

UniNews



HALA BARAKAT

Student rep on Council in a dream team with fellow Iraqi, AUSA president Alan Shaker

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JEREMY SALMOND

New Zealand lost one of its finest heritage architects this year: a tribute
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TRAILBLAZER FUNDRAISER

Natalie Gauld hits the tracks to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease New Zealand, a disease she knows personally
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TOUGH TOPIC

Felicity Goodyear-Smith's latest book tackles medical controversy and staff's role in the history
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A selection of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland staff and student expert commentary in the media recently. Email: uninews@auckland.ac.nz

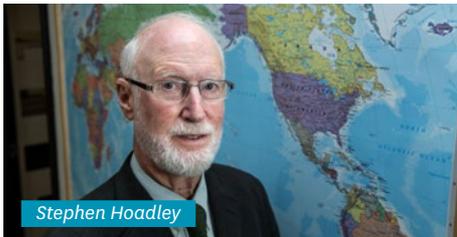


Jennifer Curtin

PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

The shock resignation of Jacinda Ardern was big news around the world, as well as locally, and Professor Jennifer Curtin (Faculty of Arts) was interviewed by outlets like *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the BBC World Service and ABC Radio as well as 1 News and Today FM.

Link: tinyurl.com/Curtin-WPost-Ardern



Stephen Hoadley

JOBS FOR ARDERN

On Jacinda Ardern's departure, Stephen Hoadley, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations, drew on the example of former prime minister Helen Clark. He suggested Ardern's talents, experience and contacts ideally suited her for an international leadership role in a UN agency, global charity, or a policy research institution. Stephen's comments were carried by global media including ABC News, NBC News, *Los Angeles Times* and Yahoo.

Link: tinyurl.com/Hoadley-ABC-Ardern



Peter Shepherd

STEP IN LONGEVITY QUEST

Researchers in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences have found a drug usually used in cancer treatment significantly extends the lifespan of mice. The study, led by Professor Peter Shepherd, was published in *Nature*. It found Alpelisib not only increased mice lifespan by ten percent, but the animals were also healthier in old age, with better strength and coordination.

Link: tinyurl.com/Shepherd-mice-RNZ



Martin Brook

DEFENCE NEEDED NOT DECORATION

Associate Professor Martin Brook (Science), an expert on slips and landslides, told RNZ's *The Panel* of a weak spot in our flooding defences: many homes' retaining walls are essentially "decorative". To guard against future disasters, Martin recommends maintaining the natural geometry of slopes, avoiding unneeded loads such as cantilevered swimming pools, and refraining from illegal stormwater arrangements.

Link: tinyurl.com/Brook-walls-RNZ



Heloise Stevance

STARS IN THEIR EYES

Detective work by astrophysicists Dr Heloise Stevance and Professor Jan Eldridge (Science) to reveal the life of stars over billions of years was akin to reconstructing a city from a pile of dust, said *WIRED* magazine. A huge mathematical model of observed and hypothetical stars allowed their team to reconstruct the story of neutron stars colliding into each other in a distant galaxy.

Link: tinyurl.com/Astro-stars-Wired



Michael Witbrock

CRAZY UNCLE CHATGPT

Professor Michael Witbrock told *Stuff* that AI chatbots like ChatGPT were similar to a friend giving medical

advice or a crazy uncle relaying the news of the day – potentially helpful but not to be trusted. However, he said the bots are set to become much more sophisticated and reliable, and we should make the most of the technology. "I'd hate to see us miss that change."

Link: tinyurl.com/Witbrock-ChatGPT-Stuff

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INAUGURAL LECTURES

21 MARCH: Professor Rochelle Constantine, 'The Big Animals in the Big Blue Backyard'.

23 MARCH: Professor Margaret Stanley, 'Nature Connections and Teachers: Key Ingredients for a Well-baked Ecologist'. Both lectures are at 6.30pm in the Physics Lecture Theatre, 303-G20.

EDITOR: Denise Montgomery

denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz

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University of Auckland Communications Office

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Email: uninews@auckland.ac.nz.

Or for the fortnightly *Whaimōhio The Loop* newsletter, email: staff-comms@auckland.ac.nz. Deadlines are on the intranet under News, Events and Notices, *The Loop*.

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OBITUARY

EMERITUS PROFESSOR STUART NORMAN MCCUTCHEON

10 NOVEMBER 1954 – 6 JANUARY 2023

Stuart McCutcheon was the University of Auckland's vice-chancellor and UniServices chair from 2005 to March 2020, a 15-year tenure that was one of the longest of New Zealand vice-chancellors.

He brought passion, professionalism and personality to these roles, and his commitment to the success of the University and its people was evident in everything he did. He had an extraordinary ability to remember faces, names and project details, and an easy and relaxed manner with everyone he met. Many staff and students over the years were surprised and impressed to receive a prompt and thoughtful response from Stuart to emails and questions. He never allowed his busy schedule as vice-chancellor to get in the way of his responsibilities to the people he led.

Although a formidable opponent in debates and negotiations, he always maintained the respect of those with whom he engaged. A profound testament to his professionalism is the many tributes on social media by people who found themselves on the other side of the negotiating table at some point. Although they might not have agreed on issues and even clashed at times, they express the deepest respect for Stuart's ability to listen and reflect with an open mind. He was consistently a fierce champion of freedom of speech, diversity of opinion and academic freedom.

Stuart's time as vice-chancellor saw significant development in every area. His leadership was marked by a determination to protect the University's administrative and academic autonomy and excellence. The University was able to build on its outstanding international reputation, maintaining its position as this country's leading university and scoring highly in the rankings of global universities, something to which he paid close attention.

During his tenure, staff and student numbers increased, and the University's buildings and facilities were rationalised and modernised with major new buildings for Medical and Health Sciences, Business, Science, and Engineering and new student halls of residence, as well as plans for a modern Recreation and Wellness Centre. The

purchase of land for the new Innovation Precinct at the Newmarket Campus followed the sale of the Tāmaki Campus.

Stuart's goal was to provide local and international students with world-class research and teaching facilities and attractive accommodation for students. He wanted to create an environment equal to the best public universities internationally, attract staff and students from Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad and, as one of the largest employers in the city, contribute to and enliven the life of Auckland. And he achieved it.

From 2005 to 2019, the University's operating revenue had almost doubled to \$1.2 billion and net assets more than trebled to \$3.5 billion. During his 15 years, more than 100,000 of almost 200,000 alumni actively engaged with their university, and he saw more than 115,000 students achieve their academic goals and graduate.

