



## OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR WORLD

**CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY  
2 – 6 OCTOBER**

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### RECORD NUMBERS FOR SPRING GRADUATION

Some 3,240 students will graduate in person or in absentia this spring, an increase of around 80 on last year's number.

Among them is Darren Gunasekara, who is graduating with a conjoint Bachelor of Law and Arts.

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### IMPROVING BREAST CANCER DETECTION

Our researchers are working with surgeons to more accurately locate breast tumours in the ongoing struggle to improve breast cancer detection and diagnosis.

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### UNIQUE MĀORI LANGUAGE TOOL

Our academic expertise in computer engineering, linguistics and Māori language is being used alongside the oratory skills of Māori elders to develop a ground-breaking pronunciation device.

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## FRONTING FOR A CHANCE AT SUCCESS

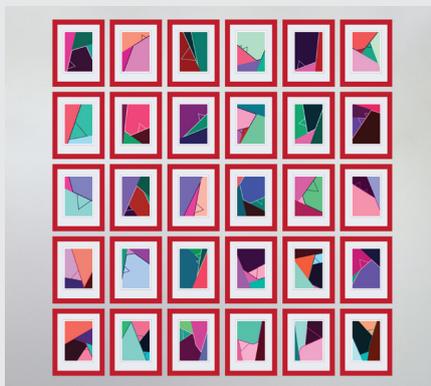
Each year, hundreds of staff members and alumni chip in to help selected students from tough financial situations to attend our University. One such student, Te Orakiri Graham, is fronting the 2017 Annual Appeal. Te Orakiri grew up in Northland where there were only seven physics teachers for all 28 schools in the region. After studying hard, she got accepted into the Certificate of Health Science, a one-year programme to prepare Māori and Pacific students for tertiary study in health professions – and landed a donor-funded scholarship.



Find out about supporting a student scholarship: [www.giving.auckland.ac.nz/appeal](http://www.giving.auckland.ac.nz/appeal)

## ELAM ARTISTS RECOGNISED

Congratulations to all our Elam School of Fine Arts students and graduates who were recognised in this year's Wallace Art Awards. Master of Fine Arts (Hons) graduate Shannon Novak received the Kaipara Wallace Arts Trust Award for his work *30 Nights on Queen Street*. His prize is a three-month residency at Altes Spital in Solothurn, Switzerland. The awards are given annually for contemporary New Zealand art, and reward artists creating outstanding work. Visit the exhibition until 12 November at the Pah Homestead in Hillsborough.



## NEXT WOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Five out of the 30 *Next* magazine Woman of the Year finalists for 2017 are University of Auckland staff members. Head of Engineering Science, Professor Rosalind Archer, *right*, Dr Paula Morris (English Drama and Writing Studies); Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Dr Melanie Cheung (Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences) and Dr Susan Morton, an associate professor in the School of Population Health. Bioscience entrepreneur Dr Privahini Bradoo, a University alumna, is also among the finalists. The honour recognises women of influence across a range of categories.



## YOUTH DEBATE A WINNER

The Fale Pasifika was transformed into a bright, buzzing television set for the 1NEWS Young Voters Debate on 14 September. Hosted by TVNZ *Breakfast* presenter Jack Tame, the 90-minute special debate focused on young voters with a panel that included a member of each political party: Chris Bishop (National), Kris Faafoi (Labour), Chloe Swarbrick (Greens), Shane Taurima (Māori Party), David Seymour (ACT), Darroch Ball (NZ First) and Damian Light (United Future). The debate featured Vote Compass, the online issues tool, brought to TVNZ by Associate Professor Jennifer Lees-Marshment, *right*.



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## RECORD NUMBERS IN SPRING GRADUATION

Some 3,240 students will graduate in person or in absentia this spring, an increase of around 80 on last year's number.

The oldest of this year's spring graduands is 81 and the youngest are three students aged 20.

The numbers include 402 Māori and Pacific students, up from 356 last spring, and there are 169 doctoral students.

Darren Gunasekara, *pictured far right*, graduated with a conjoint Bachelor of Law and Arts - exactly the same undergraduate degree as his father, Gehan Gunasekara, who is now an associate professor of Commercial Law in the Business School. Darren, who now works at a leading employment law firm Kiely Thompson Caisley, never expected to follow in his father's footsteps.

"I initially wanted to be a pilot, and study engineering and/or music at uni. I've played



Associate Professor of Commercial Law at the Business School Gehan Gunasekara and his son Darren Gunasekara.

multiple instruments since I was four, and love hands-on things," says Darren.

In spite of himself, Gehan influenced his son's legal turn, Darren says. "He sparked my ability to take an interest in wider issues, and being a

lawyer and academic, to think deeply about them. He claims he wanted me to stay as far away from law as possible, but his passion for all things legal rubbed off on me and meant that this was unlikely to happen."

