (Argentina).

AUP director Sam Elworthy says: "Auckland University Press is a small scholarly publisher operating in a small market, so it is a big, big thrill to be recognised as a finalist.

"We reckon that the natural challenges we face in this market force all of us to be smarter publishers – publishing books for general readers, selling international rights, reaching customers direct. We have an outstanding team who do that very well. So we're grateful to the London Book Fair and the Publishers Association for recognising the work we do down in this part of the world and look forward to heading over to London and – we hope – winning!"

## WORKING WITH MĀORI

**A two-year project has been launched at the University called Te Whaihanga: Preparing students to work with Māori, in collaboration with AKO Aotearoa.**

Building on seed funding from the University of Auckland's Te Whare Kura initiative, the project aims to develop a range of teaching resources specifically for students studying planning, architecture and engineering.

The project aims to ensure that future generations of built environment professionals are better prepared to work with Māori professionals, iwi representatives and community and papakāinga developers in their day-to-day work.

Students from within the built environment field have been chosen because they shape the future spaces and places in which communities live.

Te Whaihanga: Preparing students to work with Māori involves academics from four tertiary institutions; the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, Auckland University of Technology and Unitec Institute of Technology.

Supported by industry leaders, the initiative has been driven by research that indicates there is a lack of relevant material.

Project leader Professor Dory Reeves from the University of Auckland said: "The launch demonstrated the depth and breadth of expertise Te Whaihanga has drawn in and we are all looking forward to the next two years."

The project has received \$150,000 from AKO Aotearoa and will involve matched funding in kind from the academic partners.

## FROM DANISH HEALTH DELEGATION

A delegation from the Danish Parliamentary Health Committee visited the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences last month to learn more about the New Zealand health system and health issues.

The 12 members included eight Danish MPs and the Danish Ambassador and Head of Mission, who were welcomed by Dean Professor John Fraser and given a special presentation organised by the faculty's marketing team.

The session was divided into three discussion topics; Addressing the health needs of New Zealand; Live well, stay well, age well; and Challenging health issues. Each topic included several presentations from academics and was followed by incisive questions from members of the Health Committee.

Denmark has a similar population size to New Zealand, (but with a much larger urban focus) and also relies on public private partnerships. The Danish visitors were new to the idea of government policy supporting the need for doctors trained for careers in rural areas. They were also interested in the issue of government policy versus treatment for problem gambling.



## LIFE CHANGING MOMENTS

**All of the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winners had moments that changed the course of their lives, moments that they shared at the DAA Dinner on 11 March.**

For the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Graeme Wheeler, it was meeting a woman living in extreme poverty in Calcutta, a woman clothed in rags who sat in the same place each day from sunrise till late at night, surviving by selling a few berries. After spending many months travelling the world and “living off his wits” to find out about hardship and injustice, this was the moment when he decided he wanted to work for the World Bank.

For Professor of Aeronautics Karen Willcox it was the day when two recent Engineering graduates visited her high school calculus class and sparked an interest that was to determine her pathway. “It is a pointed reminder of the very crucial role that we as alumni play as role models and mentors to the next generation.”

International Arbitrator David Williams QC had three exceptional teachers in his first year at the University – Professors John Reid in English, Robert Chapman in Political Science, and Keith Sinclair in History - and found the motivation he needed to excel.

Architect David Mitchell attended a “riveting” lecture from Bill Wilson, leader of Group

Architects, on his first day at the University. He was “hooked and there for good”.

For the Young Alumna of the Year, Dr Divya Dhar, it was the day she vowed to never be an expert, to always be a student, so that she would always be open to moments of change, “when something new and remarkable can happen”.

Hearing from the winners about turning points and seldom-told back stories was a highlight of the event.

The Dinner is an annual celebration of outstanding alumni achievement and contribution hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and the University of Auckland Society. It is also a chance to host some of the philanthropic partners and advocates who help to make great things happen at the University and to engage with politicians, community leaders and media.

The Prohibition Swingtet jazz band played on the lawn outside Old Government House as the 400 guests were arriving. Inside the Alumni Marquee, School of Music students Sally Kim, Julie Park and Shauno Isomura performed on stage as part of the formal programme.