This last point was of particular importance to Stuart as an educator and leader. He grew up in the Wellington suburb of Miramar, went to Rongotai College and became the first in his family to attend university. He understood on a personal level the power of education and universities to improve the lives of not just the graduates but their whānau and families, future generations and the wider community.

He gained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with first-class Honours (1976) at Massey University and a PhD in metabolic physiology. From 1982 to 1984 he was a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University, New York, while the recipient of a Harkness Fellowship. His research interests included how biological processes such as foetal and neonatal growth and lactation are regulated.

Having established a successful career as a researcher, his deep belief in the importance of a strong university system, particularly for a small country like New Zealand, drove his move into university administration. For the next 25 years he served in leadership positions, including two terms as chair of Universities New Zealand Te Pōkai Tara, the tertiary sector body representing all eight New Zealand universities.

In 1990, he was appointed head of the Department of Animal Science at Massey University, then assistant vice-chancellor (Research) in 1994, and deputy vice-chancellor in 1999. In November 2000, he became vice-chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington and in January 2005 took up the role of vice-chancellor at the University of Auckland.

He brought his belief that every great country and city should be home to a great university. That vision and aspiration for New Zealand to have a leading public university of global standing drove the development of strong partnerships with international universities with a shared commitment to excellence in research-led education.

Stuart was a vocal proponent of increased financial support from government to meet the aspiration of becoming the great university he believed the country needed and warranted. However, during his time, the role of philanthropy in the financial life of the University became increasingly important. This was an area in which he excelled. He was actively involved in building relationships with donors and philanthropists, and he led the country's two most successful fundraising campaigns, 'Leading the Way' and the 'Campaign For All Our Futures'.

Stuart was a big personality and a big presence – on campus, building relationships, in his connections with industry and local and national government, and with educational peers across the globe. He was enormously proud of the achievements of the University's teaching and research staff, its students, and the mark that alumni made on the world.

Stuart is survived by his wife, Deborah, and their sons Charles and Alex.



Stuart McCutcheon was vice-chancellor from 2005 to 2020.



Stuart and wife Deborah at his farewell event at the University in 2020.



Photo: Billy Wong

RAINBOW PRIDE ON PARADE

More than 120 staff and students represented Waipapa Taumata Rau at Auckland's Pride Parade on Saturday 18 February, for the first time in five years.

Those who attended said it was amazing to have so many members of the University of Auckland's Rainbow community and their allies come together in an expression of joy, triumph, and celebration.

The University's Rainbow support worker, Michael Heard, says: "Pride is a chance to reflect on where we have come from, and to consider how we can create more inclusive and supportive environments for the diverse cultures, sexualities, and gender identities that exist within the University. It helps us to voice the continued fight against injustice and inequality as we come together to celebrate."

WHAT FAMILIES NEED



Eileen Joy's thesis revealed that the structure of Oranga Tamariki needs to change.

A new study shows that recent child development theories have influenced child protection in Aotearoa in a negative way.

The study, by professional teaching fellow Eileen Joy (Education and Social Work) for her PhD thesis on child protection in New Zealand, is a strong critique of policies and practices. She found they stigmatise struggling families and don't lead to successful outcomes.

Eileen focused on child protection policies that are heavily influenced by reforms of the 2010s.

"I chose to focus on that period because there was a lot of policy change and upheaval that became the building blocks for what's going on now, including the unfortunate Hawke's Bay baby uplift event," says Eileen, who teaches on the social work programme and is also a registered social worker who has worked in child protection.

Speaking to 24 current and former social workers at Oranga Tamariki (known as CYFS prior to 2017), she found that child protection social workers are explicitly encouraged to ignore poverty in their work, yet many said giving families more money for the necessities of life would make all the difference.

"It's incredibly stressful not being able to pay your bills. I'd challenge any parent to parent well under that level of pressure."

She also found child development policies that inform current practice put an overriding emphasis on the first three years of life.

"They're basically saying you have to do all this foundational brain development work with your child in the first three years, otherwise they're stuffed. But how are those children, when they become parents, meant to parent better than the way they were parented, if their brain has been badly and permanently affected?"

She concludes that the structure of Oranga Tamariki needs to fundamentally change at every level. "The system, and therefore the social workers, needs to recognise and respond to these structural factors, like poverty and colonisation. This overarching change ultimately rests with the government as part of honouring Te Tiriti."

Full story: auckland.ac.nz/families-research-eileen-joy

NEW ROLE FOR FRANK BLOOMFIELD

Professor Frank Bloomfield, previously director of the Liggins Institute, has started in the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, leading the University's research strategy and management.

"A key part of the role is lifting the ability of university researchers to work together towards common goals and make sure that our research

has the maximum benefit for the communities we serve," he says.

Professor Jim Metson has stepped down from the role and will lead the development of the Newmarket Campus.

Full story: auckland.ac.nz/Frank-Bloomfield-DVC-Research

STUDENTS SHOW DRIVE AT MCLAREN

Sixty years after Bruce McLaren travelled from New Zealand to England to establish the company that still bears his name, two University of Auckland engineering students are following in his footsteps.

Mechanical engineering students Sabrina Yarnley and Joshua Cates are the latest Bruce McLaren engineering scholars to be welcomed to McLaren for a three-month internship at McLaren Automotive, the UK-based supercar company.

The McLaren internship follows on from a successful trip to Winton, Australia in early December, which saw Sabrina and Joshua play a significant role in the success of the University's Formula SAE Team.

As interns, Sabrina and Joshua are based at the iconic MTC and McLaren Production Centres where they will have stints with designers and engineers, as well as with marketing and after-

sales teams to gain a unique insight into the workings of the 3,000-strong workforce.

"It's very humbling," says Joshua. "I know many others just as deserving of the opportunity so to be awarded it myself is a great honour.

"McLaren is the kind of company I never saw myself being able to get close to, so I'm excited."

■ Read more in next month's *UniNews*.



Joshua Cates and Sabrina Yarnley at McLaren.

MARINE RESEARCH BOOST

Our warming oceans are playing havoc with the local climate, but also with the creatures living in the sea.

The campaign to save the Hauraki Gulf has had a boost from the University's new marine research vessel.

