

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 37 | Issue 16 | August 31 2007

## Staff and student talents showcased at Venice

Two of just 16 short film finalists selected for the prestigious Venice Film Festival have come out of the University.



A still from *Coffee and Allah*.

Staff members Dr Shuchi Kothari and Dr Sarina Pearson, and postgraduate Leo Woodhead, from the Department of Film Television and Media Studies (FTVMS) have had their films accepted in this category.

Although strikingly different in content, both films explore universal themes of violence and xenophobia and depart from the traditional New Zealand filmic landscape.

Shuchi and Sarina's 14-minute film *Coffee and Allah*, which is directed by Sima Urale, explores a New Zealand Ethiopian Muslim woman's appetite for coffee, Islam and a good game of badminton.

"In the global climate of Islamophobia and the more recent attacks on Muslims in New Zealand, I felt the need to tell a story of a woman in her new homeland," says Shuchi who, along with Sarina, produces films and writes about displacement and difference.

Leo Woodhead wrote and directed *Cargo* as his masters thesis project. The 12-minute film, self-

funded for \$8,000, was almost entirely set and shot in the Czech Republic.

Supervised by Vanessa Alexander, herself a past FTVMS graduate and now a lecturer and producer, the film stars Czech actors and has English subtitles. Filmed from the perspective of a kidnapped boy, *Cargo* offers a bleakly realistic look at child trafficking.

Leo says the idea came to him as the Football World Cup was being played in Germany, amid reports of legal brothels being set up to accommodate the desires of travelling fans.

"I've always had an interest in the parts of human nature that are cyclical, and the cyclical nature of violent behaviour towards others is a universal problem. I think this is one of the reasons the film strikes a chord with so many people," says Leo, whose film will also be shown at the London Film Festival later in the year.

FTVMS Head Duncan Petrie says: "It's particularly pleasing that the work of our

## Key events

### Water colours at the George Fraser

Now on until 8 September is an exhibition called "Water colours" featuring the finalists for the Henrietta and Lola Anne Tunbridge Scholarship. This is awarded each year to an Elam student who excels in exploring contemporary themes in water colour. This year's \$10,000 prize will be shared between two winners, announced at the opening: Boris Dornbusch and Trenton Garratt. The George Fraser Gallery at 25a Princess Street is open Thursday to Saturday from 11am to 4pm.

### First International Cultural Festival

To enjoy a vital and colourful experience bringing together the many cultures on campus, be sure to come to the first-ever International Cultural Festival, forming part of the University's Intercultural Mosaic Week. To take place in the Student Union quad at the City Campus from 12noon to 1pm on 12 September, the festival will feature fashion shows, including one of traditional costumes from many of the countries our students come from, followed by a performance of dances from around the world. Staff from Auckland International will be wearing traditional dress from each other's countries.

### Engineering projects on display

Fourth-year students from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering will display and explain their projects to visitors from the community and from the engineering profession on their exhibition day, 14 September. Projects will be on display from 1pm to 4pm in the Science Centre, Building 301, on the ground floor and levels one, two and three. The projects are varied and interesting. All are invited.

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# From the Vice-Chancellor

The University of Auckland was formally opened on 21 May 1883, and so celebrates its 125th Jubilee next year.

This is an important milestone in the history of the University which our staff, students, alumni and friends will want to celebrate and enjoy. It is an occasion for reflecting on the past, celebrating our achievements and the achievements of those who have gone before us, and looking forward to the future. It will be an opportunity to re-establish contact with alumni, former staff and friends, to showcase the work of staff and students, and to thank the community for its support of our activities.

Planning for the Jubilee is in the hands of a small organising committee chaired by Raewyn Dalziel. We propose to mark the year by providing a Jubilee theme to our regular activities and functions and by holding a small number of special events. We will also be commissioning a pictorial history of the University from Auckland University Press under its new Director, Dr Sam Elworthy.

To mark the Jubilee year we intend to start with a celebration for all staff. This will be a cocktail party in the early evening of Tuesday 26 February. February will also see a number of events of considerable significance to the University. Most notable among them will be the opening of the Owen G Glenn Building, which will be home to the Business School, on 21 February and, between 18 and 24 February, celebrations of the twentieth anniversary of the opening of Waipapa Marae. The annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner will be held on 7 March.