The DAA Dinner video recording can be viewed at [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz), where you can also view the Bright Lights panel discussion with winners, hosted by Finlay MacDonald.



## ADVANCING THE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

**The Faculty of Education and Social Work is the first in New Zealand to affiliate with The Carnegie Project (CPED), working together with over 80 colleges, schools and faculties throughout the world to advance the Doctor of Education (EdD) and position it as the preferred doctoral degree for education professionals.**

Revitalisation of the EdD programme has been taking place over the past three years, launching in 2014 with its inaugural inquiry pathway in Māori and Indigenous Education, Social Development and Policy - led by staff in Te Puna Wananga, the School of Māori Education. In 2015, the School of Learning, Development and Professional Practice launched the Leadership of Educational Professional Practice inquiry pathway and this year the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy is offering an inquiry pathway in Curriculum and Pedagogy for the 21st Century, starting in Semester Two.

“Recent years have seen renewed and intense global discussion about the nature of what

is taught (curriculum) and how it is taught (pedagogy),” says Associate Professor Ben Dyson, co-leader of the EdD Programme.

“An understanding of issues concerning curriculum and pedagogy requires teachers across all levels of learning to have the ability to place these in a broader societal and intellectual context.”

The cohort-based, part-time doctoral programme is led by a team of researchers including Professors Stuart McNaughton and John Morgan, Associate Professors Ben Dyson and Richard Pringle and Drs Mei Lei, Constanza Tolosa and Rae Siilata. The opportunity for candidates to engage in critical discussion and debate with a team of academics and supervisors who are leading innovation and research in the area of curriculum and pedagogy will enable a deeper understanding of how knowledge is constructed within and between subjects as well as curriculum design and policy.

“Doctoral candidates across all sectors will be well positioned to make an important

contribution to curriculum studies and influence pedagogical developments in the coming years as debates about the form and content of teaching and learning develop.”

For more information about the EdD programme starting in Semester Two, see [www.education.auckland.ac.nz/ed-currped](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz/ed-currped)



## RANGINUI WALKER 1932 – 2016

On 29 February 2016 Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker passed away at the age of 83. Many thousands from throughout the country descended on Ōrākei marae during his tangihanga. They came to pay tribute to a man who had fought for almost five decades to lift the burden of colonialism and marginalisation off Māori. He was one of Māoridom's most influential academic leaders and advocates for Māori rights and social justice. He was dedicated to forging a pathway to the future which recognised Māori as tangata whenua – the first people of this land, a pathway that would deliver the peace and prosperity for all that was promised in the 1840 Tiriti o Waitangi.

Ranginui was born in 1932 into the iwi of Whakatōhea of Ōpōtiki. He was educated at St Peter's Māori College in Northcote, Auckland Teachers' College and the University of Auckland, where he completed a PhD in Anthropology in 1970. He took a lectureship in Māori Studies and Sociology in the Centre for Continuing Education in 1969 and in the same year became the secretary of the Auckland District Māori Council. In 1973 he became the chair of the Council, a position he held for 17 years. This and his membership of New Zealand Māori Council from 1970 to 1990 alongside his university research afforded him the necessary insights and clarity of thinking to repeatedly challenge government policy and practices that were devastating Māori communities. Through the Centre for Continuing Education



and in conjunction with the New Zealand Māori Council he organised numerous Māori leadership seminars and conferences in areas ranging from educational development, fisheries, farming and land use, to Māori representation, devolution and electoral reform, and training seminars for Māori wardens and Māori language teachers. However the most important was the Young Māori Leadership conference of 1970 which led to the establishment of Ngā Tamatoa, a group of mainly urban and educated Māori that operated to promote Māori rights, fight racial discrimination and confront injustices perpetrated by the New Zealand government against Māori.

Ranginui's position in the University allowed him to give Māori a public voice. It was a voice that told a truth that many did not want to hear. The media demonised him and others who spoke out for Māori rights. But Ranginui did not shy away from using that same media to express Māori concerns, writing regular columns on Māori current affairs for the *New Zealand Listener* from 1972 to 1990. He was serious about his responsibility to inform all New Zealanders of the history of the country and the abrogation of the human and treaty rights of Māori that continue to this day. For Ranginui, it was only with this knowledge and understanding that the country could start to move along the pathway towards lasting peace, friendship and reconciliation.