The multi-million-dollar vessel *Te Kaihōpara* (*The Explorer*) will join the campaign to halt damage to and revive a troubled and fast-changing Hauraki Gulf. Local iwi Ngāti Manuhiri, a partner in mussel reef restoration, gifted the name *Te Kaihōpara*.

The 15.9m catamaran expands University research capabilities and will support environmental repair work.

"Our marine environment is in need of restoration, especially in the Gulf," says Professor Simon Thrush, director of the Institute of Marine Science.

"*Te Kaihōpara* will enhance our teaching and research, and support the wider push to find solutions to our environmental challenges."

Funded by the University and a philanthropist, the aluminium vessel, capable of carrying 25 people including crew, was launched at a function at Auckland's Maritime Museum in January. The boat replaces the smaller and aged *Hawere*.

Revive Our Gulf, a collaboration between the University, the Nature Conservancy, and the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust is working with Ngāti Manuhiri to try to re-establish mussel beds



Te Kaihōpara will expand marine research capabilities in the Hauraki Gulf.

Photos: Brady Doak



Dive safety officer Paul Caiger enters the water from Te Kaihōpara.



Professor Simon Thrush, director of the Institute of Marine Science.

wiped out by overfishing last century.

The Gulf has become less hospitable for many sea creatures because of overfishing and sedimentation. Warming water is leading species to shift locations, disrupting long-established food webs, and encouraging destructive newcomers such as long-spined sea urchins.

The University's marine research spans climate change, conservation and restoration, whales and dolphins, microplastics, noise pollution, sea birds, seafloor ecology, aquaculture, kelp and kina.

Two big TV screens on the boat aid teaching and research, relaying underwater images

captured by video cameras or remotely operated underwater vehicles.

While *Te Kaihōpara* is capable of travelling the coast of Aotearoa from Manawatāwhi (Three Kings Islands) in the north to as far south as Kaikoura and Greymouth, she will largely be working in the Gulf.

"*Te Kaihōpara* will spend much of her life working in Ngāti Manuhiri's rohe moana and we look forward to working with all iwi to enhance the mauri of the Gulf and all marine environments," says Simon.

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/marine-research-boat

MĀORI VIEWS ON CAPITALISM

University of Auckland Business School researchers are looking into how an emerging Māori theory of value might help to develop a more sustainable, inclusive and equitable approach to business.

Business School academics Dr Kiri Dell, Professor Carla Houkamau and Dr Jamie Newth, together with Associate Professor Jason Mika from the University of Waikato, say Aotearoa New Zealand needs environmental and economic policies and practices that enable Māori values.

In a recently published chapter titled 'Māori Perspectives on Conscious Capitalism' in *The Spirit of Conscious Capitalism, Ethical Economy*, the authors say that while Māori businesses can't be stereotyped, research shows a discernible pattern. They say Māori imperatives for wealth creation are intergenerational and focus on value creation beyond financial profits.

"Conscious capitalism, in our view," write the authors, "offers useful principles that are in some ways relatable to Māori beliefs, but they're limited in terms of understanding how spirituality, whakapapa, and service to past and future generations are balanced as part of the process of wealth creation. Māori people whakapapa to the

natural world, and examples from our research, and others, show that Māori take a view that's aligned to sustainability imperatives because of an underlying spiritual belief that the environment is our ancestor.

"This spiritual connection has the effect of strengthening the commitment of entrepreneurs to advance their businesses, not only to create value for themselves and others but also to enable future generations to thrive."

"We need environmental and economic policies and practices that enable Māori to do business in ways that align with Māori values."

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/Maori-view-on-capitalism

STUDENT LEADERS MAKE HISTORY

For the first time, both top student representative positions, on the AUSA and on Council, are held by students with Iraqi heritage. Denise Montgomery meets Alan Shaker and Hala Barakat.



AUSA president Alan Shaker. Photo: Billy Wong

In 2021, Alan Shaker, then AUSA's education vice-president, was standing on AUSA's balcony gazing down on Alfred Street which was closed for O'Week festivities.

"I was looking at the number of students walking through enjoying themselves, interacting, getting into the music and food. It was good being able to do that again. I thought, 'This is why we do what we do'. The AUSA events team had worked so hard and the students loved it."

Alan was the AUSA's education vice-president for two years before being elected AUSA president in December 2022. "It feels like a natural step up. I've been on the student exec for a long time in terms of student politics."

Looking at what he hopes to achieve in 2023, he is realistic. "A year isn't long. Every student leader wants to change the world, but a year goes by very quickly. My goals aren't too different from the past two presidents I've worked under. I learned a lot from both Anamika [Harirajh] and Alofa [So'olefai], so it's about continuing their good work."

In the past few years, there have been constitutional changes to the way the AUSA is run that have helped it develop a long-term vision, assisted by an independent advisory board and the AUSA Student Council.

"In terms of my specific goals, there are three overarching things I want to achieve: to ensure AUSA's financial sustainability post-2025; to work with the University on a student voice framework; and the third is about student engagement and encouraging students back to campus.

"Because yes, they can do lectures at home. But we have all sorts of events, starting with O'Week which is obviously our biggest, throughout the year that keep students engaged."

"AUSA's position when it comes to teaching and learning is to advocate for flexibility, which the current system allows. Being a student today

is vastly different from 20 years ago. There are so many who have to work full-time as well as study full-time or be carers. So flexibility is good.

"But in many ways, face-to-face experiences are irreplaceable. You make lifelong friends at university, and you don't get that without having real-life interaction."

Alan says the new curriculum transformation framework certainly makes on-campus learning more attractive for those who are able.

"I live in South Auckland so when I catch the train, it takes over an hour to get here. I'm not going to catch the train to sit in a one-hour lecture in which the lecturer just speaks at me. I can do that at home. But small group teaching, face-to-face interaction, relational learning, and experiences outside lectures make being on campus the best. There are clubs and co-curricular activities that, in my opinion, will stand out when you apply for a job, rather than just top grades.

"With relational learning you engage with the lecturer, but also with your peers, socially and through projects."

He acknowledges the cost of public transport is a factor in a student's choice as to whether to attend in person. The government announced in December that it would continue to fund half-price public transport fares for full-time tertiary students who receive a student allowance.

Alan, who plans to be a secondary school teacher, is undertaking a conjoint degree in history and exercise science. With the full-time paid AUSA president role in 2023, he's doing two papers in the first semester and three in the second. He's also a football coach, having achieved his coaching licences through the Oceania Football Federation and NZ Football which allow him to coach in the Northern League. "I'm from a football-mad family. Both my older brothers and

"You make lifelong friends at university, and you don't get that without having real-life interaction."