The 2008 Robb Lectures will be presented by Professor Sheldon Rothblatt of the University of California, Berkeley in March on the theme of the history, nature and purpose of universities. The speaker and topic have been chosen to fit in particularly with the Jubilee theme.

The main celebration of the Jubilee will come in May when graduation takes place. We will aim at making graduation, honorary degrees, exhibitions and performances events that will mark the occasion.

We would like departments, faculties and service divisions organising events for the year to link these to the Jubilee, and are currently collecting information on such events for a Jubilee Calendar.



established film-makers on the staff and emerging talent from among the students are being showcased side by side. That demonstrates the strength in depth that we aspire to in the department.

"The inclusion of *Cargo* also makes Leo the 11th graduate from our programme to have their work screened in an international festival and our second film to screen in an A-list international festival. That's a record no other tertiary institution in New Zealand can match."



A screen grab from *Cargo*.

The oldest film festival in the world, the Venice Film Festival aims to encourage awareness and promotion of all aspects of international cinema as art, entertainment and industry, in a spirit of freedom and tolerance.

*Cargo* and *Coffee and Allah* are funded by the Short Film Fund of the New Zealand Film Commission. *Coffee and Allah* is also partially funded by a *National Geographic* All Roads Seed Grant and The University of Auckland Research Fund.

## Finance on the fringe



Dr Melani Anae (left) with Dr Eve Coxon at the Pacific Business Trust on 17 August.

The behaviour and experiences of Pacific people in relation to the fringe lending market in South Auckland was the subject of an extensive qualitative investigation led by researchers in the Centre for Pacific Studies for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

The study reveals that though access to credit is vital for many Pacific people, the consequences of borrowing from fringe lenders can be extremely detrimental to their well-being. There is clear evidence, the researchers conclude, that the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003, effective from 2005, does not provide sufficient protection to those dependent on fringe lenders.

The purpose of the study was to explore the impact of lending and credit practices in the fringe lending market-place on Pacific peoples in South Auckland. The research is one component of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs' monitoring of the Act.

The results of the research and the government's response, released on 17 August at the Pacific Business Trust in Otahuhu, received strong coverage from the media with TV1, TV3, Radio New Zealand and the *New Zealand Herald* all there to report.

Represented also was the Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Auckland City Council, the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Legal Aid, along with Pacific community and church leaders and business people.

After introductory comments from Minister of Commerce, the Hon Lianne Dalziel, principal investigators Dr Melani Anae and Dr Eve Coxon presented the research findings. Also present were the other researchers on the project: Dr Ieti Lima, Lusi Atiga and Hilary Tolley.

The government's response strategy was then presented by Elizabeth McPherson, followed by comments from the Hon Judith Tizard, Minister of Consumer Affairs.

This research will be the subject of a Viewpoint column in the next issue of *University News*.

# Tongan on the curriculum

“Language and culture are two sides of one coin, inseparable from each other. You cannot know the language without the culture or the culture without the language.”

These words were spoken by Dr 'Okusitino Mahina (Anthropology) at the official launch of *Tongan in the New Zealand Curriculum*, held in the Fale Pasifika on 13 August.

Formally launched by the Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, the new curriculum opens up the opportunity for any child in New Zealand to learn the Tongan language in mainstream classes. Samoan and Cook Islands Māori Curricula are already in place, Niuean was launched last month, and Tokelauan will be launched during this year or the next.

Dr Melenaita Taumoefolau (Centre for Pacific Studies) was principal writer in a team of four for the new curriculum, which she began working on in 2002.

She says the launch of Tongan in the curriculum is very exciting for the Tongan community. Since only 40 percent of people of Tongan background living in New Zealand can speak the language (according to Census figures from 2006) Melenaita believes this curriculum is vitally needed to help maintain the language in New Zealand.

She feels it will ultimately also give a boost to the deep academic study of the Tongan language

by giving a clearer path from school to undergraduate study and then on to study and research for higher degrees.

The official launch was followed by a performance from children of Sutton Park Primary School featuring both a rock 'n' roll sequence and a traditional Tongan dance.



*Dr Melenaita Taumoefolau with Alex, who attended the launch with others from his preschool and will benefit from the new curriculum.*

# Help name the Intranet

The University is gearing up for a new-look intranet with more news, a more appealing design and easier access to information.