## ENDEAVOUR FUND BENEFITS SCIENCE

A handheld skin cancer diagnostic device and a project to explore how underwater sound can influence beer fermentation are just two of eight Faculty of Science research projects to be awarded funding from this year's Endeavour Fund in September.

Projects across the faculty received a total investment of \$18.6 million, with funding from four to seven years.

Photon Factory founder Professor Cather Simpson from the Departments of Physics and Chemistry will lead development of ultra-fast laser manufacturing, which received \$11,802,990 in funding, while a project to develop portable and handheld devices for skin cancer diagnosis with the potential to provide a non-invasive method to detect cancerous skin lesions received \$999,804.

And a pioneering project to build wireless-charging technology that charges electric vehicles as they are being driven or are parked received almost \$12 million from this year's Endeavour Fund.

Professor Grant Covic is leading the development of dynamic charging road ways at the University's Faculty of Engineering. Along with Computer and Electrical Engineering Emeritus Professor John Boys, he founded a global start-up company that has been sold to technology development company Qualcomm, who recently tested vehicles over a specially-designed track in France.

## SELINA OUR NEW POET LAUREATE

**Congratulations to Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh (English, Drama and Writing Studies) who has been announced New Zealand's Poet Laureate for 2017-19.**

One of the most prestigious national awards for poets, the Poet Laureateship is an honour that recognises outstanding contributions to New Zealand poetry. In accepting the award, Selina said she was "honoured and humbled".

"It's a wonderful opportunity to extend the poetic page and stage to this nation's multi-coloured, multi-hued voices.

"Samoans have the to'oto'o, the orator's staff, a symbol of the authority to speak on behalf of a group. To be recognised in this way is breathtaking. To occupy the role is breath-giving; I can't wait to take the Laureate's tokotoko to the people and make poetry."

Of Samoan, Tuvaluan, English, Scottish and French descent, Selina was the first Pacific Islander to graduate with a PhD in English from the University of Auckland.

A strong advocate for Pacific writing, she teaches Pacific literature and creative writing within the Faculty of Arts.

She is the award-winning author of three collections of poetry, including her latest book, *Tightrope* (AUP), which was launched in August.

Her first poetry collection, *Fast Talking PI* (2009) won the 2010 NZSA Jessie Mackay Best First Book Award for Poetry and Best First Book at the 2010 New Zealand Book Awards, with her

second collection *Dark Sparring* published in 2013.

In her role as Commonwealth Poet in 2016, Selina performed a specially composed piece at Westminster Abbey in front of Queen Elizabeth and dignitaries from all over the world.

Each Laureate is awarded \$80,000 over two years by the National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, to create new work and promote poetry throughout the country.

They also receive a carved tokotoko or orator's stick, symbolising their authority and status.

Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh: our new Poet Laureate



## RARE CHINESE COLLECTION

A painting manual with an exquisitely drawn picture of a bird feasting on luscious yellow fruit is one of the many treasures featured in a recently launched catalogue of rare Chinese material.

Written in Chinese with English introductory pages, *新西蘭奧克蘭大學中文古籍目錄, Chinese rare and pre-modern books at the University of Auckland* dates and describes 231 rare books and items of archival material held in the General Library's Special Collections.

Published between the late Ming dynasty and the end of the Qing dynasty (early 17th century to 1911), the rare books collection includes travelogues, plays, poetry, painting manuals and a beautifully-coloured pictorial work on agriculture and sericulture.

These texts reflect the social and intellectual life of pre-modern China and are an invaluable resource for studying Chinese literature, culture, traditions and history, says Special Collections Manager Stephen Innes.

"The catalogue will help increase awareness of these imperial-era books among the research community, both within the University and internationally and it's great that these works are receiving the recognition they deserve. It is also a tribute to the donors, academics and librarians responsible for their acquisition over the decades."

The catalogue was meticulously compiled by Metadata Assistant Librarian Jian Downing and

Haiqing Lin, the Library's former Asian Languages Librarian, and contains book images scanned by Digital Initiatives Librarian John Laurie.

With the ambitious aim of creating comprehensive catalogues of Chinese rare book collections held outside China, it was published by Beijing-based Zhonghua Book Company.

To date, the University Library and 15 others in the United States and Canada have joined the

project, and the publishers are in talks with other libraries internationally.

To coincide with the launch, some of these treasures are featured in the display **特藏部中文古籍** *Chinese rarities in Special Collections*. Curated by Jian Downing and Special Collections Assistant Librarian Jo Birks, it will run until 9 October outside the Reading Room in the General Library on Level G.



Jian Downing, assistant librarian in metadata, and some of the rare Chinese material currently on display in Special Collections in the General Library.

## TRIBUTE TO PETER BRIDGES

IT Risk and Strategy manager Peter Bridges died peacefully on 31 August after a brief illness.