– Alan Shaker, AUSA president

father played, so it was only natural that I came to love the sport too."

A big Manchester United fan, he kept the Man U love going, coaching at Manukau United for a time.

"Manukau United was my local club and I'd played there, then became a coach there. I saw that club grow from being in the lower divisions to being in the top league in Auckland."

He's now coaching at Bay Olympic. "I have a real passion for it. Opportunities have just opened up."

He also exudes passion for the role of AUSA president. "It's an amazing job. I absolutely love what I do. There's a reason I've run for the AUSA so many times – it's being able to make a difference in the lives of students. I want to be a teacher so I'm very passionate about education and making a difference in the lives of young people.

Alan has an open-door policy. "Students can pop into AUSA House if they need help with anything or contact me directly on president@ausa.org.nz. There are so many times where you have students come and knock on your door, and you see the difference you can make."

It's clear this eloquent, enthusiastic young man will make an excellent teacher.

"I've not quite settled on whether I want to teach history or physical education, I'm leaning more towards history at the moment."

Alan's family arrived in New Zealand from northern Iraq in the early 1990s. As Kurds, they were forced to flee and didn't know a lot about

New Zealand. Some of his relations went to Norway, others here. "I feel incredibly privileged because they went through those struggles for me to have a better life. Everything I do is for them and the sacrifices they've made. My dad's a business owner and my mum has been working for Immigration New Zealand for the past 15-20 years. I'm sure, despite the struggles that led them here, they're really proud of how it's worked out."

In a notable first for student leadership, the elected student representative on the University Council is also Iraqi. Engineering honours student Hala Barakat was elected to the role in December, succeeding Junyi (Johnny) Wang.

"I met with Hala just before Christmas. We have a lot in common so that's awesome."

The student representative on Council is chosen through a separate election to the AUSA one, a system in place since 1 January 2020 following a change in legislation that led to an amendment to the Council constitution. "When I speak of the three goals, I mentioned the student voice. Part of that is advocating to get the president back on Council. It's been the AUSA's goal since 2019, which was when we were last on it. Our argument is that about four times the number of students vote in the AUSA elections compared to the elections for the student rep on Council."

For the AUSA election, students voting must be AUSA members; for Council elections they don't.

"The AUSA sits on every committee that reports to the Council. We have eight full-time staff, a student council, an independent advisory board, and direct access to students, so we just think we're best positioned to serve on the Council."

He is proud that the executive is diverse too. It includes four international students, three postgraduates and a wide range of cultures.

Alan and Hala will have regular catch-ups throughout the year to keep the information flowing. "I'll do everything I can to help Hala. She's invited to our AUSA Student Council meetings and we're committed to working together and doing the best for students."

The modern AUSA tends to be apolitical but did recently put out a statement.

"At the end of 2022, we made a statement in support of the staff on strike because our position is we will do what students ask us to do. We are their voice. Many students knocked on my door or wrote emails asking us to speak out. So we did."

The AUSA also represents students employed by the University as graduate teaching assistants (GTAs). "The GTAs are the face of the education system for our first and second-year students. You're being taught with 15-20 people, and the GTAs are the people students remember. So if we can support them, it will lead to better teaching and a better overall educational experience."

Win, win.



Student rep on Council,

Hala Barakat.

Photo Elise Manahan

"My parents moved to New Zealand because of the academic side. Iraqis hold academia and knowledge in high regard."

– Hala Barakat, Student representative on University Council

Hala Barakat is the 2023 student rep on the University's governing body, the Council. She was elected to the role late last year and attended her first meeting in December.

The 21-year-old disagrees that the AUSA president should also be the student representative on Council and presents a good argument. She has never run for the AUSA and thinks her approach is a fresh one, born of her experience as a resident adviser (RA) looking after students in accommodation and being on the Faculty of Engineering executive committee.

"I'll work closely with AUSA president Alan [Shaker], but I'm also keen to find my own way. I've not been interested in standing for AUSA. At the end of the day, the more voices and perspectives that are heard, the more effective the student body can be at identifying key issues that affect us."

In her first meeting with Alan, she was delighted to find they had so much in common, not just in their knowledge of students' issues but personally.

It is the first time that both representatives in the University's top student positions have had Iraqi heritage. In Hala's case, her parents are from Iraq but she was born in Saudi Arabia and has never been to Iraq. Her family came here when she was one. She has an older sister who is an engineering alumna of the University and an older brother who is at Otago, studying periodontology.

After winning a scholarship, Hala worked full-time as a trainee transportation and geotechnical engineer at Tonkin + Taylor over the pseudo-summer break before returning to full-time study.

She's not afraid to speak her mind on issues affecting students, including student safety in accommodation. As an RA for two years, she knows all too well students' concerns about security near some residential halls in Symonds Street. "They are great facilities but there are social issues in that area from nearby residents; police are there nearly every day."

The University says it has mobile and static patrols in the area and has regularly met over the past 18 months to discuss boosts to security. Improvements include having installed a private security guard in Whitaker Place.

Hala enjoyed being an RA even though it involved lockdowns. "I was one of those looking after 800 students. There might be people who called at 4am needing to go to hospital or someone having a seizure. It required quick thinking."

"But I enjoyed it more than if I was stuck at home because we had so many people studying together. We'd also go to the Domain and kick a ball around. It was quite lovely in many ways."

At 1.78m she's a natural for basketball, which she played in school, but has leaned more towards netball in recent years.

As head prefect at Westlake Girls High School, Hala had thought that she'd pursue medicine until she went overseas on a trip after Year 13.

"I was part of the UN Youth Global Development delegation and we went to the US and Europe. I got very sick and ended up in hospital."

"I saw the lifestyle of a doctor and thought,

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‘I don’t know if I want to do that after all.’”

But she enjoys maths and solving problems and that’s part of her study focus for Engineering honours this year and a BCom next year.

She has had good training for her Council role by sitting on the executive committee for the Faculty of Engineering, as the student representative. “You have to get past thinking ‘Oh, I’m sitting with people who hold senior positions. I’m not going to speak up because sometimes my opinion isn’t necessary’.

“If I think something should be changed, I’m not going to just mention it once. The goal is to keep it on their agenda and radar.”

