

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 37 | Issue 15 | August 17 2007

Getting to know you

The University is about to launch a new way of spreading the word on academics' expertise – through a series of engaging recorded conversations with the academics themselves.



Annamarie Jagose (centre) speaks with Kerre Woodham before the interview as director Richard Smith looks on.

In a set of lively and in-depth interviews with well-known radio and television personality and Auckland alumna, Kerre Woodham, six academics from the Faculty of Arts spoke of themselves and their work. The result will be six audio and video files available for downloading through the University's website.

The interviews, covering a range of topics from Shakespeare to the sociology of death, offer the chance to showcase some of the University's teaching and research expertise that may not yet have been featured in the external media.

The interview footage was provided by staff from the Television Production team of the Centre for Academic Development, with Richard Smith directing and Graeme Henderson and Tony Nelson on camera. Tim Page, IT Manager for the Faculty of Arts, did the sound recording and will edit the videos in collaboration with Amber Older, Communications Adviser for the faculty, who organised the project. Tim will also convert the interviews into audio and video downloads.

UNIVERSITY NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY
Communications and Marketing, Fisher Building
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email uninews@auckland.ac.nz www.[auckland.ac.nz/universitynews](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews)
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Academics interviewed were Professor Tom Bishop (English), Professor Annamarie Jagose (Film, Television and Media Studies), Associate Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith (Anthropology), Dr Tracey McIntosh (Sociology), Associate Professor Raymond Miller (Political Studies) and Associate Professor Richard Moyle (Pacific Studies).

The interviews were recorded and will be edited using the facilities in the Kenneth Myers Centre.

Though this is a pilot limited initially to selected academics from the Faculty of Arts, there is also the possibility that it may extend later into other parts of the University.

Dean of Arts, Professor John Morrow, says he was happy for the Faculty of Arts to kick off the project. "Universities around the world are turning to podcasts and videocasts to help publicise the excellent work being undertaken within their institutions, and we want to support such initiatives here. The interviews are lively and engaging, and they will no doubt help pique the interest of any student or academic considering coming to The University of Auckland."

In this issue

- 2 | Hood Fellows' reception
- 3 | Top design award for AUP
- 3 | World University Games

Key events

Desperate to help Heart Foundation

Take the last chance to see the *Desperate Housesurgeons* Med Revue, ending its three-day season with a final showing at the Maidment Theatre at 7.30pm on 17 August. A campus vote selected the National Heart Foundation of New Zealand as the Med Revue's recipient charity this year. Skits and acts in the two-hour revue will revolve around the heart health theme and aim to educate as well as entertain audiences. To book phone 308 2383 or email maidmentbooking@auckland.ac.nz

University on show

Prospective students will have a choice of around 160 lectures and hands-on activities at Courses and Careers Day on Saturday 25 August. They can also tap into advice and information on entry, enrolment, student services and the wide array of first-year scholarships on offer – and enrol on the spot. Staff will be out in force in all faculties and service divisions to greet and advise visitors. The programme is on the University home page: www.auckland.ac.nz

Houses, who can afford them?

Auckland's large population makes it a hot spot for housing issues in New Zealand, showing on a major scale the impacts of escalating property values. The Housing Affordability Forum 2007, to be held at the University Conference Centre from 9am to 5pm on 31 August, is the first in a nation-wide series of events. These are designed to help translate ideas that emerged from last year's National Summit on Affordable Housing into action on regional and community levels. Workshops will advance participants' knowledge of strategic frameworks and stimulate discussion on achieving change. The forum will be of interest to all involved with housing issues including architects, designers and developers, local government officers, academics and researchers, and providers of private rental housing. For more information see events@housinginstitute.org



THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

From the Vice-Chancellor

During the last week of July, the Chancellor and I attended the Education and Science Select Committee hearings into the Education (Tertiary Reform) Amendment Bill. Submissions presented on behalf of the universities collectively by the New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee addressed: the need to retain Charters as high level governance documents and part of the compact between each University and the Crown; the need for greater consultation between the universities and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) than is allowed for in the Bill (which provides for strong TEC "direction"); and the impact of the Bill on institutional autonomy. The Chancellor and I spoke to submissions from this University and from The University of Auckland Foundation, which supported these views.

In subsequent comments, the Minister, Hon. Dr Michael Cullen, has stated that the Government has no intention of curtailing the institutional autonomy and academic freedom guaranteed by the Education Act 1989. If that is true, then the present Bill is poorly drafted indeed. In one section it provides that an institution's Investment Plan must describe all the institutions' activities, whether or not they are supported by the TEC. This would potentially include international education and other international activities, research grants and contracts, consultancies, and activities supported through our growing philanthropic base. A later section of the Bill provides that the TEC may determine which parts of the Plan it will decide to approve (or not). This leaves it open to the TEC to decline to allow the universities to undertake activities even when they are not funded by the Commission. The Bill is also provocative in its language, referring for example to the "financial and proprietary interests of the Crown" in the public tertiary institutions.

I am hopeful that, as a result of our and other submissions, the Select Committee will recommend a substantial number of changes to the Bill. Presumably, given the Government's assurances, there will be no opposition to amendment of the offending provisions. However, we will have to continue to monitor this carefully - there is no doubt that in its present form the Bill constitutes a very significant threat to institutional autonomy and academic freedom.



Not three tenors, but two Vice-Chancellors



From left are Hood Fellows Reinhard Klette, Stephen Davies, Janie Sheridan, Diana Lennon and Marston Conder.