Peter joined the Digital Strategy and Architecture directorate as IT Risk and Strategy manager in March 2013, and began to adjust instantly to the people, mission, and tempo of the University, all of which were very different from what he had experienced in senior leadership roles for decades prior.

A geophysics graduate of the University of Auckland, and with his wife and children studying at the University, Peter sought to genuinely contribute his vast professional experience back to the University, and enjoy time being in the same city as his family.

As a leader, Peter was bold and visionary, steady and reliable, professional, knowledgeable and poised; a forward thinker who was unshakably focused on strategic priorities.

His straightforward manner was a breath of fresh air, as was his desire to "just get on and deliver" without ego, politics or hidden agendas.

As a great teacher and mentor to many, Peter believed in pushing and challenging his teams to focus on the real priorities and on effective delivery, often stretching them out of their comfort zones, but always with their confidence that he was there for them with his full backing and support. Peter will be sadly missed by all of his colleagues and collaborators.

Photo: Jerzy A Lau  
*Peter Bridges: a leader and visionary.*

# MY STORY

## STAFF PROFILE



Tiopira McDowell is a lecturer in Māori Studies at Te Wānanga o Waipapa, the School of Māori and Pacific Studies

### Where did you grow up?

I spent my early childhood in Mangere Bridge in Auckland.

I'm a middle child and a twin and I have three sisters. It's usually my twin sister who gets interviewed, not me, because she's an actor, Miriama McDowell. (*No.2, The Dark Horse*). Dad is from Palmerston North, he's of Scottish and English descent, and mum is Māori from Motatau, up north.

### What are your childhood memories?

I had a pretty exciting childhood until I was about eight. Dad was involved with politics and opposing the '81 tour, so we were around people like Alan Johnson, Pat Snedden, the Andertons, Tim Shadbolt and others, staunch Pākehā liberals. Because I was born in 1979, my first memories involve the Springbok Tour in 1981. Mum was working for Māori Affairs, she was involved in Māori rights, women's rights; she took us to all the hui, so we were around the elders and trouble makers of the day. It was a powerful mix.

### Did you learn te reo growing up?

Not much. Mum used to get me to say the prayers in te reo at hui, she thought I might go in that direction, become a priest. I remember people were quite impressed that I could do that because Māori language was at its lowest ebb at that time and Māori language schools didn't exist yet.

### What changed aged eight?

I was taken, with my sisters, to live just with my dad in Mt Eden, away from my mother. I lived in a Pākehā world. I missed my mum, there was a lot of anger and dysfunction.

### How did get from there to your current life?

I had a seminal moment one day in fourth form social studies when we learnt about the New Zealand wars, and it was the first time I had ever learnt about Māori in the classroom. It was the story of Kawiti who defeated the British using his intelligence and I went home that night and found out that he was my great-great-great-great grandfather. At last, I'd found something relevant. Probably also the *Indiana Jones* movies started coming out in the early 80s, and I think the idea of discovering or digging up precious things appealed to me.

### Did you have a favourite teacher?

Professor James Belich, a former lecturer in New Zealand history at Auckland, [now the Beit Professor of Imperial and Commonwealth History at Balliol College, Oxford]. He was one of the reasons I came to this University, so I could learn from him. He was an incredible speaker and thinker. He applied for a scholarship for me, as well as tutoring jobs; he intervened in my life. He was different from other professors, Ngāti Tarara (Dalmatian) by background, so he had different traditions; he had a wine cellar in his office and a beer fridge. We students used to spend Friday nights with him drinking his beer, smoking his cigars and arguing.

### What did you study?

I did a degree in English and history, then an honours, masters, and PhD in Māori history.

### What happened after you finished studying?

After finishing my PhD I spent some time working in Wellington on Treaty settlements, which had always been my intention.

### How did you get the job at the University of Auckland?

One of my 'aunties' here in the Wānanga told me to apply for it and so I did. That's very much part of our culture; an auntie ('whaea') tells you do something, so you do it.

### What do you teach?

I teach a big stage one Māori course – Introduction to the Māori world, on Māori culture and history, a stage 3 contemporary issues course and a masters course on Indigenous research methodologies. I love teaching.

### Do you think what you do makes a difference to people's lives?

I hope so. Helping our Māori students to understand who they are and where they come from, giving non-Māori an understanding of the land beneath their feet.

We no longer look to Britain for our identity. I know the power of history and how good teachers can transform lives.

You don't know when or how it will happen so you have to treat every student with respect; act as a guide and carry them forward.

### What do you do when you're not working?

I play music. I like lots of different kinds. When I was procrastinating from finishing my PhD I spent a lot of time running a record label, playing music and recording songs.

### Do you bring music into what you do here?

I host a sort of jam session here for anyone who wants to come in Te Wānanga o Waipapa. People just come and play instruments.

It sort of changes the nature of the space [the office environment] which is what I like about it. And it's so quiet here on weekends as well, with no residential houses around, it's also a great place to play and record music. See those panels in my office, that's why they're there, for the acoustics!