*Some of the AUP books available for selection by the prizewinners.*

The intranet has a dual aim: to give the staff the information and materials they need to do their jobs, and to let them know what is happening across the University so they can engage with each other to build a strong community.

To go with its new look the intranet needs a new name which should reflect its purpose; all staff are invited to suggest a name. Entries will be collated and sent to the intranet editorial group, which will make a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

“With the large number of staff spread over all

the University's campuses, the intranet plays an important part in bringing people together and keeping them informed,” says Stuart.

Please send an idea for a name and take the chance of winning a prize of books to the value of \$150 to be chosen from a selection of 15 exciting recent publications from Auckland University Press. Staff are also invited to send ideas or suggestions related to content of the intranet.

Suggestions should be sent to [j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz)

## ... in brief

### Does exercise help depression?

Researchers at the University are looking for people with depression to take part in an eight-week exercise trial whilst tracking levels of the stress hormone cortisol. The researchers believe exercise may help lower the level of cortisol in the body, which would explain how mental health can be improved by exercise. The study is looking for volunteers in the Auckland area, aged 18 to 50, who experience depression serious enough for them to have sought medical advice and who currently exercise less than 20 minutes, three times per week. Participants will attend a free eight-week supervised exercise programme at the Tamaki Campus. They will provide saliva samples, and complete questionnaires and a face recognition task three times during the eight weeks. For more information email Danielle Woods on [cortisol.study@gmail.com](mailto:cortisol.study@gmail.com)

### Growing old gracefully

Subjects are sought for a pilot study coordinated by the University that aims to improve the quality of life of New Zealanders as they grow older. The oldest group (Māori over 75 and non-Māori over 85) is the fastest growing, set to double over five years. Disability and dependence restrict quality of life and result in excess health and welfare spending. The Advanced Age Cohort Study, funded by the Health Research Council, is looking at what factors can be used to predict successful advanced aging. The pilot study will recruit 100 volunteers from the Lakes and Eastern Bay of Plenty districts, who will meet with a research assistant, complete a detailed questionnaire asking about many aspects of health, and undertake physical performance tests. For more information or to participate call Karen Hayman on (09) 373 7599 ext. 86574. Enrolment will begin in September through primary health care providers.

### Freemasons offer generous scholarships

The Freemasons Charity will award seven scholarships of \$10,000 each and 25 of \$6,000 each to students from any of New Zealand's eight universities completing their graduate or postgraduate study in 2008. Applicants must be students completing their degrees, no matter what their degree subject or faculty is. The only other stipulation is that they must also take part in a non-academic community activity. Applications are open until 1 October and forms can be downloaded from the home page of the Freemasons website, [www.freemasons.co.nz](http://www.freemasons.co.nz)

# Plunging in to win

*Alumna and former University Councillor, Dame Dorothy Winstone, sent this response to an article published in the 3 August issue of University News.*

I was delighted to have the article "Leaders get together to break glass ceiling" read to me from *The University of Auckland News*, and offer the following comment.

In 1971 I was in a discussion group at an International Federation of University Women's conference in Philadelphia. Our subject, "Women on the pathway to promotion", sounds less romantic than "Breaking the glass ceiling" but it was on the same topic.

I was at the time tentatively making my way up The University of Auckland Committee ladder – yes, even the University Councils have structures that equip one to reach the dizzy heights of Finance or Promotions Committee – but I had observed enough to realise that at least part of the problem was in the fact that too few women had the courage to test the waters by actually applying for senior positions.

Women must encourage each other to face this challenge, acknowledging the possibility of rejection, but believing in ultimate success.



*Dame Dorothy Winstone (right) receiving a presentation in May last year from the Hon Lianne Dalziel (Minister of Commerce, Small Business and Women's Affairs) to honour her contributions to the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust, which funds awards and scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate women.*

## Issues of identity resonate at conference

An international conference celebrating Chinese achievement was officially opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark on 17 August at the Fale Pasifika and attracted more than 400 participants to the Business School over the next two days.

This was the New Zealand Chinese Association's Bananas NZ Going Global Conference which examined issues of identity and culture of Chinese people in New Zealand and abroad.

One of the two sessions voted most popular by attendees was a panel discussion called "Reshaping multiculturalism" where Associate Professor Manying Ip (Asian Studies) joined Professor Margaret Mutu (Māori Studies) and Associate Professor James Liu from Victoria University of Wellington to explore our shifting national identity and the complexities of living in a multi-ethnic society. Professor Paul Spoonley (Massey University) chaired the discussion.