At a reception at University House on 1 August, guests received a warm welcome from two Vice-Chancellors.

One was Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Auckland. The other was his predecessor, Professor John Hood, who departed in 2004 to become Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University.

This reception was for the recipients and supporters of the Hood Fellowships, established by the University of Auckland Foundation in 2004 in recognition of John Hood's performance as Vice-Chancellor of the University. It was attended also by former colleagues of John Hood's.

The purpose of the fellowships is to maintain and enhance the international standing and performance of The University of Auckland by attracting distinguished overseas academics who are leaders in their field, by developing and retaining the University's best academic staff, by hosting recognised international experts for guest lectures and seminars at the University, and by building stronger international networks among its community of scholars.

"The success of the fellowships is reflected in those who have held them," said Stuart McCutcheon. "Outgoing recipients have included Professor Marston Conder, Professor Ian Reid, Associate Professor Janie Sheridan, Associate Professor Stephen Davies, Professor Reinhard Klette, and Professor Diana Lennon, all of whom I think are here tonight - together with Professor Peter Gluckman, Professor Russell Gray and Professor Xiao Dong Chen. Each of them has derived great benefits from the opportunities provided by the fellowships.

"The list of organisations represented by incoming Hood Fellows and by the Alice Griffin Shakespearean Fellows reads like an extract from the *Times Higher* top 20: Harvard, Cambridge,

Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Pennsylvania, Stanford, London, Carnegie Mellon, Cork, York, Imperial and Syracuse. And this is one very simple measure, I think, of the power of the Hood Fellowships in building connections between our University and some of the leading universities around the world."

He thanked those present who had supported the scheme, with particular mention of the Lion Foundation, which has made a major annual donation since the inception of the fellowships, allowing the Fund's capital to be built up.

John Hood described the fellowships as making "a very significant difference both to those from The University of Auckland who have had the chance to travel on the scheme, and also to those at The University of Auckland and in the wider Auckland and New Zealand communities because of the quality of the scholars it has attracted."

John Hood also "painted a quick [and fascinating] picture" of "the anatomy" of the University of Oxford, an institution with a strong tradition that goes back 900 years.

He spoke of the differences and similarities between Oxford and Auckland, of the challenges he has addressed over the last three years, included themes of governance that have been widely debated.

He spoke of the complexity of the university's structure, with its 39 colleges; the size of its facilities, "covering 5.5 million square feet"; its swelling graduate numbers (around 15 to 20 percent per annum); and the immense output of Oxford University Press.

Guests took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, gaining a rare insight into some of the issues relating to one of the world's most highly regarded universities, described by its Vice-Chancellor as "the ultimate embodiment of intellectual freedom".

Top design award for AUP

Not only has a book published by Auckland University Press won the Best Non-Illustrated Book Award in the 2007 Spectrum Print Book Design Awards, but the person who created the internal design is on the staff of AUP.



Katrina Duncan (above) internal designer of *Brief Lives* (right), best non-illustrated book in the 2007 Spectrum Print Book Design Awards.

Brief Lives written by University of Auckland alumna Chris Price and published by Auckland University Press with assistance from Creative NZ, was the book that won the top prize for design.

Its internal designer was Katrina Duncan from AUP who described *Brief Lives* as "part fiction, part biography, part poem. It's different but not quirky, fragmentary yet complete, and the design needed to reflect this.

"We went for a small, almost square format with flaps, and Dante for the typeface. Author Chris Price wanted the book to be clean, elegant and modern, but at the same time look centuries old. The typography, illustrations and cover all worked together to achieve this."

The cover was designed by Wellington-based Sarah Maxey, incorporating some images by artist Brendan O'Brien.

The award judges found Best Non-Illustrated Book the trickiest category to judge, forcing them to look beyond the more obvious essentials of design to subtler elements of spacing and typography.

None of the other finalists in this category could quite match the elegance of *Brief Lives*.

"Designer Katrina Duncan contrived a mediaeval feel for this prose-poetry hybrid. With its wide-flapped cover and generously margined pages, it stood out as something highly unusual, if not unique."

The award winners were chosen from among 167 submitted books, representing the very finest in New Zealand book design, by judges Denis Welch, William Chen and Beth Davies.

Competing on world stage

Fourteen athletes from The University of Auckland are taking part in a global competition exceeded only by the Olympic Games in size.

Standards in many sports at the 24th World University Games, taking place in Bangkok from 8-18 August, are comparable to or higher than at the Commonwealth Games.

The Auckland participants are competing in five sports: golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming and table tennis. They are part of a national team of 115 athletes and officials, the largest New Zealand has yet sent to this event.

Three of the Auckland contingent attended a farewell morning tea on 30 July hosted by the Vice-Chancellor. Their impressive international credentials underlined the calibre of competition they would face.

Elizabeth Coster, close to finishing her BCom degree, represented her country as a swimmer at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne last year where she came fourth in the medley relay. She had also swum in the world championships three times.

Elizabeth had been training for 30 hours a week. Meanwhile five colleagues from Auckland in the

swimming team were attending a training camp in Bath, England.

Sophie Shu, a first-year BSc student in biomedical science, was also at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, competing in table tennis.

Nathan Lowe, also a table tennis competitor in Bangkok, has represented New Zealand in the Oceania Championships. He is in the fourth year of a BCom/LLB.

The New Zealand team, selected by University Sport New Zealand, is supported by the NZ Academy of Sport and the NZ Community Trust.

Around 9000 athletes went to Bangkok for the Games which are staged every two years. There was a crowd of 70,000 at the opening ceremony.