She also works around 15 hours a week for UN Youth New Zealand, a charity that creates civics education for young Kiwis. She applies for grants and helps organise events, one of which is the Aotearoa Youth Declaration.

“We form committees on subjects like finance, health or transport and look at the changes we’d like to see in our lifetime. We collate it into a declaration and send it off to ministers, NGOs and anyone who would find it useful. That’s how we spread the youth voice in our community.”

Another is the New Zealand Model United Nations which involves around 400 people each year, and there’s also the New Zealand Model Parliament, where participants play MPs.

“I like doing things that aren’t just within engineering. It’s not necessarily that I love politics, but I like to know how the country, and international relations work. Knowledge is great.

“The reason my parents moved to New Zealand was because of the academic side. They made me fall in love with knowledge and insight. I think that’s definitely a cultural thing. I wonder if Alan would say a similar thing: Iraqis hold academia and knowledge in high regard.”

She hasn’t fully decided if she will go the commerce or engineering route once she has graduated. “I guess I’ll just see which degree presents a job that interests me.”

While she has a full load with work, charity work and study, her philosophy for living is one the older generation would likely envy.

“I want to work to live, not live to work. Working full-time over the holidays made me think about this. You’re working eight to five and your days are ‘what am I making for lunch tomorrow for work?’, ‘How am I getting to work?’ It’s all about work. So I thought when did this nine-to-five thing start; it was Henry Ford wasn’t it?” It was, in 1926.

“It’s such a concept from the past. Even working 10-hour days, four days a week would be better, so you could have a three-day weekend.”

As long as there’s also time for family, friends, exercise and Lego, she’ll be happy.

“They’re the big things.”

NATALIE GAULD: TRAILBLAZER HITS THE CYCLE TRAILS

A pharmacy change-maker, recognised in the New Year honours, is raising awareness and funds for motor neurone disease and having as much fun as she can along the way.

Dr Natalie Gauld pedals her electric all-terrain three-wheeler from Epsom to the University’s Grafton campus for her UniNews interview, sporting a high-vis vest and helmet.

Since the honorary senior lecturer in pharmacy and paediatrics senior research fellow received her life-changing diagnosis of motor neurone disease in March 2022, Natalie’s goal has been to have as much fun as possible.

In the first three weeks of 2023, she and husband Matt rode 500km of cycle trails in the South Island, combining a pastime they both enjoy with raising funds for Motor Neurone Disease New Zealand (MND).

“I don’t know how long we’ll be able to continue riding. So I wanted to make the most of it. I thought, this way I can raise awareness, raise funds and help the organisation I know is going to help me,” Natalie says.

Natalie came across her mode of transport, the Motom, in August 2022. It was designed by University of Auckland Bachelor of Engineering graduate Andrew Nash, who himself has a disability. “I said to him, ‘I’d actually like it more if it had pedals.’ And he said, ‘Well I’ve been thinking about that.’ It took two weeks and he put the pedals on and they’re awesome.”

While a dearth of information about accessibility was a challenge on the cycle trails, she says it was all worth it.

“The highlight has been having a great big smile on the face every day,” Natalie says.

Another highpoint was encountering a weka on the West Coast Wilderness Trail. “I saw the bird, which was quite a way away, and stopped. It saw me and thought ‘this is interesting,’ and came over and had a good look. It was really nice; the weka was at least as curious about the Motom as I was about the weka.”

Another highlight was being joined by pharmacist friends on the trails.

Connecting with people has been important to Natalie, knowing they will be there for a cup of tea in the future.

Natalie has a slow-progressing form of the neurological degenerative disease, which progressively damages the nervous system. (See sidebar, page 9.)

She says the diagnosis has helped her to

appreciate the little things in life.

“That might be things like, we’ll start a Saturday or Sunday with Mexican scrambled eggs that we make at home, a pot of plunger coffee and the cryptic crossword. It’s just about enjoying the stuff that you can enjoy.”

This attitude of enthusiastically focusing on what you can do rather than what you cannot underpins Natalie’s recognition in this year’s New Year Honours.

Natalie has led a huge catalogue of drug reclassifications in collaboration with primary care organisations, government and fellow researchers. These include Sildenafil (Viagra or Silvesta), melatonin for over 55s, oral contraceptives, and certain vaccines.

“I’ve focused on making medicines accessible for New Zealanders where appropriate and that’s meant a lot of work on the Medicines Classification Committee, and collaborating with others to drive reclassifications and research. Pharmacy also stepped up to the challenge. Along the way we became a world leader in reclassification, with interest from other countries in what we were doing.”

Asked what her day jobs are, Natalie ticks off a number of innovative projects.

“I’ve been doing some work for Te Whatu Ora in Counties Manukau around gout, including organising bespoke software to improve communication from the pharmacy to the GP, as well as texting patients to return for their serum urate tests.

“I’ve also worked with pharmacies in Counties Manukau to increase their proactivity with MMR vaccinations (measles mumps and rubella) and vaccinations in pregnancy.”

She worked with the University’s Professor Cameron Grant, Dr Anna Howe and Associate Professor Helen Petousis-Harris on research into providing vaccinations through pharmacies for expectant mothers.

Natalie is currently evaluating a pilot of midwife-prescribed, pharmacist-administered anti-D immunoglobulin to pregnant women who are Rh-negative to prevent Rhesus disease.

“We did something really different with the model of delivery. I’ve been unable to find any examples from developed countries of community pharmacies offering blood products.”

Natalie Gauld on her Motom, her mode of transport on the trails. Below, clockwise from left: With husband Matthew and pharmacist friend Kerri Miedema; encountering a weka on the West Coast Wilderness Trail; with husband Matthew.



She is also working on a project with Professor Ed Gane and Dr Geoff Noller on a study to assess the rates of hepatitis C in needle users.

"I'm about to finish up on hepatitis C, just to reduce my hours, but we also set up a pharmacy test-and-treat model, which was unusual."

Natalie has reduced her commitments to look after her health. That's where the MND New Zealand support staff have been 'awesome'.

"When I needed to see an occupational therapist, it wasn't happening in a hurry. I was thinking, 'I really need to see somebody to make decisions about the house.' The support worker was able to say, 'You need to bump this person up the list. That was so helpful.'"

"It's just about enjoying the stuff that you can enjoy. I don't know how long we'll be able to continue riding. So I wanted to make the most of it."

- Dr Natalie Gauld, ONZM, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

MND NZ provides advocacy and a registry to help MND sufferers now and in the future.