Manying Ip also chaired a session on "Virtual communities" exploring how radio, television, cinema and the internet have



*Manying Ip.*

created a sense of belonging among diasporic Chinese communities.

Another University academic who took part in the conference was Professor Jilnaught Wong (Accounting and Finance) who joined a panel of "High Flying Bananas", which celebrated the stories of high-achieving Chinese and the significant contribution they have made to local and international communities.

University of Auckland graduate, Renée Liang, won the inaugural *The Listener*/New Zealand



*Margaret Mutu.*

Chinese Association Short Story Competition for *The Stove*, which tells how a woman discovers some truths about her family and herself while cleaning her parents' old house. First prize was \$1,000 and publication in an issue of *The Listener*.

The conference was described by Kai Luey, National President of the New Zealand Chinese Association, as SEXY (Stimulating, Entertaining, eXciting, and leaving participants Yearning for more).

# It's been an honour and a privilege

These are the words used by Reina Whitiri to describe her 17 years on the University staff, where she has played a strong part in building and shaping the Tertiary Foundation Certificate, formerly known as the Wellesley Programme.

Reina began studying at the University in 1980 as a mature student so she always had a personal understanding of the students undertaking the programme. Having completed a BA, an MA, and a further year of teacher training, she taught for two years at Aorere College before joining the staff of the University.

Reina continues in her own words.

"I began teaching at the University in 1990 and, with a marvellous and dedicated team of tutors, built the programme to what it is today. We all did it together and most of those original tutors are still dedicated to the programme although we did lose some to a restructuring process in the mid-1990s.

"The first couple of years attracted low numbers, 40 or 50 students, but by the mid-1990s we were catering for 100. We kept the numbers at 100 for the next five or six years but when we were told we had to pay our own way in the system we upped the numbers to 200. We have always had more applicants than we could cope with. With the growth of the programme it lost much of its personal, intimate nature but I think it continues to serve a very worthwhile purpose in providing second-chance educational opportunities for students.

"The highlights for me have always been our own graduation ceremonies which are such heart-warming events.

"But probably the most rewarding experience of all is to watch our students walk across the stage in the Town Hall to receive their degrees from the Chancellor. I spent most of those occasions

weeping with pleasure for our successes. Of course we claim each and every one, and follow the students' careers with interest and joy. Some of our students come from very difficult backgrounds and to see them succeed academically is truly thrilling.

"Working here in Hawai'i has given me a new lease of life. I have been teaching Maori literature and culture and Pacific literature with my partner Albert Wendt, who holds the Citizens' Chair. I am truly enjoying myself. The students are different from those in Auckland, and diverse; the English Department is full of wonderful, learned people interested in what is happening in the Pacific. We have a large Hawaiian, Samoan, Japanese and Maori family of scholars, artists, and entertainers, and are blessed to be able to call them family.

"Albert and I are also privileged to live in the beautiful valley of Manoa which is a 20-minute walk from the University.

"One of the most rewarding and exciting things I do here is take hula lessons, where we learn not only the dance but the history, the language and the true art of hula. My kumu hula (hula teacher) is the daughter of one of the luminaries of the hula, Aunty Maiki Aiu, who kept the culture alive during the dark and suppressive times of colonialism.

During the high tourist season our halau performs down in Waikiki on the beachfront for tourists, family and friends.

"Albert and I return to Aotearoa in the middle of next year but it will be hard to leave this beautiful place where the weather is always warm and so many of the people embody the true spirit of aloha."



Reina Whitiri in Hawai'i.

## Viewpoint

### Judging quality

Recently, I overheard a group of parents discussing how to improve the quality of teaching at their local school.

The conclusion? To raise the decile of the school from 7 to 10. To the parents' minds, a high decile school is a good school.

In reality, decile and quality are not linked. Decile is calculated on socio-economic data about the students of a school.

Gathered by census and collated into "meshblocks" by the Department of Statistics, deciles are determined by five pieces of information: the percentage of children at a school whose parents are in the bottom 20 percent of income; the percentage of children at a school whose parents are in lowest-skilled occupational groups; the percentage of children at a school whose parents have no secondary or tertiary qualifications; the percentage of children at a school whose parents receive a benefit; household crowding as measured by persons per bedroom.