From left are Elizabeth Coster, Nathan Lowe and Sophie Shu with Stuart McCutcheon.

... in brief

Prestigious scholarship for outstanding student

Heather MacBeth, an outstanding Mathematics student from the University has been awarded a Baden-Württemberg Scholarship to attend Freiburg University for semester two this year.

These scholarships are for students attending institutions outside Germany, provided that these institutions have arrangements for cooperation with one of the state institutions in Baden-Württemberg. Highly-qualified students who are attending a partner institution of the Freiburg University of Education and have been accepted into the exchange programme between the two institutions are eligible to apply.

Heather is on the 360° Auckland Abroad programme and is studying for a BSc majoring in Mathematics. Dr Arkadii Slinko, one of her lecturers in Mathematics, describes her as "an absolutely exceptional school student who is now a no less exceptional University student. Academically in New Zealand she is at the moment in a class of her own."

In 2004 as a fifth-former, Heather received a bronze medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad. In the following year she won a silver medal. This is a feat that only two New Zealand students have achieved in all 18 years of New Zealand participation in this prestigious international competition.

This year Heather was one of the first mathematics students to be awarded a Faculty of Science Summer Scholarship. Working on a research project supervised by Associate Professor Jozef Siran she has obtained a result that will be published jointly with Jozef in a mainstream mathematics journals.

Thinking about retiring?

To assist staff nearing retirement or those wanting more information to help them plan ahead of time, Staff and Organisational Development are providing a seminar on 21 August, 9.30am to 12.30, designed to assist staff in planning for their retirement from an emotional and psychological angle as well as from a financial one.

Content to be covered will be:

- The transition out of work into retirement
- Relationship changes and the impact of retirement on living arrangements
- Financial planning - now and into retirement years
- Investment
- Family trusts and estate planning
- Staying fit and health

To enrol visit www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu click on the "Personal Management and Effectiveness" workshop category and then the "Planning for Retirement" heading.

For general enquiries contact Jemimah Wilson on je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz or ext. 85070.

Lord Robert Winston speaks live



Professor Robert Winston (left) with Professor Peter Gluckman, Liggins Institute Director.

August offers two rare chances to see Professor Lord Robert Winston, world-renowned science communication and television presenter, speaking in person about topics relating to science and to life.

On 21 August he will deliver the first lecture in the Liggins Institute's Season of Life series – a hugely popular series, launched last year, which aims to engage the public in discussion around topical issues in science and medicine.

Professor Lord Robert Winston will talk about what makes us happy, and about the role science may play in this. Happiness is a theme he has explored in his television series *Child of our Time*.

The lecture is free and open to the public but places are limited and bookings essential. Commencing at 5.30pm on 21 August, it will be held in the Robb Lecture theatre at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road, Grafton. For enquiries and bookings phone 373 7599 ext 82305 or email friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz

On 22 August at 7.30pm at Auckland Museum Events Centre Robert Winston will speak about "Science in society: The use and misuse of technology".

It is largely scientific understanding that has led to the development of modern technologies which have the potential to change the way we live in this world, says Robert Winston. These technologies are opening the way to huge improvements in our health, our food supplies and our capacity to generate wealth. Misused, however, they could change the very fabric of life

by taking us past natural boundaries and leading to irreversible change.

Lord Winston's own research in human reproduction and his pioneering development of techniques used in fertility treatment are prime examples of how technology has changed human potential. However, he is an outspoken critic of those who misuse scientific advancement to exploit the vulnerable.

Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London and a member of the House of Lords, Lord Winston regularly addresses the British Parliament on science, medicine, education and the arts.

Cost for his public lecture is \$25 (\$20 for Auckland Museum Institute and Liggins Institute members and friends). Booking is essential on 306 7048. Auckland Museum Institute members and invited guests may also attend an after function (for which places are limited) at a total cost of \$50.

Lord Winston's visit has been made possible through a University of Auckland 2007 Hood Fellowship sponsored by The Lion Foundation.

MA thesis published internationally

It is not unusual for a PhD thesis to be revised and published as a book.

However, it is a much rarer occurrence – and a very impressive achievement – when a masters thesis is taken for publication by a respected university press.

Hence the celebration in the Department of Anthropology at the launch of a book by Sally McAra, who studied in the department from undergraduate level, completed her masters thesis – now published by the University of Hawai'i Press in their "Contemporary Buddhism" series – and has now embarked upon a PhD.

The book, entitled, *Land of Beautiful Vision: Making a Buddhist Sacred Place in New Zealand*, is the first book-length ethnography to address the role of material culture in contemporary adaptations of Buddhism and the first to focus on convert Buddhists in New Zealand.

Sally's masters was supervised by Dr Christine Dureau with Professor Karen Nero, who is now at Canterbury.

Head of Department, Professor Cris Shore, describes the work as an outstanding achievement.

"What Sally McAra gives us", he says "is a fine-grained analysis of the domestication of a global religion and the awkwardness of making 'sacred places' in a post-colonial settler society. In doing so she also addresses a range of other important issues concerning translation and syncretism of religious beliefs and practices, the global and the local, and what it means to be Pakeha. The book speaks to a number of contemporary anthropological debates around globalisation, world religion and material culture."

What it demonstrates, he says is "what our students can do. It also shows just how interesting New Zealand is as a place to do research on themes of global significance. Finally it shows us that New Zealand is of interest to scholars in the rest of the world."



Author Sally McAra (right) with her supervisor Christine Dureau at the launch of *Land of Beautiful Visions*.