He served in a range of organisations in trying to achieve this, including the National Advisory Committee on Māori Education, the Auckland Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples which laid the groundwork for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also chaired the Ōrākei Marae Trust Board in its early days and ensured that the tangata whenua, Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei, had the control of their marae restored to them.

In 1986 he moved into the Department of Māori Studies and was the professor and head of department from 1993 until he retired in 1997. There he wrote his best known book *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou: Struggle Without End* (1990), the prescribed text for his big stage I class. He completed another five books, *Nga Tau Tohotohe: The Years of Anger* (1987), *Ngā Pepa a Ranginui: The Walker Papers* (1997), *He Tipua: The Life and Times of Sir Apirana Ngata* (2001), *Ōpōtiki Mai Tawhiti* (2007), and *Paki Harrison: Tohunga Whakairo: The story of*

*a master carver* (2008). He was working on a book on the development of the three Wānanga when he passed away. He also wrote numerous papers and chapters in books and in 2007 was awarded Te Tohu o te Māramatanga research excellence award by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, a Centre of Research Excellence at the University of Auckland. In 2009 he received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Non-Fiction and in 2012 a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Auckland.

Ranginui's tireless dedication to Māori rights was recognised when he was appointed a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001. He had earlier turned down a knighthood which he saw as a colonial award. In 2003 he was appointed to the Waitangi Tribunal and was one of the members who delivered the watershed He Whakaputanga me Te Tiriti – the Declaration and the Treaty report in 2014 which found that Ngāpuhi did not cede sovereignty to the British Crown in 1840. He was still sitting on Tribunal hearings three months before his death. Deirdre, his wife of more than 60 years, was his constant companion especially after they both retired from teaching. Their three children trained at the University of Auckland, with Michael now Professor of Biological Sciences, Stuart an anaesthetist and Wendy a paediatrician.

Ranginui will be sorely missed. E te matua, Ranginui, he tōtara whakaruruhau koe i te tini me te mano. Takahia atu te ara wairua kia hoki atu ki Hawaikinui, ki Hawaikiroa, ki Hawaiki pāmamao, Te Hono i Wairua. E kore ō tapuwae i te one o maumahara e mukua e te tai o wareware.

**Professor Margaret Mutu, Māori Studies  
(Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa and Ngāti Whātua)**

# DID YOU KNOW

... that often University history is revealed in small but poignant ways. One such case is that of alumna Marjorie Newhook.

Last year when the 93-year-old's Auckland house was burgled, her much cherished George Fowlds medal went missing. Named after the President (equivalent to Chancellor) of the Auckland University College from 1920-1933, the silver medal was awarded to the most distinguished honours student each year from 1939 to 1947. Marjorie won hers with a Master of Arts in Latin in 1943.

On the off-chance something could be done about the missing medal, Marjorie's daughter Cath Mayo, also an alumna, approached the University last year. Fortunately there were a few spare Fowlds medals in the University's Collection and the Vice-Chancellor decided one could be engraved and given to Majorie Newhook as a replacement.

"The University is very pleased that Margaret and her family will continue to enjoy possession of a Fowlds medal in recognition of her distinguished career as a student here," said the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon

Marjorie didn't want a fuss but here she writes of her early memories of Princes Street and the University's Classics Department.

"My earliest memory of Princes St is of a visit to Auckland Museum, then situated not far from the University in a set of old wooden buildings in lower Princes St. It was 1923 and I must have been less than two years old, but I still remember it vividly.

"I walked with my father, Professor William Anderson, into a wooden hall with a skylight which housed a great, old, Maori war canoe (later moved to a long hall in the newly built Auckland War Memorial Museum in the Auckland Domain). There we met with the Curator, wearing a brown laboratory coat, who conversed with my father. He was the celebrated botanist, Mr T.F. Cheeseman, who died in October that same year.

"Years later, I became a student at Auckland University, studying languages and majoring in Latin and Greek. Well do I remember the two-hour Thursday afternoon lectures in Latin, compulsory for the whole department and also in those days for a law degree. The Classics students were seated at the front of the large room taking notes, and the law students were at the back, usually chatting and playing cards.