These factors are equally weighted and combined to produce a national ranking of schools. Decile 1 schools have the most socio-economically disadvantaged students and decile 10 schools have fewest of the socio-economically disadvantaged students.

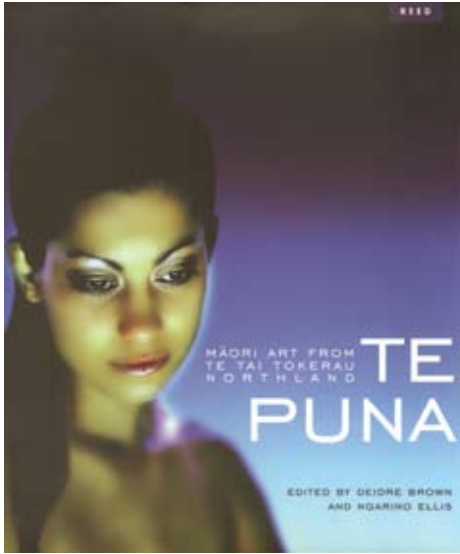
School decile measures the degree of advantage or disadvantage the students bring through the school gates. It says nothing about the quality of teaching at that school, surely the most important measure about quality of a school. And I know of no evidence that suggests the higher decile schools have better teachers.

Having said that, there is no doubt that performance at a school is related to decile – the higher the decile the higher the performance. But this is entirely predictable given the socio-economic disadvantages and advantages students bring through the school gate.

For example, when a West Auckland decile 2 school's community heard of the good teaching at the school, more parents from the higher socio-economic groups sent their children there, rather than to other higher decile schools nearby. Thus, when the decile was recalculated it increased to 4; it went up because more advantaged students were coming through the gates.

Speaking personally from many years of visiting many primary and secondary classrooms across all deciles around New Zealand, I cannot perceive any link between decile and quality of teaching. In making the difficult decision about where to send their children to school, parents would be wise to discount decile as a factor.

Peter Hughes,  
Faculty of Education



## Te Puna

*Te Puna: Māori Art from Te Tai Tokerau Northland* is described in its foreword by Elizabeth Ellis CNZM (Ngapuhi, Ngati Porou), chair of Te Waka Toi, the Māori Arts Board of Creative New Zealand, as “an exceptional and exciting book.

“It offers the first in depth examination by contemporary scholars of a range of art traditions from Te Tai Tokerau, and demonstrates that we have much to be proud of as creative tribal peoples.

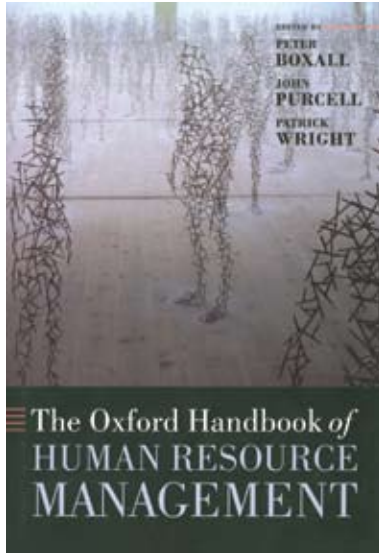
“This book is even more remarkable,” she continues, “because it is written by museum curators, art critics, art historians and practitioners, all of whom trace their whakapapa (genealogy) to northern ancestors and maintain close ties with Te Tai Tokerau.”

The editors, Dr Deidre Brown (Architecture and Planning) and Ngarino Ellis (Art History), have written substantially for the volume as well as gathering the writings of others about the art of Te Tai Tokerau – carving, painting, weaving, architecture, ceramics and digital art.

All contributors to the book write about their chosen subject area from a position of authority – as practitioners, scholars, or sometimes both. Their interest in the area has been inspired by their ancestral connection to the Tai Tokerau region.

The text discusses how Māori art was collected by museums and others, and argues that Te Tai Tokerau was the cradle for contemporary Māori art. Shorter essays focus on moko (tattoo) and waka building, and highlight artists such as Ralph Hotere, Shane Cotton and Kura Te Waru Rewiri.

Published by Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd, this is a beautifully designed and richly illustrated volume.



## The Oxford Handbook of Human Resource Management

Human resource management is central to management teaching and research, and has emerged in the last decade as a significant field from its earlier roots in personnel management, industrial relations and industrial psychology.