Speakers make history



Back row, left to right are Debbie Dunsford, Linda Bryder, Debbie Jowitt and Jill Wrapson. Front row left to right are Kate Prebble and Alison Day. Other students who presented papers were: Katrina Ford, Claire Gooder, and Joanne Richdale.

For the first time in the 21-year history of the Australian (and New Zealand) Society of the History of Medicine, eight PhD students from a single department spoke at the annual conference.

At the eleventh biennial conference of the society, hosted in July by the Australian National University in Canberra, Associate Professor Linda Bryder (History) was in attendance, accompanied by her eight students whose topics – all New Zealand-based – included early twentieth century bacteriology, tuberculosis, diphtheria, eugenics and birth control, immunisation, hepatitis B, fluoridation, sex education, and psychiatric nursing.

At the 2005 conference, convened by Linda Bryder in Auckland, members of the then Australian Society of the History of Medicine resolved to change the name to the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, a move which the president, Dr Judith Godden, described as a "major benefit".

The Canberra meeting, at which Linda was elected vice-president of the society, showed how well Auckland has responded to the challenge.

Minister praises postgraduate programme



Steve Maharey (foreground) with Martin Middleditch, SBS Mass Spectrometry Technical Officer (left) and Ted Baker.

The Rt Hon Steve Maharey, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, was impressed by the students in Bioscience Enterprise, describing them to Professor Joerg Kistler, Director of the School of Biological Sciences, as enthusiastic and entrepreneurial.

The students in their turn were pleased to hear from Steve Maharey that their postgraduate programme was “at the cutting edge” – the only one he is aware of in New Zealand that combines business with science. The Bioscience Enterprise programme is taught jointly between the School of Biological Sciences, the Business School and the Law School, and was launched in 2006 with funding from the Government.

Steve Maharey visited SBS last month to learn more about the University’s collaborations with industry and Crown Research Institutes through the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, and about its Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Bioscience Enterprise, which aim to train tomorrow’s workforce by producing business savvy scientists.

After a briefing by Professor Joerg Kistler, with Professor Dick Bellamy, Dean of Science, and Distinguished Professor Ted Baker, Director of the

Maurice Wilkins Centre, Steve Maharey toured the centre – one of New Zealand’s government-funded Centres of Research Excellence.

The briefing focused on the centre’s achievements, said Joerg, and particularly on how it is helping transform the economy through its discoveries in biotechnology and its partnerships with companies such as Protexim and Proacta, and, more recently, with Industrial Research Ltd (IRL).

“The idea is that we have a research centre of excellence that carries out the basic science, and then we collaborate with companies and Crown Research Institutes to develop the drugs based on the discoveries,” Joerg explains.

Steve Maharey was then briefed on the Bioscience Enterprise programme, and joined a class where he gave the students a half-hour address, explaining the government’s vision of building a stronger biotechnology sector for New Zealand. He also spoke of how the Bioscience Enterprise programme would contribute to workforce development in the sector.

The visit ended with a social event which gave the Minister the opportunity to meet and talk with students and with the leaders of the student-led biotechnology network, Chiasma.

Scholarships bestowed

Sir Robert Jones was in his usual feisty form as he bestowed the 4th annual Sir Robert Jones Scholarships in Philosophy.

Awarded to students who have completed their first semester of Stage 1 Philosophy and are majoring in Philosophy, the recipients receive \$2000 per annum for up to three years. This year, Sir Robert also presented the young scholars with

a signed copy of his book, *Degrees for Everyone*.

In keeping with tradition, Sir Bob took the opportunity to extol the virtues of the humanities, declaring with typically dry wit, “One day I will be a dictator and people will see I was right.”

The five recipients are Robert Hunt, Sarah Schoen, Jeremy Reid, Paul Tarling and Daniel Wilson.

Viewpoint

Should Christianity be a state religion?

Christianity a state religion? Not likely.

But recent controversies over a National Statement on Religious Diversity have raised again the issue of social consensus in New Zealand. Debates on religious diversity in New Zealand are not new and the latest can be seen as the third phase of an ongoing national conversation.

The first phase of this debate in the nineteenth century established a fairly widespread agreement that there would be no established church in New Zealand and no state religion. Nevertheless there still existed a de facto collaboration between the state and a largely British Protestant Christianity.

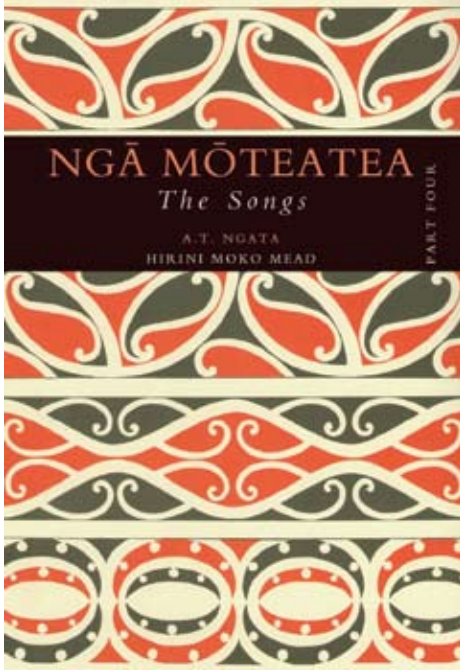
In the second phase of the debate in the late twentieth century religious diversity has usually been understood to include not just the diversity of Christian denominations but other major world religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism as well as indigenous religions. The indications are that the majority of Christians in New Zealand support this religious diversity. A statement affirming religious diversity is at least in part designed to prevent the kind of religious fanaticism and fundamentalism that has occurred in other parts of the world.