At the time of writing, Natalie had raised more than \$12,000 for MND NZ, towards a goal of \$15,000.

"My sister is coming out from the UK for March and April. For our last ride for the fundraising, we are planning to do the Karangahake Gorge but

might have to reassess that since the cyclone.

"I'm borrowing another Motom for my mum who's going to do it with us."

■ By Jodi Yeats

If you would like to get involved, either riding or donating, keep an eye on Natalie's blogs and fundraising page: mnd-new-zealand-fundraise.raisely.com/natalie-gauld



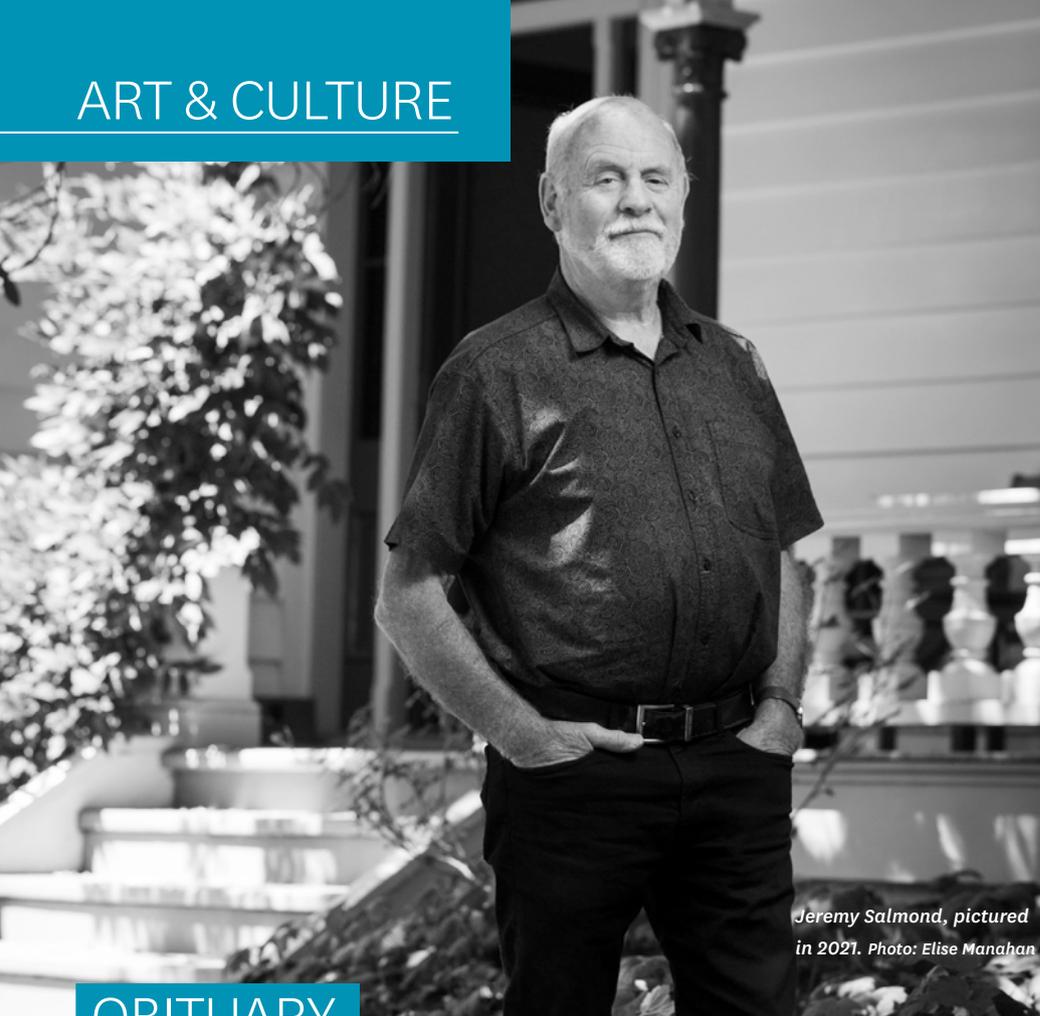
WHAT IS MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE?

Motor neurones are the nerves in your brain and spinal cord that carry messages to your muscles to get them to move. Motor Neurone Disease (MND) causes irreversible degeneration of these nerves.

There are several types of MND, with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) being the most common. ALS causes loss of muscle control and paralysis, with many people living only two to five years after their diagnosis.

In New Zealand, more than 300 people are living with MND.

■ Source Health Navigator NZ



Jeremy Salmond, pictured in 2021. Photo: Elise Manahan

OBITUARY

JEREMY SALMOND

2 JANUARY 1944 – 3 JANUARY 2023

With Jeremy Salmond's death in January, New Zealand lost one of its best heritage architects.

Jeremy was part of the country's first generation of professional conservation architects which emerged in the 1980s and he remained a leader in the field for the duration of his career. His office, initially called Salmond Architect and later Salmond Reed Architects, is the country's largest conservation practice. It has also served as an important training ground for younger heritage practitioners, including several of those who have followed in Jeremy's footsteps, becoming leaders in the field themselves.

The practice has earned numerous architecture and heritage awards. In addition, Jeremy received the Queen's Service Order in 2007 and the New Zealand Institute of Architects' (NZIA) Gold Medal in 2018. He was recognised as a University of Auckland Distinguished Alumnus in 2021.

Jeremy was a gentle and generous person, known for his integrity and courtesy, as well as his good humour and quick wit. His particular sense of humour is apparent in the NZIA's Gold Medal booklet where, in an interview, he refers to the University's School of Architecture during the 1940s as the 'School of Artichokes'.

Jeremy was born in Dunedin and raised in Gore. The grandson and nephew of architects, he knew by high school that he too would enter the profession. He worked as a Ministry of Works draughtsman in Dunedin before completing his Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Auckland in 1971. That same year, he married Anne Thorpe, known to us all as Dame Anne Salmond, the University's Distinguished Professor of Māori Studies and Anthropology.

During the 1970s, Jeremy worked in private practice in Auckland and London. His interest in how buildings are put together, which he later described as "the archaeology of the place", encouraged him to investigate the construction of his and Anne's Devonport villa, and then to a Master of Architecture thesis on old houses in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

He told *Ingenio* magazine in 2021 that Dame Anne had been a "wonderful asset" in that process. "When I wrote my thesis, she read every page and did the corrections. She actually transformed my ability to write."