A very young Tiopira on the left with his twin sister Miriama beside him on the right and his older sister Te Rawhina behind.

# DID YOU KNOW

## ...that 150 years ago, in October 1867, the Native Schools Act created an education system for Māori children that operated parallel to the public school system for just over a century?

Education was seen by the early Government of New Zealand as a way of assimilating Māori into Pākehā society.

From 1847, the Government provided financial support to mission schools which offered instruction in English and from 1858, to boarding schools, where it was felt Māori children could be taught away from the influence of their kainga. This system proved expensive to finance and many of the schools closed during the New Zealand wars.

The 1867 Native Schools Act established a new system of secular village primary schools under the control of the Department of Native Affairs.

As with earlier Government policies concerning Māori, education instruction was to be conducted in English.

School attendance in New Zealand was not yet compulsory and under the Act it was the responsibility of Māori communities to request a school for their children.

Communities were also required to form a school committee, supply land for the school and, until 1871, pay for half of the building costs and a quarter of the teacher's salary.

Many communities were keen for their children to learn English as a second language and by 1879 there were 57 native schools.

From 1879, native or Māori schools (as they were known from 1947) were administered by the Department of Education in Wellington, while public schools were managed by local education boards. By 1955, there were 166 Māori schools, mostly located in the North Island.

During the 1960s, a series of committees reporting on New Zealand education contended that there should be only one system of state schooling and in 1969, the remaining 105 schools were transferred to the control of local education boards.

A lack of knowledge about the place of these schools in New Zealand educational history and the realisation that many former pupils and teachers were getting on in years was the inspiration behind the Native Schools Project in the 1990s.

Conducted by researchers from the University of Auckland-based International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education, the project set out to record the oral recollections of former pupils and teachers.

A wealth of related primary and secondary

sources, including school logbooks, photographs and teaching resources was also collected during the project. These were donated to the University Library in 2008 and are held in Special Collections for researchers to use.

Selected items from this rich collection of research material will be on display on the General Library ground floor outside Special Collections from 10 October until 17 November.

■ Katherine Pawley, Special Collections



Top - Māori and Pākehā pupils of Matakā Native School in the Bay of Plenty in 1920.

Middle - Pupils gathering kiekie at Parikino around 1917.

Above - School committee members, teachers and parents outside Rangiahua Native School near Wairoa in 1913.

Images from: Native Schools Project records. MSS & Archives 2008/15, folders 190 and 201. Special Collections, University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services.

# WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

## BE PART OF CLIMATHON

**What:** Auckland Climathon

**When:** Auckland Climathon will be held over 24 hours from Friday night, 27 October to Saturday night, 28 October.

**Venue:** UnleashSpace, University of Auckland (20 Symonds Street)

Cost: Free

In October the inaugural Auckland Climathon will be asking: How can we power Auckland's dynamic growth in a low carbon way that is affordable and accessible for every Aucklander?

Open to everyone over 18 years old.

Find out more at <http://www.climathon.nz/auckland>

## DANCE PERFORMANCE

**What:** Dance Studies Performance Series

**When:** Friday 27 October at 7.30pm, Saturday 28 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

**Venue:** Mangere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku, Corner Bader Drive and Orly Avenue, Mangere, Auckland.

Students from the Dance Studies Programme present their end of year shows. Visit <http://dance.auckland.ac.nz/>

## CURNOW SYMPOSIUM

**What:** Allen Curnow Symposium

**When:** 30 September 2017 from 9.30am to 5.30pm

**Venue:** Room 220, Humanities Building (206-220), 14A Symonds Street

The life and work of one of New Zealand's most significant poets will be celebrated at this special symposium. His friend, Emeritus Professor C.K. Stead, will give an opening address. Registration essential.