A third phase of the debate is close upon us now and widens the question further. The issue of religious diversity is only one segment of the more general question of diversity of beliefs and commitments. Religions are vulnerable to extremists and fundamentalists. They are undoubtedly dangerous. But so also are many non-religious ideologies and commitments such as has proved the case in the past with communism, fascism, the march of civilisation, loyalty to empire, nationalism, or simply belief in the right of conquest.

Becoming more pluralist means not just pluralism of cultures and religions, but pluralism also of non-religious ideologies. These include such diverse ideologies as economic rationalism and the Green movement along with new-age spiritualities, secular humanism, and the dogged commitment to self-promotion.

The more we value diversity, the more we strain our levels of tolerance. The older British Christianity is unlikely to provide the basis for social consensus in a religiously, culturally, and ideologically pluralist society. The new concern then is to find a new national consensus among these competing claims, as much non-religious as religious, on people’s loyalties and commitments.

Father Neil Darragh
School of Theology



Ngā Mōteatea

The singing of waiata, of songs and chants, has always been an integral part of Māori life, but their texts alone make fascinating reading as an archive of historical, cultural and tribal life.

Over a period of 40 years, Sir Apirana Ngata of Ngāti Porou collected and recorded hundreds of songs and chants from the iwi of Aotearoa which became the four volumes of *Ngā Mōteatea*.

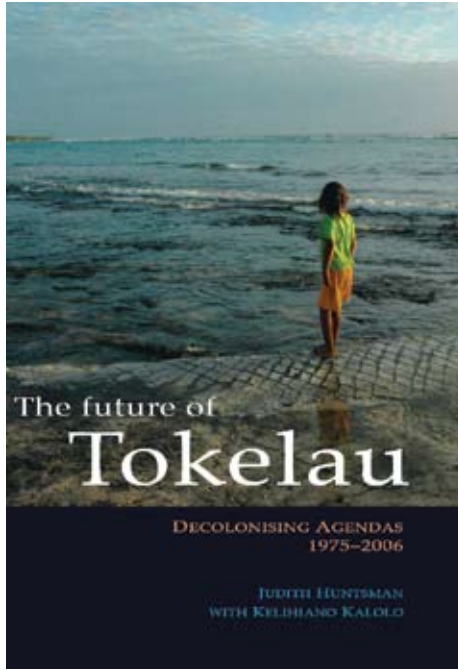
The first three volumes included translations and annotations by Ngata and the Ngati Maniapoto scholar, Pei Te Hurinui Jones.

The contents of Part IV, the fourth volume, were not available until after the deaths of Ngata and Pei. It was first published in 1990 as an edition of the Māori texts, edited by Tamati Reedy from Ngata's manuscripts, but without translation to English.

Now, for the first time, this new edition of Part IV comes with a translation of the waiata and annotations by Hirini Moko Mead of Ngāti Awa, who has made important additions to the annotations.

This is the last volume of a complete, new edition of *Ngā Mōteatea*, published by Auckland University Press in association with the Polynesian Society. The largest and most comprehensive collection of Māori waiata, it offers an enduring record for the practice of Māori waiata and teaching of tribal history, and a unique contribution to New Zealand poetry.

Two audio CDs of the waiata in this volume are included, collected by Emeritus Professor Mervyn McLean, and held in the Archive of Māori and Pacific Music at The University of Auckland.



The Future of Tokelau

This new book – the sequel to *Tokelau: A Historical Ethnography* (1997) co-written by Associate Professor Judith Huntsman, an honorary research fellow in the Department of Anthropology – follows the history of this small Pacific nation from the 1970s.

It takes the reader up to the 2006 referendum in which the Tokelauans voted to remain a dependency of New Zealand rather than become self-governing in free association with New Zealand.

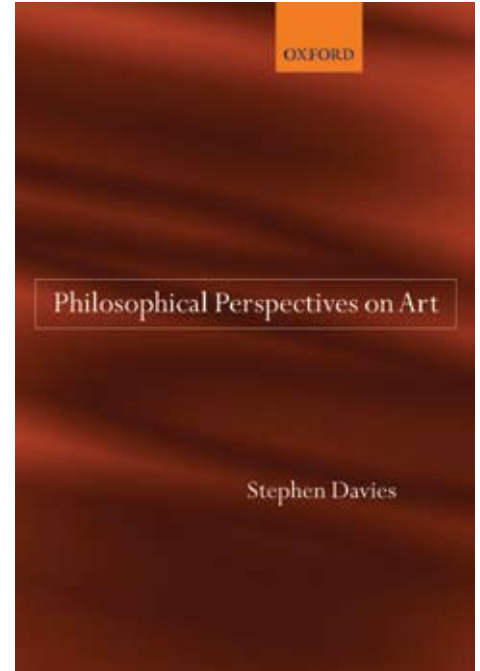
Over the course of this history, Judith Huntsman, with assistance from Kelihiano Kalolo, astutely documents the mismatch of cultural assumptions, expectations and values played out by officials, politicians and Tokelau elders on a stage ranging from the coral atolls of Tokelau, the bland offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the monumental UN building in New York.

The Future of Tokelau is a superbly researched study of village social life and politics in a modernising world; an illuminating picture of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, its operations and relationships; and a brilliant critique of the United Nations and the way it conducts its affairs.

But it is the future of Tokelau as perceived by the Tokelau people that is at the centre of this perceptive book.

Judith Huntsman is currently the honorary editor of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*.