Jeremy developed his thesis for publication in 1986 as *Old New Zealand Houses, 1800-1940*. The well-known book, now in its eighth edition, encouraged his heritage focus because it helped to generate clients with restoration projects.

He first established his own practice, Salmond

Architect, in 1981, and re-established it in 1988 after more time in the UK and working in other practices. It became Salmond Reed Architects in 2000, when Jeremy was joined in partnership by Peter Reed. Salmond Reed remains New Zealand's largest heritage architecture practice, with a staff of around 20, doing new builds as well as conservation and restoration projects.

Important on the conservation side in the late 1980s was the adaptive reuse of the Auckland Synagogue on Princes Street as a National Bank, completed in association with architect Marshall Cook. Every decision was crucial – the approach to strengthening, what old fabric to keep and reveal, and the design of the new work. The project earned an NZIA National Award.

Jeremy and his staff were soon also working on buildings owned by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, including the Stone Store in Kerikeri and the Pompallier Mission in Russell. A string of other conservation projects followed, notably Auckland's War Memorial Museum, Chief Post Office, Art Gallery, Civic Theatre, St Matthew-in-the-City, and the Britomart precinct; several buildings at the University of Auckland, among them the ClockTower and Alfred Nathan House; and further afield, Mansion House at Kawau Island, Tūrangawaewae Marae in Ngāruawāhia, and the Dunedin Railway Station.

Such projects have often been in collaboration with other architecture practices, with Salmond Reed providing heritage assessment and conservation advice, and the collaborators developing design solutions and liaising over heritage decisions, to ensure that the new work was sympathetic to the old. Collaborators have described the process as productive and generative. Jeremy, too, enjoyed the design end of heritage conservation work.

As well as their home villa, Jeremy and Anne bought 120 hectares north-east of Gisborne in 2000. Here they created the Waikereru Eco-sanctuary, regenerating native bush, fostering bird life, planting a 1769 garden featuring plants that grew in Tairāwhiti and were familiar to local Māori at the time of Cook's arrival, and building a new house and support facilities.

Jeremy is survived by Dame Anne and their three children, Amiria, Steve and Tim. They recall not only his obsession with old buildings and his unrelenting humour, but also his love of classical music and his delight in his grandchildren. Jeremy is deeply missed, at both the professional and personal levels.

■ By Associate Professor Julia Gatley, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries. Julia is an architectural historian with a research interest in the heritage value of 20th-century New Zealand architecture.

TACKLING A TOUGH TOPIC

Few issues have polarised Aotearoa New Zealand society as much as abortion, and now Professor Felicity Goodyear-Smith has launched a book on the topic.

Academics at the University's medical school had key roles in the establishment of the country's first abortion clinic, where Felicity subsequently worked as a certifying consultant. Her book, *From Crime to Care: The History of Abortion in Aotearoa New Zealand*, focuses on the story of that clinic, opened in 1974, with her teacher, mentor and friend Dr Rex Hunton having a pivotal role.

"Rex wanted a history of the AMAC (Auckland Medical Aid Centre) to be recorded, and of the turbulent and bitterly contested history of abortion in New Zealand," Felicity says.

In the book's preface, she recalls being a student in the 1970s and taught by Rex and Father Felix Donnelly in the Department of Community Health, now General Practice and Primary Care. Felicity has worked there for two decades, including as its former head. "The dean, Professor Cecil Lewis, said to them, 'Go out to GPs in the area and ask them what the most difficult problem is they are facing. They came back with issues around sexual orientation and women who were unhappily pregnant,'" Felicity says.

They started offering counselling in a pink cottage on the grounds of Auckland's med school.

"Rex generally counselled women with unwanted pregnancies and Felix those grappling with their sexual orientation. Rex saw many women who were desperate. They had no real choices. It was very difficult to get approved for an abortion and you needed money to go to Australia."

At that time, Rex was a senior lecturer and general physician with an interest in counselling. With colleagues from the University, he helped set up the Auckland Medical Aid Trust and open the clinical centre in Remuera in 1974.

Psychiatrist Professor John Werry and physician Dr Robin Briant, who was researching at the medical school, were both trained as abortionists and worked part-time in the clinic. The registrar at the University was on the trust as information officer. Over the years, University staff have continued to be involved. "Australian Dr Jim Woolnough joined the clinic as lead abortionist when it first opened. He was subsequently charged for conducting illegal abortions and went through two trials. One was a hung jury and a year later he was acquitted. He had put his head on the block."

Police raided the clinic and seized medical files. They approached women, based on their notes, and questioned them, often in front of family or



Felicity
Goodyear-Smith

colleagues who didn't know they'd had an abortion.

Meanwhile groups for and against rallied and the clinic was subjected to fire-bombs, intense protest action and arson, and its clinicians harassed.

In the 1980s, Felicity worked in women's health in Freemans Bay, then an impoverished area. She was seeing women who were unhappily pregnant. Felicity became a certifying consultant and started working shifts in AMAC, a role she continued until lockdown 2020, when legislation passed that made her role redundant. Abortion has now moved from the Crimes Act 1961 into law governing healthcare, and abortion services brought into the fold with other women's health services.

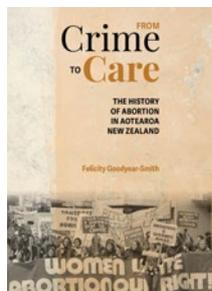
In her book, Felicity seeks to fairly represent all sides of the divisive debate. Bernard Moran, a long-time supporter of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, gave her plenty of time and material to work with. "I said to him, 'I really want to give everyone a voice, but clearly I am pro-abortion.' He said, 'yeah, of course, I know that.' He was happy just to have his voice in the story."

This is not Felicity's first book on a flashpoint topic. *First Do No Harm: The Sexual Abuse Industry* talks about false allegations and recovered memories. Another book, *Murder That Wasn't: The Case of George Gwaze* is about the impact of a false rape and murder accusation.

She is driven by a strong need to address injustices, which she saw arising in her work in women's health, with devastating impacts on those falsely accused. "I knew what I was saying needed to be said. I knew it wasn't going to make me popular, but it helped the discourse I think."

These days, this champion for women's health is working with Pacific providers on research to support culturally appropriate models of care. She combines work fostering teaching practices with travelling in her motor home. Husband John Potter drives while she works on her laptop or visits practices. In the evenings, they park up near a beach, swim and relax. Retirement currently holds little appeal, though it may come along eventually. – **Jodi Yeats**

■ *From Crime to Care, the History of Abortion in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Verity Press, \$39.95. Also available on Kindle.