"One exception to this activity was the studious Graham Speight who became a New Zealand High Court Judge, and later the Chief Justice of the Cook Islands and President of the Court of Appeal of Fiji. Another was his older brother, Murray Speight, Rhodes Scholar, and later tragically killed in action in Italy during the Second World War.

"The head of the Classics Department was Professor C.G. Cooper, a graduate of St Andrews University in Scotland. For my Master of Arts degree I chose Latin single honours, reading Virgil, Horace, Cicero and the later writers of Silver Latin. Each week I submitted a Latin prose composition to Professor Cooper, a learned and critical assessor, and was delighted whenever I came close to his rigorous standards, which



Marjorie Newhook at her University Graduation in 1943

didn't seem to happen very often. I did, however, achieve first class honours in this language and graduated in 1943, winning the George Fowlds Medal."

## WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

### DEMENTIA CLINIC LAUNCHED

8 April, Centre for Brain Research (CBR).

This is the first of several Dementia Prevention Research Clinics to be established nationally by the collaboration, Brain Research New Zealand (BRNZ), led by the University of Auckland and the University of Otago. This is a collaboration between clinicians and scientists and specialises on the ageing brain.

"This clinic launch is a very special inaugural event for our Centre for Research Excellence and will be opened by the Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Science and Innovation," says BRNZ co-director, Distinguished Professor Richard Faull.

### WAR, PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER? THE LEGACIES OF THE HAGUE CONFERENCES OF 1899 AND 1907

History, School of Humanities, 19 April, 1-11 Short Street. Email [Haguelegacies@gmail.com](mailto:Haguelegacies@gmail.com)

The Faculty of Arts and Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice are hosting this one-day conference to discuss the legacies of the two peace conferences held at the Hague in 1899 and 1907.

### PROCESS DILLA PERFORMANCE AND MASTERCLASS EVENT

27 April 2016, 3 - 6pm  
Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre,  
74 Shortland Street  
Admission free

A performance and masterclass led by Dr Simon Barker and accompanied by jazz guitarist Carl Dewhurst. Barker and Dewhurst will deconstruct and engage with the rhythmic forms appearing in contemporary Hip Hop and Neo Soul.

### STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Over summer the Faculty of Arts ran a series of web articles in which Summer Scholars talked about their projects. Marco de Jong is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History and completed a Summer Research Scholarship on Soviet whaling in the Pacific in the mid twentieth century. He worked with Senior History Lecturer Dr Ryan Jones. Here is an excerpt from Marco's piece.

"Through the lens of environmental history, we may see what we value in the environment, and how this may have changed over time. In light of recent United Nations climate talks, further controversy around continued Japanese whaling, and theories surrounding the 'Anthropocene' epoch, environmental approaches to history are timely and relevant.

"Over the summer, we have taken a deeper look into one of Australasia's untold histories, and an especially nasty time to be a whale. You might not know that in the 1950s the Soviet Union undertook a massive, covert, illegal whaling operation throughout the world's oceans. With elaborate and audacious deception, and industrial efficiency far removed from anything Melvillian, it culminated in the unlawful catching of 25,000 humpback whales from the waters south of Australia and New Zealand over just three years (1959-1961).

"This caused the collapse of Oceanian humpback whaling, and nearly wiped out the



species. Charles Homans labelled it the "most senseless environmental crime of the twentieth century".

"The true scale of this ecocide remained covered up until the mid-1990s.

"It may have been covered up, but it was not entirely hidden. As early as 1956, Australasian scientists and diplomats suspected Soviet duplicity and reacted accordingly. Approaches to international relations took into consideration the commercial interests of local industries, weighed against the dire warnings of scientists, who were studying the herds from various points throughout the southern oceans.

"However, it is the whales themselves that are at the centre of the history I am working on.

"Because humpbacks are a migratory species, they connect people who have a shared interest in them. Nations geographically separated by

thousands of kilometres were effectively fishing from the same small pond. Therefore, while there may have been a pressing need for conservation within Oceania broadly, individual nations often fought to secure more of a dwindling catch for themselves. Interests did not always align, and Australians and New Zealanders were often at loggerheads.