Kelihiano Kalolo was awarded an MA with first-class honours from The University of Auckland in 1995. He recently resigned as Tokelau's director of education to become director of Tokelau's University of the South Pacific Centre.



Philosophical Perspectives on Art

Philosophical Perspectives on Art, by Associate Professor Stephen Davies (Philosophy), presents a series of essays devoted to two of the most fundamental topics in the philosophy of art: the distinctive character of artworks and what is involved in understanding them as art.

In Part I, Stephen Davies considers a wide range of questions about the nature and definition of art. Can art be defined, and if so, which definitions are the most plausible? Do we make and consume art because there are evolutionary advantages to doing so? Has art completed the mission that guided its earlier historical development, and if so, what is to become of it now? Should architecture be classified as an art form?

Part II turns to the interpretation and appreciation of art. What is the target and purpose of the critic's interpretation? Is interpretation primarily directed at uncovering artists' intended meanings? Can apparently contradictory interpretations of a given piece both be true? Are interpretative evaluations entailed by descriptions of a work's aesthetic and artistic characteristics?

In addition to providing fresh answers to these and other central questions in aesthetics, Stephen considers the nature and content of metaphor, and the relation between the expressive qualities of a work of art and the emotions of its creator.

Philosophical Perspectives on Art was published in 2007 by Oxford University Press.

From the collection



Ruth Watson (born 1962)
The known world (English version) 1991
Photocopy, crayon and tissue paper on wooden shaped support.
The University of Auckland Art Collection, gift of the Jennifer B. Gibbs Trust, 2007.

Over 20 years of art-making practice, Ruth Watson has been investigating the form of maps, often through their projections. In the 1980s and early 1990s, her work explored the political nature of the world map and the way it constructs how we see the world.

The Known World is a large circular planisphere with a textured, almost flaky surface. It is based on a famous map in the history of cartography, Fra Mauro's 1459 *Mappa mundi*. One reason Watson was interested in the map was that it depicted the (then) known world with south at the top of the map; north would have been the usual choice at that time. Fra Mauro's map was remarkable for its incorporation of new knowledge – it showed the Indian Ocean as open rather than landlocked, and displaced Jerusalem from the world's centre, as had been mediaeval custom.

The encyclopaedic aspect of Fra Mauro's map inspired Watson to pattern her surface with text fragments from her known world, using items to hand – film reviews, images found and sourced from magazines and photocopies. There is a sense

Art

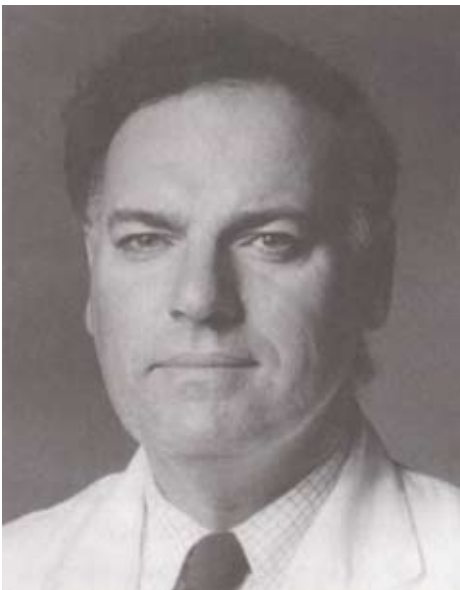
of information being buried in layers not visible and she has left plenty of blank spaces, too. Watson is reminding her viewers that as with all systems of ordering and control, divisions are notional, rather than absolute, and reflect the beliefs and projections of the hand that charted them.

This work was gifted to The University of Auckland Art Collection from the private collection of arts patron Jenny Gibbs, the latest recipient of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand Award for Patronage. Having been a member of the Auckland University Council almost continuously since 1976, Jenny Gibbs is a founding Trustee of both the Auckland Medical School Foundation and Auckland University Foundation. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery, which administers the Gus Fisher Gallery, and on the Art Collection Committee.

The known world (English version) is currently on display in the foyer of the Gus Fisher Gallery.

Linda Tyler

Emeritus Professor Alistair Renwick



Alistair Renwick

Professor Alistair Graham Cranston Renwick, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry at this University, died peacefully on 2 July at his home in Titirangi.

Alistair graduated MA from Cambridge and MBChB, MD and PhD from the University of Edinburgh. Much of his PhD research was carried out in the laboratory of Paul Zamecnik at the Massachusetts General Hospital, affiliated with the Harvard Medical School. This period was to be pivotal in cementing Alistair's subsequent connection with New Zealand, because it was during his time at the Mass General that he met Peter Bergquist from this University and George Peterson from the University of Otago. These two

were subsequently to persuade him to apply for the Chair in Biochemistry at Auckland.

Alistair took up his position in 1974 from a position in Chemical Pathology at Cambridge University. He arrived in Auckland to head a department emerging from a period of some considerable disarray following the departure of Professor Mills, the inaugural appointee. Professor Jack Sinclair, then Head of Physiology, was acting as the interim HOD of Biochemistry. Although construction of the Medical School was under way on the Park Road site, the Departments of Physiology and Biochemistry were still on the city campus.

Alistair arrived with a wide-ranging knowledge of current trends in Biochemistry, and the department benefited from his many international contacts. He built the department from its initial position of limited resources and a small staff to one with an extensive curriculum and a strong research culture. It was largely as a result of Alistair's influence that Biochemistry remained physically associated with Science rather than shifting to new premises in Park Road.