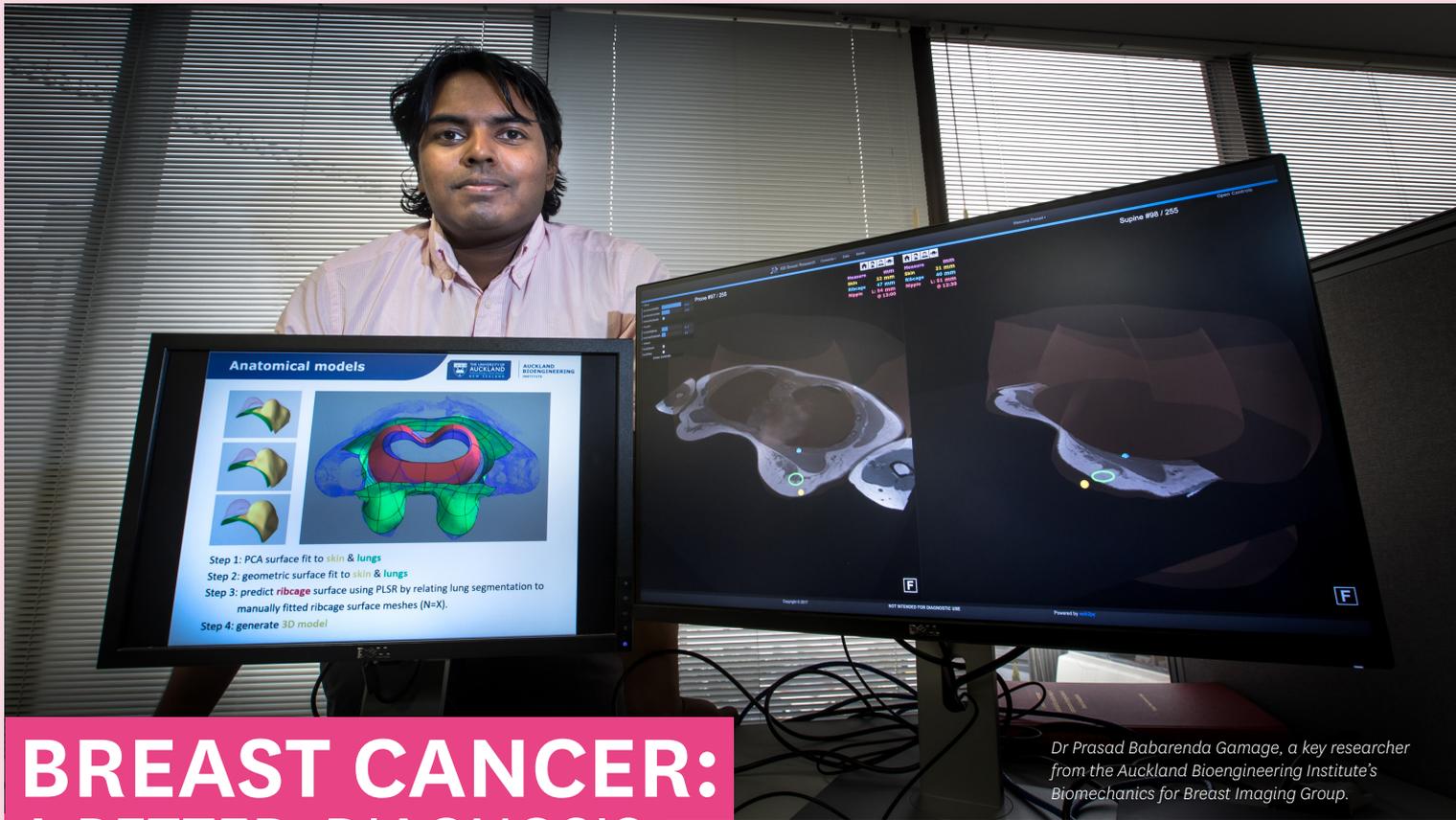
## BRUCE JESSON LECTURE

**What:** Tamati Kruger: a leader of the Tuhoë people's drive for determination.

**When:** Tuesday 31 October at 6pm

**Venue:** Old Government House Lecture Theatre

The lecture will explain the Tuhoë philosophy of Mana Motuhake/self determination and report on how the approach is working out in practice since the iwi signed a settlement with the Crown in 2013.



## BREAST CANCER: A BETTER DIAGNOSIS

*Dr Prasad Babarenda Gamage, a key researcher from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute's Biomechanics for Breast Imaging Group.*

**Breast cancer affects one in nine New Zealand women. Early detection and effective treatment are vital to improving patient outcomes.**

One key strand of research at Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) is innovative technology for analysing breast images, underway with funding help from Lynne Erceg and the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation. This research could radically improve early detection and accurate diagnosis of the disease.

"The primary tools used for detecting and diagnosing breast cancer are X-ray mammography, ultrasound imaging, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)," explains Dr Prasad Babarenda Gamage, the prime researcher from ABI's Biomechanics for Breast Imaging Group.

However, the loading conditions for the breast can be very different during these procedures. For example, the position and shape of the breast varies considerably between different imaging methods, as well as during treatment procedures where image guidance is not available.

A patient lies face-down during diagnostic MR imaging, whereas during diagnostic ultrasound imaging and some treatments, such as radiotherapy and surgery, the patients lie on their backs.

"Tracking suspicious lesions between images is one of the ongoing challenges," says Prasad.

To address this limitation and increase the reliability of "co-localisation" of image features, researchers in the Biomechanics for Breast Imaging Group, which is led by Professors Martyn Nash and Poul Nielsen, have created computational models of the breast.

They are now collaborating with Dr Anthony Doyle (breast MRI consultant at the Department of Radiology, Auckland City Hospital) to develop and implement technology for breast image analysis. This integrates state-of-the-art image-processing techniques, personalised 3D biomechanical modelling of the breast, and population-based statistical analyses to create an automated workflow for predicting breast tissue motion in patients.