"This has been a fascinating project to work on, and the highlight has been the archival research. Often the world seemed to pivot on the wording of some telegram, or age-yellowed letter, the fate of hundreds of thousands of whales in the balance.

"There were a few 'eureka' moments as I stumbled across untouched files, but, surrounded by wizened family history researchers in the archives, I was forced to share my excitement with the barista at the cafe."

### THE KEREPEHI FAULT

Since the Christchurch earthquakes there has been increased recognition of the need to understand seismic hazards that could affect people and infrastructure in New Zealand.

A team of researchers from the University has been exploring one of New Zealand's lesser-known faults, the Kerepehi Fault, which lies beneath the Hauraki Plains but runs from Matamata to as far north as Whangarei. The Kerepehi Fault is an "active" component of the larger Hauraki Rift that formed the Hauraki Plains and Firth of Thames.

The research project, funded by a \$70,000 2016 EQC biennial grant, will increase understanding of the fault which, although posing a low hazard to the Waikato and Auckland regions, is high risk due to large populations and critical infrastructure.

Fieldwork was carried out over summer on

the Hauraki Plains, using sophisticated seismic technology to image the fault. The technology, worth more than \$1 million and including a "Vibroseis", is not available in New Zealand and was brought in from Canada.

The Vibroseis machine sends vibrations up to 1.5 km into the earth, which then reflect back to the surface where data is captured by 600 sensors at 10 m spacing along a line. This enables scientists to image interfaces in the subsurface between rocks of different types and to see the dipping fault which marks the edge of a buried basement block. Faulting means the basement rock can vary in depth by up to 3 km beneath the plains.

Lead researcher Dr Jennifer Eccles of the School of Environment says the team completed seismic imaging for the 10 km line across the Kerepehi fault along the Firth of Thames stopbank between the Pipiroa and Waitakaruru Rivers.

"This should give us increased understanding about the fault and its potential hazard," Jennifer says. "We have very little knowledge of how the fault has evolved but we do know from previous work that multiple earthquakes, up to magnitude 7, have occurred on the Hauraki Plains within the last 10,000 years."



Dr Jennifer Eccles

## LOST AND FOUND

**My area is gifted education. The notion of academic gifts and talents may not sit easily with some as it can be viewed as elitist, while with sport there is no problem.**

Gifted and talented students in New Zealand schools cover the spectrum from above-average to profoundly gifted. In general, they are the top 10 percent in any domain, although we have no common definitions and each learning community has been left to decide on its own definition, selection processes and provisions. The result, I am discovering, is a Tower of Babel. Everyone is speaking a different language and communication between groups is, at best, difficult.

Five years ago, I wrote about the lost gifted: namely those gifted and talented students who are so bored by being held back to the norm that they rebel and leave school early – often with few formal qualifications. They needed provisions to suit their pace of learning, plus the opportunity to mix with ability peers, rather than be retained, academically, socially and emotionally, with age peers.

Acceleration describes vertical extension and progress through the curriculum at a rate faster than usual; enrichment describes only horizontal extension. The strategy of acceleration fell out of favour, as it is administratively easier to keep students in an age/grade lock-step. The myth grew that if students were “allowed” to progress according to their ability level, then dreadful social and emotional outcomes would result. Despite no research evidence to back up the dire claims, acceleration was relegated to the back-burner for

decades. Enrichment became the safe option.

The answer to our lost gifted lay in accepting (particularly at high school) that in-class differentiation of the curriculum to the extent needed to engage and challenge each student in an age group was unrealistic. Conscientious teachers are frustrated in attempts to achieve the impossible. The focus is often put at the lower end of the ability spectrum with those at the top end left to wait until the rest catch up. Acceleration is the key, but a plethora of international evidence-based research showing its effectiveness had not swayed the entrenched position of those opposed.

I am discovering that recent research studies on acceleration in New Zealand schools reported at conference, in journals and in the media are having a positive impact. Teachers who have received professional development in gifted education are leading the way in persuading school administrators to include acceleration in provisions. Single-subject acceleration is now widespread and full-year acceleration is no longer shunned. Individual students who are performing well ahead of age-peers, and are socially mature, are now being given the opportunity to skip a year, or more. It is a relatively cost-free option for a school to adopt.