The effective management of work and people is critical to the viability of all organisations, and can help to lay a basis for sustained competitive advantage.

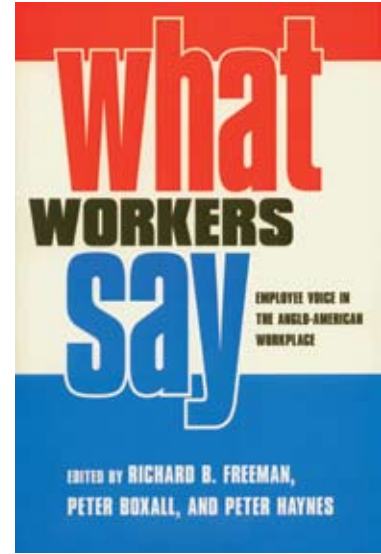
This Oxford handbook, edited by Professor Peter Boxall (Management and Employment Relations) with Professor John Purcell from the University of Bath and Professor Patrick Wright from Cornell University, brings together leading scholars from around the world – and from a range of disciplines – to provide an authoritative account of current trends and developments.

The handbook is divided into four parts: Foundations and frameworks, Core processes and functions, Patterns and dynamics, and Measurement and outcomes.

Overall it provides an essential resource for anyone who wants to get to grips with current thinking, research and development on human resource management.

Peter Boxall’s research is concerned with the links between human resource management and strategic management, and with the changing nature of work and employment systems. He is the co-author of *Strategy and Human Resource Management* (Palgrave MacMillan) with John Purcell.

*The Oxford Handbook of Human Resource Management* is one of two books edited by Peter Boxall this year. This other is *What Workers Say*, also featured on this page.



## What Workers Say

This book – *What Workers Say: Employee Voice in the Anglo-American Workplace* – was edited by Professor Boxall (Management and Employment Relations), with Professor Richard Freeman from Harvard University, and Peter Haynes, a former senior trade union official, and was published by ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press.

The book brings together research by contributors from six countries – the United States, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand – to answer a series of key questions: What opportunities do employees in Anglo-American workplaces have to voice their concerns and what do they seek? To what extent, and in what contexts, do workers want greater union representation? How do workers feel about employer-initiated channels of influence? What styles of engagement do they want with employers? What institutional models are more successful in giving workers the voice they seek at workplaces? What can unions, employers, and public policy-makers learn from these studies of representation and influence?

The research is based largely on surveys conducted as a follow-up to the influential *Worker Representation and Participation Survey* (WRPS) reported in *What Workers Want*, co-authored by Richard B. Freeman and Joel Rogers in 1999 and updated in 2006.

Taken together, these studies authoritatively outline workers’ attitudes toward, and opportunities for, representation and influence in the Anglo-American workplace. They also enhance industrial relations theory and suggest strategies for unions, employers, and public policy.

Support from The University of Auckland enabled visits by Richard Freeman to New Zealand, and helped with the cost of a workshop convened by the editors for most of the research team in Auckland in 2004.



*Kura Te Waru Rewiri, The Covenant, 1990, acrylic and powder on canvas, 1810 x 5080mm, Collection of The University of Auckland.*

Eldest of nine children born in Kaeo in the Far North, Kura Te Waru Rewiri (b.1950) learned raranga and whatu, the fibre arts, from her mother.

Taught art by prominent Māori artists Selwyn Wilson and Buck Nin at Northland and Bay of Islands College, she went on to tertiary study in fine arts, completing an honours degree with a thesis on stone tool (pre-European) carving. Northern carving still occasionally features in her work.

At Canterbury University, legendary expressionist painter Rudi Gopas was the strongest influence, but she also came into contact with Emare Karaka, who encouraged her to address political issues in her work. Having moved away from Tai Tokerau, Kura Te Waru Rewiri felt that colonisation and the adoption of western values

had made women subordinate to men in contemporary society. It became her mission to restore mana wahine Māori (Māori women's rights) through art.

Using a twist and pull brushwork technique derived from weaving, she created paintings with textured surfaces which recalled the aho and whenu (warp and weft) of cloaks, introducing motifs derived from triangular female symbols as her imagery.