"A key aspect of this technology is its ability to help improve detection of tumours from diagnostic medical images while also helping to predict locations of tumours during treatments such as surgery or radiotherapy," says Martyn.

The long-term vision is to address a variety of clinical issues for breast cancer patients using automated construction and application of personalised physics-based models.

Anthony Doyle says this research has the potential to lead to technological advances in the breast cancer imaging field, and will directly translate into better health outcomes for New Zealand women and improved breast care practices world-wide.

## FLEXIMAP UP FOR AWARD

Researchers at FlexiMap, a spin-out company from ABI, are finalists in the Science and Health section of the 2017 Innovator of the Year awards, announced late October.

They are developing tools that will revolutionise our understanding of the stomach and intestine by measuring its bioelectrical activity.

Based at ABI and with some 12 researchers on board, FlexiMap is developing a system for high-resolution mapping (recording) of gastrointestinal bioelectrical activity.

The ultimate goal is to develop a non-invasive and routinely applicable package for gastrointestinal analysis.

Says lead researcher Dr Du: "This will mean people will be able to go to their doctor and, just as they have a routine examination on things like blood pressure, for example, the health of their gut will be easily checked."

[www.fleximap.co.nz](http://www.fleximap.co.nz)

## UNIQUE MĀORI LANGUAGE TOOL

Academic expertise in computer engineering, linguistics and Māori language is being used alongside the oratory skills of Māori elders to develop the Māori Pronunciation Aid, or MPai for short.

MPai enables users to hear the correct pronunciation of a Māori word, record and analyse their own pronunciation and get feedback on what is right and what is wrong.

The tool has been developed by Dr Peter Keegan (Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou), a senior lecturer at Te Puna Wānanga and Associate Professor Catherine Watson from Electrical and Computer Engineering, with other colleagues from around the country.

It runs on Windows and can be used on computers, tablets and mobile devices and an on-line beta version is available on the university's internal network.

The long term aim is to make a version available for the general public,

"MPai is the first tool to provide real time feedback to help learners pronounce Māori correctly," says Peter, "and is one of the few computer-assisted learning tools for a language that is undergoing revitalisation."

"It's part of our team's contribution to the revival of te reo Māori," adds Catherine.

The team realised the need for a pronunciation tool while undertaking research for the MAONZE (Māori and New Zealand English) Project.

This is an ongoing research project looking at changes in the sound of the Māori language over a 100-year period using recordings of elders in the 1880s and voices from present day elders and young speakers.

Peter explains: "The language as spoken by these current elders is highly valued, and many younger speakers consider it a compliment if they are told they sound like an elder."

The research and recordings sparked a lot of interest from within the Māori-speaking

community, particularly in the language as spoken by the elders.

"They wanted the elders' way of speaking to be the gold standard from which others could learn and it became clear to us that many second language speakers of Māori wanted to improve their own pronunciation," says Peter.

This interest became the team's motivation to develop a pronunciation tool using their combined skills, namely Catherine's phonetic and computer engineering skills and the Māori language and linguistics skills of Peter and his colleagues from the University of Canterbury, Professor Margaret Maclagan and Professor Jeanette King, and Dr Ray Harlow formerly of the University of Waikato.

The team use voices from the language research project as the voices giving pronunciation guidance on MPai and users can choose to hear male or female elders or male or female young speakers.

The archived recordings from the late 19th century have been a crucial resource for the team as they've been able to compare these speakers with Māori speakers of today to see how the language has changed.

The ongoing nature of this longitudinal study means pronunciation and dialect changes will be tracked over a long period of time.

Since 2004, the project has been funded by two Royal Society Marsden grants and a University of Auckland Strategic Initiatives Fund grant. The University has recently granted further funding to continue the research.

Says Catherine: "It is thrilling to be involved in this work that could play a part in the new life that is being given to the Māori language. After all, it is the indigenous language of New Zealand."

Peter says the fact that it has survived the huge dominance of the English language is to be celebrated.

"And the fact that so many people want to improve how they speak Māori is worthy of more celebration."

UNINEWS highlights some of the University's people and stories that have made the headlines in the past month.

### DOTCOM ON A ROLL

Film maker and University of Auckland academic Annie Goldson's documentary *Kim Dotcom: Caught in the Web* has rocketed to the top 10 of all independent films featuring on iTunes. The film premiered at SXSW in Austin, Texas in March, and has been shown at a dozen festivals, most recently at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

### LAND AND SEA

Professor Mary Sewell (Biological Sciences) talks about ocean acidification and whether the tension between ocean and land use has reached crunch point in *NZ National Geographic, September/October*.