Full-year acceleration is a strategy that not only accommodates many gifted students’ desire to proceed at a faster rate, but has the advantage of saving the country millions in unnecessary retention at school. The tide has turned. Some of our gifted and talented students have found the provision they need, to avoid becoming lost.

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

## ACCESSING MEDICINE

Two of our outstanding cancer researchers, ACSRC co-director Professor Bill Wilson and research fellow, Dr Francis Hunter, have appeared widely in nationwide print and radio media this month talking about the need for New Zealanders to have access to melanoma medicine such as Keytruda and the impact of the pharmaceutical industry on cancer drug prices. Professor Wilson commented on world cancer drug prices being too high and that the system is broken. On Pharmac and Keytruda, he says if the price becomes an issue or barrier to life-saving medicine, this presents a profound signal that a fundamental change is needed in the way drugs are developed. The real problem lies with the pharmaceutical industry. Dr Francis Hunter commented on Pharmac’s \$800 million budget that he says is simply too low to provide New Zealanders with access to many of the best cancer medicines. He says the treatment of advanced melanoma in New Zealand is at least five years and 10 clinical trials behind international best practice.

## ZIKA VIRUS

Microbiologist, Dr Siouxsie Wiles has been widely sought and quoted in all media, on her views about the Zika virus including sexual contact transmission and the possibility of our mosquitos here carrying the virus.

## SUGAR TAX

Our public health and nutrition academics and researchers have been outspoken in the media this week with commentary from Professors Cliona Ni Mhurchu and Boyd Swinburn on different aspects of government and industry outputs and Dr Gerhard Sundborn and Dr Stephanie Vandivijvere on the sugar tax and advertising to children. They were on television, radio and in print media nationally.



*Dr Janna Wardman is a lecturer in Learning, Development and Professional Practice in the Department of Education and Social Work.*

# FROM THE COLLECTION

## ART COLLECTION



Levis (Kite), 2007

Tanalised pine is not a traditional material for kite making as it tends to succumb to gravity rather than defy it. Yet Warren Viscoe's skilful handling of it renders his wooden kite believably lightweight, subject to gust or breeze. The spine and cross-spar bend and curve like a nylon tube would, and the roughened body of the kite imitates the ripple effect of wind on fabric. Though pine, these elements of its structure are been carved to look like bone, furnishing a macabre mien at odds with the idea of a playful, uplifting, childhood toy.

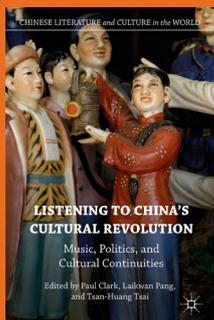
Combining imagery of both life and death Levis acts as a *momento mori* and a memorialisation of a friend of Warren's from university days, affectionately known as Griff. In the 1960s when kite flying was trendy and University of Auckland students fraternised across departments, Elam and architecture undergraduates met for Jumping Sundays in the Auckland Domain and kite flying on One Tree Hill and Mt Eden. The ethereal quality of nylon kites symbolised for them a fleeting moment in time, the space between student life and young families, health and illness, joy and tragedy. Levis, meaning easy or the weightless state of the soul after death, pays homage to Griff and his earthly body struck down by cancer, his celestial body continuing to reside beyond the confines of gravity.

Although the work has poignant connotations it is not without the sense of humour or irony which pervades much of Warren's work. The carvings are rounded and cartoon-like, a stereotyped set of bones Pebbles Flintstone may have worn in her hair. The deft handling of the joinery also belie Warren's original training in carpentry which allows

## WHAT'S COMING OUT

### LISTENING TO CHINA'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

The headline of the entry in last month's *Uninews* for Professor Paul Clark's new book (co-edited with Laikwan Pang from Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tsan-Huang Tsai from ANU) mistakenly referred to China's "industrial revolution", instead of China's "cultural revolution".



The correct title of the book is *Listening to China's Cultural Revolution*. Its focus is on the history, politics and aesthetics of a full range of music and performances during this rich yet complicated time in Chinese history.