Alistair was trained as a steroid biochemist and it was in this area that he worked and published prior to and after his arrival in Auckland. However he soon saw the opportunity to apply his biochemical knowledge to the pressing problem of the limited availability of human glycoprotein hormones required for local therapeutic purposes. The supply was then limited solely to those of cadaveric origin and the New Zealand material was shipped to Maryland and the hormones extracted and returned to New Zealand.

Alistair persuaded the then Government to fund the establishment of the National Hormone Laboratory which he directed. Working from the

department, he and Dr George Chapman purified Human Growth Hormone as well as the Gonadotrophins FSH and LH for local use and between 1978 and 1985 the laboratory was highly productive. Unfortunately the discovery in the early eighties of the association between the use of human derived hormones and the slow prion disease CJD, led to the demise of the National Hormone laboratory – although it must be recorded that no case ever resulted from the use of the material purified in Auckland.

Alistair was prominent in the International Union of Biochemistry, the Federation of Asian and Oceania Biochemical Societies and the New Zealand Biochemical Society. He was a driving force behind the acquisition by the University of the 400MHz nuclear magnetic resonance machine, an acquisition associated with his growing interest in the structure of carbohydrates attached to proteins.

Alistair retired in 1993 after almost 20 years in the Chair. He will be remembered for his major contributions to Biochemistry both locally and internationally and for his efforts in mentoring and supporting students and staff in the department. Although the department was absorbed into the larger unitary structure of the School of Biological Sciences – as recommended by the 1989 Review of Biological Sciences – the discipline remains a strong academic focus at the University. This is in no small part due to the solid base of research-led excellence built by Alistair.

Alistair was 78 and is survived by his wife Catriona, his five children Claire, Jane, Lindsay, Alistair and Neil, and his seven grandchildren.

Professor Dick Bellamy
Dean of Science

What's on

FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

HSNO Lab Managers Workshop
9.30am-12.30pm, Workshop Rm 838, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

SBS seminar

Joseph L. Kirschvink, Professor of Geobiology, Geological and Planetary Sciences, CIT, Pasadena, California: *The first snowball earth and the rise of atmospheric oxygen*. 4-5pm OCH 1, 5 Symonds St. Queries to m.walker@auckland.ac.nz

Frangipani Perfume

Until 18 August. 8pm Musgrove Studio, Maidment Theatre. Written by Makerita Urale. Directed by Rachel House. For tickets phone 308-2383.

MONDAY 20 AUGUST

Lunchtime open topic HR Clinic
12-1.30pm, venue tbc. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Department of Political Studies roundtable discussion

The future of Labour in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. 12-2pm FGW Rm, Upstairs, OGH. Chaired by Dr Jacqui True. Featuring Prof Bryan Gould, former Waikato University Vice-Chancellor; Mike Williams, President of the Labour Party; Assoc-Prof Raymond Miller, head of Political Studies, UoA; Fran O'Sullivan, journalist; John Roughan, journalist; Dr Jennifer Lees-Marshment, Political Studies, UoA.

Preparing a portfolio for a Teaching Excellence Award

Lorraine Stefani, Director, CAD. 1.30-3.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth floor, 76 Symonds St. Queries to Dr Barbara Grant, ext 88160 or email bm.grant@auckland.ac.nz This workshop will give potential applicants for a Teaching Excellence Award a broad overview of how to prepare a TEA portfolio.

Dept of Political Studies seminar

Prof Bryan Gould, former Vice-Chancellor, Waikato University: *The democracy sham: How globalisation devalues your vote*. 6pm Rm 018, ClockTower.

Scopic bodies: Dance Studies research seminars

1) Dr Christy Adair, York St John University, England: *Gender and ethnicity: In relation to readings of bodies in performance and the language used by critics to describe the work of Phoenix Dance Company (Web Cam)*.

2) Dr Carol Brown, Choreographer, Dance Studies, The University of Auckland; Roehampton University: *Fields of presence*. 6pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre.

Centre for Lacanian Analysis seminar

Mark Jackson: *Taking what's given...* 6.15-8pm ALR2, Bldg 421, Architecture, 26 Symonds St. Queries to Lucy Holmes, la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz

School of Architecture and Planning public lecture

Felicity Wallace, Patrick Clifford, Architectus: *Auckland: Fast forward*.

6.30pm Rm 1.439, School of Engineering. Queries to ext 88134.

TUESDAY 21 AUGUST

Planning for retirement
9.30am-12.30pm, Rm 218, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Winter lecture series 2007: Your food your health

Prof Lynn Ferguson, UoA and Nutrigenomics NZ and Prof Donald Evans, Bioethics Centre, School of Medicine, University of Otago: *What the future holds*. 1pm Maidment Theatre.

Public Policy lunchtime meeting

Michael Littlewood, Co-director, Retirement Policy and Research Centre: *What does KiwiSaver mean to you and is it good public policy?* 1-2pm Upstairs Lunch Rm, OGH. Queries to Susan St John, s.stjohn@auckland.ac.nz View www.auckland.ac.nz/publicpolicygroup

MMP Department seminar

Nicola Jackson, UoA: *Staphylococcal superantigen-like protein 9: A fibrinogen binding, complement inhibiting, growth factor of Staphylococcus aureus*. 1-2pm Seminar Rm 4336, Bldg 504. Queries to Chris Hall, ext 82910.

Bioengineering research seminar

Jessie Jacobsen, Dept of Anatomy: *Engineering genes to make large animal models of brain disease*. 4-5pm Fifth floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

Hochstetter Lecture 2007

Prof Paul Williams, School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science, UoA: *Environmental change: A view from Down Under*. 7.30pm Auditorium, Auckland Museum. Bookings phone 306-7048.