Dating from 1990, when the sesquicentennial of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi was commemorated, her large acrylic on canvas triptych, *The Covenant*, shows a combination of this style and content. Broken striations of colour appear as diagonal dashes to enliven each section, showing the energetic action of the expressionist painter, while concern with Māori spiritual and

political issues is demonstrated through the use of symbols. Appearing inverted in the central panel to denote the Christian religion, the sign of the cross is also used to refer to the marks made by the Treaty signatories themselves. Like the articles of the Treaty and the Trinity, the work is broken into three parts to make explicit the relationship between the work of Christian missionaries in the North and subsequent colonisation.

One of the two first Māori appointments to the Elam School of Fine Arts, alongside prominent Maori artist Selwyn Murupaenga, Kura Te Waru Rewiri remains one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most celebrated Maori women artists. Her work features in a new publication (see opposite) edited by Ngarino Ellis (Art History) and Dr Deidre Brown (Architecture and Planning) entitled *Te Puna: Māori Art from Te Tai Tokerau Northland*.

Linda Tyler

## Malaysian and Arab Gulf cultural festivals



*Dancers at the Malaysian Festival.*

Auckland International had a large and lively turnout of international students for two cultural festivals held this month.

The Malaysian festival and the Arab Gulf Region festival were held on 9 and 16 August respectively in iSPACE, Level 4, Kate Edger Information Commons.

The Malaysian festival was organised by the Auckland International cultural festivals team in conjunction with UMMSA (Union of Malaysian Students in Auckland) and PETUNIA (Petronas Union in Auckland), and the Arab Gulf Region festival was organised in conjunction with students from Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

The festivals are designed to promote internationalisation on campus and to enhance students' understanding of other cultures. Both festivals were lots of fun with traditional dancing, singing, demonstrations, a quiz, fashion shows and ethnic food.

A number of students and staff dressed up in traditional costumes, which added to the atmosphere.

Upcoming cultural events include an International Cultural Festival to be held in September (see page 1) which will include a fashion show by Auckland International staff, a fashion show by international students (divided into regions such as Asia, Americas, Europe, Australasia and Africa) and a further fashion show featuring local students from the Auckland University Students' Association. Indian, Chinese and German festivals will be held in October.

For more information on cultural festivals, contact Trang Phan, International Student Adviser on t.phan@auckland.ac.nz or ext. 89927.

### Correction

In *University News*, issue 16, page 2, former Vice-Chancellor Dr John Hood was referred to as Professor John Hood, which is incorrect.

# Publication to promote discussion on tertiary issues

*Commentary*, an occasional publication newly-launched by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, will contribute to debate on higher education and research policy in New Zealand.

It provides information on important issues in tertiary education and research in New Zealand and is intended to promote discussion and advance knowledge among opinion leaders, policy

makers, friends of the University and staff.

It is important both to the University and to the tertiary education sector that people of influence are well-informed about these issues, which will play a critical role in the country's future.

The first issue of *Commentary* (on [www.auckland.ac.nz/commentary](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/commentary)) features a discussion of the characteristics of leading research

universities around the world, the benefits of encouraging such institutions to flourish in New Zealand, and the challenges of achieving this.

The Vice-Chancellor hopes staff will take the time to read each issue, and will find the information and comment valuable. Your feedback on the issues is welcome; please email [commentary@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:commentary@auckland.ac.nz)

## What's on

### FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

#### Housing Affordability Forum 2007

9am-5pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Presented by the Australasian Housing Institute. Guest speaker: Dr Peter Williams, a leading academic and commentator on housing policy and practice in the UK. Cost \$180; \$150. Visit [www.housinginstitute.org](http://www.housinginstitute.org) Queries to [events@housinginstitute.org](mailto:events@housinginstitute.org)

#### Department of English seminar

Prof Alan Liu, University of California, Santa Barbara: *Digital humanities and English literature*. 1pm English Dept Common Rm 426, Arts 1.

#### NZAI/Japan Society for NZ Studies seminars

FGW Suite, OGH.

1) Prof Yoshinori Okada, Daito Bunka University, Japan: *Japanese investment in and trade with NZ: A case study of paper and aluminum companies*.

2-3.15pm followed by afternoon tea.

2) Prof Michio Yamaoka, Waseda University, Japan and Dr Steven Lim, University of Waikato: *Economics literacy of university students in NZ and Japan: A comparison*. 3.30-4.30pm. Queries to [x.chen@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:x.chen@auckland.ac.nz) or ext 86936.