### FAT SCIENCE

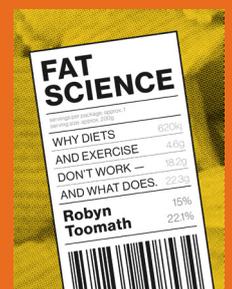
Science tells us that our own efforts – following diets, heading to the gym or taking some new pills – are defeated again and again by our genes.

Drawing on the latest research and 20 years of working with overweight patients, this short and punchy book dispels myths and tells the tough truths about our obesity epidemic. Does dieting work? (No.) Is exercise the answer? (No.) Can we change our genes? (Unfortunately not.) How about pills and surgery? (Sometimes, but we can't operate on everyone.) Why are the rich thinner than the poor? (You'll find out.)

Robyn Toomath is the Clinical Director of General Medicine at Auckland Hospital, former President of the New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes, and founder of Fight the Obesity Epidemic. In *Fat Science* she shows how our modern world is making us fat. And

while governments and individuals keep trying things that science shows do not work – from dieting to education campaigns – she outlines what just might make a difference in ending the obesity epidemic.

A thousand books will tell you how to get thin. It looks like they haven't worked. We just keep getting fatter. *Fat Science* published by Auckland University Press – a small book about one of our biggest problems – can change that.



### A LIST SHORTLISTED FOR A TUI

Kevin Field's latest album *The A List* has been nominated for a Tui Award for the 2016 Best Jazz Album of the Year.

him to draw out idiosyncrasies in the wood often for humorous effect. After qualifying and gaining his builder's certification in New Zealand Warren travelled to London to study at Chelsea College of Art and later the Ontario College of Art in Canada. He returned to New Zealand in 1962 and completed a Diploma of Fine Arts at Elam School of Fine Art in 1965.

Warren describes his sculptural works as "assemblages", an art historical term coined in 1953 by the French painter, sculptor, printmaker and writer Jean Dubuffet. Dubuffet initially used it in reference to his own butterfly wing collages and lithographs but widened the term's use to describe three-dimensional works made primarily from natural materials and found objects. This expanded the creative possibilities of art-making, and the inclusion of real objects attempted to bridge the gap between art and life by exploiting their tactile, utilitarian qualities. This has local ramifications in Warren's artworks, whose natural material – wood – invokes the tangata whenua of Aotearoa New Zealand and the living forests from whence it came; wood is both concealed as bone and revealed as wood, the same hardy stuff found all over the country and used for housing and furniture. Indeed Warren refers to wood "as a culture more than a medium" as it also encompasses early pioneering history and commerce and he is careful to reveal its knots and blemishes rather than sand away these crucial signs of natural life.

Alice Tyler

Conferred annually by Recorded Music NZ, the Tui Awards are considered one of the most significant that a group or artist can receive for music in New Zealand.

Recorded in New York with some of the world's top jazz artists, *The A List* is one of three finalists for the prestigious award, and has previously been number one on the iTunes jazz charts.

The Senior Lecturer from the School of Music is also a member of the group DOG, whose self-titled debut won Best Jazz Album last year.



The winner will be announced at the New Zealand Jazz Awards Concert taking place at Easter, on as part of the National Jazz Festival in Tauranga.

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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021 492 262 email [i.asher@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:i.asher@auckland.ac.nz)

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HOUSE ON WAIHEKE ISLAND available from October to December. Fully furnished, four bedroom, overlooking Hauraki Gulf with riparian rights. Close to Oneroa, schools and beaches; easy commute to University. Ideal for visiting academic. Email [k.bosselmann@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.bosselmann@auckland.ac.nz)

PARNELL. Fully-furnished two bedroom house available 11 May - 26 Oct. On Link bus route and ten-minute walk to University. \$220 pw + electricity. Phone 021 040 9499 or [jmgee1@gmail.com](mailto:jmgee1@gmail.com)

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ART HOUSE. Studio, apartment and homestay at Mangawhai Heads. Extremely private, idyllic weekend retreat one hour and twenty minutes from CBD. Kick back and listen to the Tuis. Estuary access over earth-bridge to perfect spot for a sunset wine and swim. Contemporary and elegant. Contact Mandy on [mandytt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mandytt@xtra.co.nz) or 021 843 590, <https://www.airbnb.co.nz/rooms/9313298>.