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST

First Aid refresher

9am-4.30pm, Rm 218, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Philosophy PhD seminar

Zain Ali: *Can Muslims think? Understanding the divide between faith and philosophy*. 4-6pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.

Auckland Museum Institute lecture

Lord Robert Winston, UoA Hood Fellow 2007: *Science in society: The use and misuse of technology*. 7.30pm Events Centre, Auckland Museum. Cost \$25; \$20. Booking essential. Phone 306-7048.

Der Besuch aus Būsum

7.30pm Musgrove Studio, Maidment Theatre. Until 25 Aug. \$16; \$10. By the German Drama Company. Written by Ina Nicolai. Visit www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/maidment/archives/2007/08/studio/der-besuch-aus-bsum.cfm

THURSDAY 23 AUGUST

NICAL postgraduate degree information evening

6.30pm Lobby, Engineering Bldg, 20 Symonds St. Queries and to register to 373-7599 ext 82747 or visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz

The Pillowman

8pm Maidment Theatre. By ATC. Written by Martin McDonagh, directed by Simon Prast. Until 15 Sept. Bookings 308-2382. Ask about staff discounts.

Visit www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/maidment/archives/2007/08/maidment/pillowman.cfm

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

Courses and Careers Day
9am-3pm. Queries ph 0800 616263. Prospective students are invited to find out about entrance, degrees and career opportunities. Talks, lectures, advice, interactive events and student life. View www.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 27 AUGUST

Time management
9am-1pm, Rm 218, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Financial planning seminar
4.30-7.30pm, Commerce C 303. To assist staff in their decisions about whether to join a superannuation scheme following the introduction of KiwiSaver. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 28 AUGUST

Effective business writing (part one)
9am-12.30pm, Rm 218, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

CODE seminar
Michael Przybiski, Helsinki Institute for Information Technology, visiting research fellow, UoA: *From rich user requirements to system requirements*. 12.30-1.30pm Commerce C 501. Queries to Helen Braddock, ext 84518 or h.braddock@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful large studio apartment available now until end of year. In superior building adjacent to the University, view of harbour, balcony, furnished. \$250 pw. Please phone apartment live-in manager, 366-1829, (0274) 396-393 or owner (03) 472-7666.

Devonport. Three-bdrm, two-bthrm house at Stanley Point. Quiet location with garden and garage. Can be partly furnished. Available from the end of August for one year (approx). \$650 pw. Phone Maureen at 445-8909, Smith Realty MREINZ.

Flatmate wanted, Grey Lynn. To share family villa with students and kids. \$130 pw. Easygoing household, sunny room. Phone 376-8008 or email petalproductions@ww.co.nz

North Shore house, North-facing with direct access to estuary. Four bdrms, two bthrms and extensive decking. Perfect summer house with kayaks and barbecue. Available five months from September to end of January. Require very careful tenants. Reduced rental \$400 pw. Contact (09) 483-5074 or c.during@xtra.co.nz

Waiheke executive house. Exceptional living on cliff top overlooking Oneroa, views both directions, three bdrms + self-contained studio, large living spaces and decks, Sky, broadband. Walk to shops and beach, three-minute drive to ferry.

Available Feb-July 2008 (dates neg), \$650 pw. Car and/or city pad available, rates neg. Contact b.barton@auckland.ac.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Accommodation wanted, short or medium-term for relocating professional couple, no pets, n/s, late August onwards, references available, willing to rent or housesit and care for animals garden etc. Please contact Lorraine at (07) 839-7887 or (021) 152-3112 or lorrainew@clear.net.nz

House for family of five from mid-January through June 2008. Easy going, responsible family on sabbatical from Seattle, USA, would consider either rental or house swap. West Auckland area a plus, as near to family. Email Deborah at deborahdonnell@comcast.net

Three-bedroom house wanted, to rent long-term within easy commuting distance of Greenlane Hospital. Willing to pay up to \$450 pw. Three reliable tenants with references. Contact Hannah on ext 88669 or h.edwards@auckland.ac.nz

Visiting professor requires accommodation from 1 Jan through June 2008 for quiet, clean, n/s, handy family of four. We'd love to provide your home with tender care. Prefer Parnell/Eastern Suburbs, but are open to other areas. Excellent references available. Please contact Kerrin Smith at kerrin@marktwin.net

MISCELLANEOUS

Applying for permanent residency?

Avoid delays and problems. Keep your application on track with an easy-to-follow action plan tailored to your situation. For a free no-obligation quote contact Glenys at GVL Faculty Migration & Settlement. Email glenys@gvl.co.nz Ph (027) 476-8771 or view www.gvl.co.nz

Editing and proofreading. Editwrite offers efficient, competitive and professional online text editing for staff and students. Theses, dissertations, academic treatises, monographs, reports, etc can all be expertly edited. We will review spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax to turn your text into fluent, clear, literate prose. For more details, visit www.editwrite.co.nz

International travel insurance. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study and very long-term travel overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uniquely, we can maintain cover for greatly extended periods overseas. Uni-Care International Insurance Service, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org, website www.uni-care.org (secure online application facility).

Painting. High quality house painting. Also hand painting of boats. Refs available. Phone me for a quote on your painting requirements. Contact Rick on (09) 638-4252 or (021) 953-901 or email rick@gaffrig.co.nz Website www.gaffrig.co.nz

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

• Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).