### TALKING POLITICS

Associate Professor Jennifer Lees-Marshment, a political marketing expert, academic advisor to TVNZ's Vote Compass and a key player in TVNZ hosting its first ever Youth Debate at the University, has appeared repeatedly in the media in the build-up to the General Election. She has discussed Vote Compass results on TVNZ evening news and *Breakfast*, featured on *Seven Sharp*, *Newshub's AM Show*, *NewsTalkZB*, in the *Dominion*, on *Newsroom* and taken part in TVNZ's Media Take on Monday after the election.

### HEALTHY STARS

In the *Weekend Sun*, research by Professor Cliona Ni Mhurchu (Population Health) is featured on how the voluntary Health Star Rating is encouraging manufacturers to produce healthier foods.

### CRISS-CROSS DRESSER

Sociologist Dr Ciara Cremin and her book *Man-Made woman: The dialectics of Cross Dressing* graced two pages of *Woman's Day*, featured in the *Herald on Sunday* and appeared in many other media outlets locally. Overseas, the story was featured in the UK *Telegraph's* Men's Lifestyle section and the UK *Guardian's* Times Higher Education Supplement books section.



Dr Peter Keegan, senior lecturer at Te Puna Wānanga, and Associate Professor Catherine Watson (Electrical and Computer Engineering). Keegan, senior lecturer at Te Puna Wānanga.



Yvonne Todd  
*Envy Log*  
2005  
C-type print  
1160 x 930mm

## DISTURBING AND ALLURING

“Envy Log” is example of the way Yvonne Todd’s photography can draw you in with the promise of a scandalous story but leave you with nothing more than unresolved plot twists.

Here she presents us with a young girl sitting slumped and resigned in a wheelchair, looking towards us with an inquisitive, rather sullen gaze. Behind her stands a woman whose eyes we cannot meet, her face veiled in dark shadow.

She stands rigid and defiant, gripping the handlebars of the wheelchair.

But the why remains a mystery. Todd reveals no clues as to why the little girl is in a wheelchair, who the woman is behind her, or the exact nature of their relationship.

The woman seems too young to be the girl’s mother, and too stiff and menacing to be a caregiver.

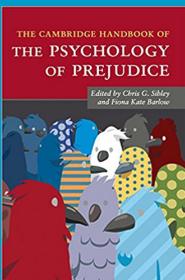
“Envy Log” suggests something more sinister might be at work.

Together with the shadowy paddock setting, the effect of this uncertainty surrounding the figures is both disturbing and alluring.

Perhaps at this point you have succumbed to the familiar parental warning of “don’t stare!”? Or perhaps you are left wanting more, hunting for

## WHAT’S COMING OUT

### PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE



*The Cambridge Handbook of the Psychology of Prejudice* aims to answer the questions: why is prejudice so persistent? How does it affect people exposed to it? And what can we do about it?

This handbook, edited by Professor Chris Sibley (Psychology) and Fiona Kate Barlow from the University of Queensland, provides a comprehensive examination of prejudice, from its evolutionary beginnings and its environmental influences to its manifestations and consequences.

Featuring cutting-edge research from top scholars, this volume challenges researchers and readers to move beyond their comfort zone, and sets the agenda for future avenues of research, policy, and intervention. It is one of the Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology.

### A BARK BUT NO BITE

While there was a lot of talk about inequality before the 2014 general election in New Zealand, concern about inequality appeared to have no tangible effect on the election outcome. This book by Jack Vowles, Hilde Coffe and Associate Professor Jennifer Curtin (Politics and International Relations) shows that, by its attention to the concerns of middle ground voters, the National Government had reduced the potential of policy differences to drive voter choices.

Hope that the “missing million” people who failed to vote in 2011 would vote in 2014 and give advantage to the left were unfulfilled.

This comprehensive study of the 2014



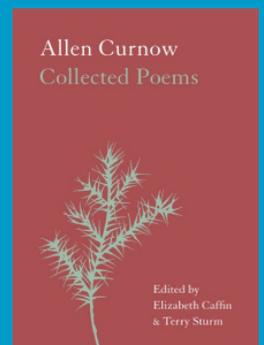
elections, based on a sample of 2,830 eligible voters, provides findings that contribute to an explanation.

*A Bark But No Bite: Inequality and the 2014 New Zealand General Elections* is published by Australian National University Press and is available to download free or to buy in hard copy.

### COLLECTED POEMS

“Always to islanders danger/Is what comes over the sea,” writes Allen Curnow in one of his most famous poems: *Landfall in Unknown Seas*.

Curnow, who lectured in English at the University of Auckland from 1959-1976, was at the time of his death regarded as one of the greatest of



details within the image that might unlock the mysterious backstory?

Doing so is not impossible, however. All of Todd's figures have a personal connection. They are fictions manufactured by the photographer, but often drawn from her own life or experiences. "Envy Log" speaks to Todd's predisposition to fake illness as a child in order to get attention. Pretending to vomit, feigning short-sightedness and using typewriter ribbon to create black eyes and bruises were just a few of the tricks up her sleeve.