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

AT OCKHAM RESIDENTIAL we believe Auckland is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and a wonderful place to live. Founded by alumni of the University of Auckland, Ockham is committed to ensuring urban regeneration in this beautiful city is world class. See our stunning new project in Grafton, Hypatia, at [www.ockham.co.nz](http://www.ockham.co.nz)

## MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU ENJOY PHILOSOPHICAL CONVERSATIONS? If so, you might like to come and spend some time with other people who enjoy discussions on interesting, important and sometimes controversial matters, in unjudged and greater depth than everyday social life usually permits. The group meets about once every three weeks. The topic for each evening is set in advance. For more information or to arrange to come email [wayne@brittenden.com](mailto:wayne@brittenden.com)

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 600 0256 to discuss your needs, or email [nchristie@rainey.co.nz](mailto:nchristie@rainey.co.nz) Visit [www.rainey.co.nz](http://www.rainey.co.nz)



## SPEAKING UP

### What do we expect of ourselves and our academic colleagues when we speak up in the public arena?

The 2014 Government report on science and society, *A Nation of Curious Minds*, *He Whenua Hihiri I Te Mahara*, argued that scientists in New Zealand were in need of a “code of public engagement” to “increase the effectiveness of the science sector’s engagement with the public,” and the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ) was given the task of formulating such a code. The RSNZ has in the meantime opted (wisely) to frame its work not as a “code” but as a set of voluntary “Researcher guidelines for public engagement”. Thanks to the recent consultation process, we have had a chance to scrutinise the latest draft of the guidelines.

What’s in the guidelines as they currently stand? They contain principles and general advice on science communication, including such commonsense maxims as “present specialist knowledge as simply as possible” and “avoid exaggerating risks, benefits or impacts”. Much of it is agreeable.

What is contentious, however, is the way the document portrays the relationship between scientific research and society. The guidelines, following the language of the Government report, envisage society as “investing” in research and receiving a “return” on its investment in the form of information and services.

This language is unfortunate. The public absolutely does have a right to benefit from

publicly funded research and to be informed about it. But it is misleading to portray the relationship between the university and society as that of a “service provider”. Universities are more than that. They have a special role to play in society as an independent voice. That independent voice is supposed to be knowledgeable and articulate, but knowledge is not all it offers. It is supposed to be trustworthy and credible, but that does not mean it should restrict itself to being a “neutral” broker of knowledge amid public controversy. The public good is served by the academic who offers critical commentary on the impacts of current policies and other contentious matters, just as much as it is by the one who offers a synopsis of the state of knowledge on a given topic.

This is recognised in The Education Act 1989, which codifies the right and responsibility of university academics to go beyond the “neutral” communication of scientific facts to contribute critically to public debates. The law asserts the freedom of academic staff “within the law, to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state controversial or unpopular opinions” (section 161(2)(a)). It also explicitly asserts that universities accept a role as “critic and conscience of society” (section 162(4)(a)(v)).

In an attempt to address both university and non-university researchers, the RSNZ guidelines as they stand make no mention of the content of sections 161 and 162 of the Act. But this is

not an innocent omission. These sections of the Act must provide the starting point for any discussion of the roles and responsibilities of researchers in New Zealand universities. By staying silent on these key “contextual” features, effectively all researchers are addressed as though they did not enjoy the rights and responsibilities laid out in the Act. As a result, for those of us in universities, the guidelines are one-sided and misleading. They imply a limited conception of what we should be aiming to contribute in the public arena, and more importantly, a limited conception of how and why we should be aiming to contribute to it—namely, in order to “inform society”.

The RSNZ is now considering the feedback it has received from researchers across the country. Let’s hope that the panel is able to find a sensible path forward that promotes the public communication of science while also affirming the special role and responsibility of all university researchers—including scientists—to “engage” society at a more profound level than that of transmitting facts: namely, in the common pursuit of wisdom.

**Matheson Russell is a senior lecturer in philosophy. He is a co-creator of [CriticAndConscience.org.nz](http://CriticAndConscience.org.nz), an initiative aimed at supporting and equipping New Zealand academics to take up the critic and conscience role.**