BOOKS

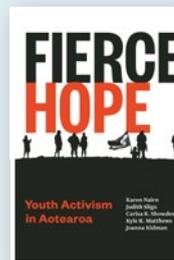
Face to the Sky

Professor Michele Leggott's latest poetry collection tells the story of the art and writings of 19th-century New Zealand painter Emily Cumming Harris. Two women born more than 100 years apart tell stories of love and loss in the shadow of Mount Taranaki.



One becomes a painter of botanically accurate native flora, and writes. The other, now without sight, lives in a world of sounds caught in expanding webs of memory.

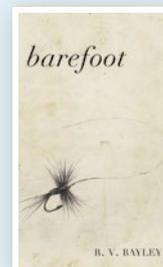
Michele Leggott, AUP, \$35, from 13 April



Fierce Hope, Youth Activism in Aotearoa

Fierce Hope focuses on six influential activist groups with causes ranging from Indigenous rights and sexual violence to climate change and justice system reform. One of its co-

authors is Dr Carisa Showden (Arts). The book was funded with a Marsden grant. Read the full story: auckland.ac.nz/fierce-hope-story
Carisa Showden, Karen Nairn, Judith Sligo, Kyle Matthews, Joanna Kidman, Bridget Williams Books, \$40

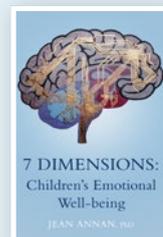


Barefoot

Ruth Bayley has a degree in history and is a graduate of Auckland's Master of Creative Writing programme. Excerpts of this, her first novel, were longlisted in the First Pages International Prize 2020 and shortlisted in

the NZSA NZ Heritage Literary Awards 2021. It's a moving story of two people in love: one stranded in the reality of the local war effort, the other in the stifling deserts and desolate battlegrounds of far-off lands where danger and death are always imminent. Ruth works in group services for the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Ruth Bayley, Eden Street Press, \$30



7 Dimensions: Children's Emotional Well-being

Dr Jean Annan is an alumna and educational psychologist. Her book introduces a framework to help adults make simple sense of the plethora of information available about young people's feelings, thoughts and ways of responding.

Jean Annan, Mary Egan Publishing, \$39



“Most of us know that removing trees to build houses or building houses on floodplains is not ideal, so why are we compelled to do it anyway?”

Titirangi after the Auckland floods on 27 January. Photo: Dean Purcell, NZ Herald

GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

Now that Auckland schools are back to some sort of normality, geography teachers have an opportunity to give students some timely lessons on recent weather events.

Auckland’s ‘state of emergency’ – the floods and landslides that have affected the city and its region, and which will have consequences for years to come – demand a geographical explanation.

I admit I have skin in the game. I am a geography teacher, but I also spent five days trapped behind a sizeable landslide that blocked access to and from my home in Titirangi. I went nowhere for a while. The surrounding hills are scarred by landslides – some big, some small – and the habitual scrolling of social media brought fresh evidence of the effect of this huge weather event.

A flood like the one on 27 January has happened before. In April 2017, I woke to the sound of trees being snapped by a landslide; that time it was small drain at the top of the slope that couldn’t cope with the water coming from the hills above. When the downpour came, the ground was sodden, and the clay started to slide.

I have had a lot of time to look at and think about this landscape, and the word that keeps coming to mind is ‘Anthropocene’, a term coined by geographer David Matless to describe a “landscape emblematic of processes marking the Anthropocene”.

The Anthropocene is the term many geologists propose to describe the fact that we live in a new epoch, one in which human activity is changing the Earth’s systems – its climate, its soils, its flow of water and so on. There is controversy about this,

it hardly needs saying. Is there water-tight (forgive the pun) evidence that the climate is changing? Is it fair to blame all people (Anthros) when clearly some cause more problems than others? There’s plenty to debate, but what children need is a chance to explore what might be happening to their city in the context of these big processes. The one thing we can say for sure is that this is a human rather than natural disaster.

Here’s my ‘lesson plan’.

The first and obvious question is whether what is happening in Auckland can be attributed to human-induced climate change? Children often think in ‘either/or’ terms, and we could never ‘prove’ that the intense rainfall is a direct effect of a changing climate. But looking at storm frequency and intensity, and abnormal weather patterns across the globe, puts what has happened into context.

Coming down to earth, the next thing is to understand what happens to all that rainfall when it hits the ground. Children are taught early that it ends up in rivers and to the sea, before being recycled into the atmosphere.

But we need a more detailed picture of the water cycle. At what rates does water travel through the landscape, and through what pathways? Contrary to the views of one Facebook post, trees don’t cause floods. The opposite: they act as a sponge, soaking up rainfall and releasing it slowly. Different land surfaces and soil types are permeable, pervious or impermeable. What about concrete drives and road surfaces? A key concept is that of ‘antecedent moisture condition’ or the state of the ground before the storms.

Once we have a basic model of the physical geography, we can get into the question of how decisions people have made are involved in these events. After all, most of us know that removing

trees to build houses or building houses on floodplains is not ideal, so why are we compelled to do it anyway? Why, across our city, do we increase housing density by sub-dividing property? Thinking of where I live, why, about 100 years ago, was native vegetation removed for farmland, and why has that farmland since been converted to residential areas?

Starting local invariably leads to wider questions, applicable to other cities and places. How are cities like Auckland encouraged to grow in actual and population size? Is the promotion of Auckland as a global city compatible with the government’s well-being agenda? How ‘liveable’ is our city now? And, most important of all, are there ways to prevent this happening again?

To finish these ‘lessons’, we should encourage children to think wild thoughts about how to re-imagine Auckland’s geography. After all, many of them will go on to live in this place. Geography teachers can’t be smug. In many ways, the ‘Anthropocene’ I have been surveying from behind the landslide reflects the failure of geographical education. Geography should have helped generations of citizens and politicians to understand the complex ways in which environment and economy are related, and how short-term gains in property value or economic growth can easily be swept away by processes that take decades and even centuries to work through.

It is not too late to educate the next generation. Let’s start today.



■ Professor John Morgan is Head of School, Critical Studies in Education. This piece is adapted from an article first published on *Newsroom*.

The views in this article are personal opinion and are not necessarily those of the University of Auckland.