Todd also confesses: "I tried to break my leg by repeatedly jumping out of a tree and trying to land awkwardly."

It comes as no surprise that the photograph is from her 2005 series, *Mixed Up Childhood*.

Returning to the image with this information, we suddenly notice that the side handlebars of the wheelchair are missing.

Moreover, the off-kilter wigs glint with artificial light and the odd 1960s costumes become alarmingly apparent.

These purposefully placed clues expose the charade and give the already staged-looking image a heightened sense of falsity, leaving a bitter taste in our mouth.

■ Minnie Parker

all poets writing in English. (See *UniNews*, Vol 46/Issue 7).

For the 70 years of his writing career his poetry was always on the move, from his early approaches to New Zealand identity and myth to later work concerned with the philosophical encounter between word and world.

Now for the first time this collection, edited by the later Emeritus Professor Terry Sturm and Elizabeth Caffin, a former director of Auckland University Press, brings together all of the poems that Curnow collected in his lifetime, grouped in their original volumes.

The notes reproduce Curnow's comments on individual poems and include relevant editorial guidance.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## A WICKED PROBLEM

**Sustainability – the promotion of human and ecological flourishing – is sometimes referred to as a ‘wicked’ or ‘messy’ problem, writes Niki Harré.**

We do not all agree on the solution, let alone how to achieve it.

Wicked problems are not like simple or even complicated problems – experts, technological advances and the right KPIs cannot solve them. Instead, they require attention from multiple perspectives, and for indefinite periods.

In other words, as a wicked problem, working towards sustainability is an ongoing human enterprise.

Once you accept that sustainability is a wicked problem, it becomes obvious that the best way to tackle it is to enable and encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

This is not about micro-managing people’s efforts or insisting that everyone gets behind a single collective goal.

Instead, it is about inspiring people to join with others and create solutions that suit their circumstances.

These tailor-made, local solutions also help build a vibrant sustainability culture: a thriving community of caring, innovation, respect and enthusiasm that motivates people to contribute to our common good.

Here at the University, I facilitate a Sustainability Network in the Faculty of Science that is based on the philosophy just outlined.

We are a group of staff who care about “flourishing people and thriving ecosystems” and the role our faculty and the University can play in creating these.

Our values are shared, but our approaches and projects are diverse. Some of our members are professional staff with roles in IT; group, student or academic services; communications or technical management.

Others are academic staff with interests

in specific biological systems – such as the oceans or New Zealand’s native forests, or in social systems, people, computational issues, chemistry or physics. We meet regularly (over a vegetarian lunch served on crockery plates!)

Members are invited to contribute their ideas, expertise and frustrations, and where appropriate to work with and support others.

Any staff member in the faculty is welcome to join and suggest projects.

If the project resonates with our values, and the instigator can find others who are also keen (or can go it alone), then it happens.

We currently have a wide variety of projects underway.

Our Sustainable Laboratories project has technical managers from every school and department in the faculty working towards practices that save water, energy and other resources.

Participating laboratories have signs on their doors that indicate their progress towards sustainability.

We have compost bins in all the kitchens in the Science Centre, managed by a group comprising both professional and academic staff.

We have an interdisciplinary teaching unit on the global clothing industry that operates across courses in psychology, chemistry and sociology; and awards are available to students who are doing research projects related to promoting sustainability at the University or beyond.

Twice a year we have a public seminar on a sustainability issue that feature Faculty of Science speakers as well as a guest speaker from the community.

Previous topics have included waste, water and transport.

And we have bought a number of indoor plants that bring a little nature into our work places.

We also give feedback on University policy and plans, in the hope of getting preferred

suppliers with a demonstrated history of care for environmental and social issues, better facilities for cyclists and the like.

Our network has made progress, but we have much further to go. We’d like to develop a partnership with students and help open up democratic processes that facilitate student involvement in the creation of a more sustainable university.

There is some great work being done by the central Sustainability and Environment office along these lines.

They provide opportunities for students to assist in reducing the University’s resource use, and help link students with ideas to key decision makers.

In keeping with the wicked-problem approach, it would be wonderful to also have forums that encourage students to air their policy suggestions; and communication channels that ensure these suggestions reach University committees, where they are seriously considered.

There are many clubs such as Fossil Free UoA, Generation Zero, Engineers Without Borders, Plastic Diet and The Sustainability Network that are full of students eager to be the critic and conscience of society.

Where better for young people to cut their teeth than with us?

We are also interested in working with staff in other faculties and service units who may wish to set up their own networks.

So please, if the network model appeals to you, get in touch, we’d love to hear from you.

■ Niki Harré is the Associate Dean Sustainability in the Faculty of Science. She can be contacted at [n.harre@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.harre@auckland.ac.nz). For a short video on the Sustainability Network, go to <http://www.science.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-faculty-3/sustainability-network>.