#### The Pillowman

By Martin McDonagh, presented by ATC and directed by Simon Prast. 8pm Maidment Theatre. Until 15 Sept. Contact the Maidment Box Office to find out about staff discounts on 308-2383.

### SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

#### In conversation

Sarah Munro discusses her work with Clean Machine exhibition co-curator Nicole Edwards. Gus Fisher Gallery.

### MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

#### Orientation to The University of Auckland for new staff

9am-12.15pm FGW Suite, OGH. For new staff employed for more than 20 hours a week on either permanent contracts or fixed-term contracts of at least 12 months. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or [je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

#### Introduction to University teaching and learning

A three-day introduction to key concepts and strategies for university teaching and learning designed for early-career academics. Continues Thurs 6 and Fri 7

Sept. Registration and location details from CAD reception ext 88140 or [cadreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cadreception@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](mailto:je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

#### Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering year 4 research projects conference day

9am-5.30pm today; 9am-3.30pm tomorrow. Level 4, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Final-year students presenting seminars, representing 102 research projects, distributed over 15 categories. All welcome.

### MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

#### Scopic bodies: Dance Studies research seminars

6pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

1) Linda Ashley, Dance, AUT: *The Youthanasia of dance: A research nexus of dance in tertiary education*.

2) Cat Gwynne, Dance Studies, The University of Auckland: *Pedagogical glitch*.

### TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

#### Inaugural lecture

Prof Jim Warren, Computer Science: *Improving chronic care, minimising disability: An IT research programme*. 1-2pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

#### Financial planning seminar

4.30-7.30pm, Cole Lecture Theatre, Rm 501, Bldg 501, Grafton Campus. 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](mailto:je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

#### CAD seminar for supervisors: Upgrading your students from masters research to a PhD

3.30-5pm CAD Seminar Rm, 76 Symonds St. Examines the benefits and risks of enlarging a promising masters project into a full-blown doctorate. Panel: Assoc-Prof Kevin Sowerby and Dr Lindsay Diggelmann. Contact [cadreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cadreception@auckland.ac.nz) or ext 88140.

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**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](mailto:petalproductions@ww.co.nz)

#### Historic, restored house at

**Karekare.** Fully-furnished and equipped, two bdrms, separate kitchen, very large living room, open fire, wide verandah with furniture. Private courtyard. All gardening and upkeep done. Adjacent beach. 45 mins to University on good road (one hour during rush-hours) \$350 pw. Phone Barry on (09) 812-8825 or Dorothy on (09) 812-8752.

#### House for rent:

Tidy three-bdrm (two large, one small) bungalow near restaurants and park in Grey Lynn. Prefer long-term tenants. Contains gas hob, electric oven, washer and dryer, osp, underfloor insulation, gas heaters and fireplace. \$450 pw. Phone Lynn, 376-0715 (evenings) or 921-9999 ext 6826 (day).

**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](mailto:c.during@xtra.co.nz)

**Pt Chevalier home for rent:** Beautifully furnished, sunny, two-bdrm home, two large living areas available for rent from 24/11/07 until 24/01/08. Private sunny garden and deck, garaging with internal access, close to city, walking distance from beach, cafes, public transport. \$500 pw + exps. Ph 849-3944 or email [terry@digihire.co.nz](mailto:terry@digihire.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](mailto:b.barton@auckland.ac.nz)

**Available March 2008,** three bdrms fully furnished house + study in quiet street in Birkenhead area, gardens, woodburner, HRV, decks, double car park, tastefully decorated. On uni bus route or 15 min drive to uni. Use of car if needed - available for one year rent or

more - negotiable rate. Ph 483 4620 or [dental@xtra.coo.nz](mailto:dental@xtra.coo.nz)

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**House for family of five** from mid-January through June 2008. Easygoing, 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 [deborahadonnell@comcast.net](mailto:deborahadonnell@comcast.net)

#### Visiting professor requires

**accommodation** from 1 January 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@marktwain.net](mailto:kerrin@marktwain.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](mailto:glenys@gvl.co.nz) Ph (027) 476-8771 or view [www.gvl.co.nz](http://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](http://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](mailto:insure@uni-care.org), website [www.uni-care.org](http://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](mailto:rick@gaffrig.co.nz) Website [www.gaffrig.co.nz](http://www.gaffrig.co.nz)

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

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