



Professor Vaughan Jones

## Fields Medallist incognito

In the world of mathematics Professor Vaughan Jones is a Fields Medallist, with all the international acclaim that implies. But in a café at St Heliers Bay, in his shorts and sandals, he merges invisibly into the holiday crowd.

Vaughan was born in Gisborne, grew up in Cambridge, completed secondary school at Auckland Grammar and did his undergraduate study at The University of Auckland. He also – famously – wore a New Zealand rugby jersey when accepting his Fields Medal in 1990 – an award so prestigious it is often referred to as the mathematicians' Nobel Prize.

Now a professor of mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Distinguished Alumni Professor at The University of Auckland, he co-directs the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA) – one of the national Centres of Research Excellence – with Professor Marston Conder (Mathematics).

Vaughan visits Auckland at least once a year, preferably in summer.

"I love being here at this time of year with the sun shining and the wind blowing. For me in New Zealand now the sun is always shining – I remember it wasn't always like this," he says.

Each year he combines work with pleasure – some time with his mother, sister and cousins and as much windsurfing as he can fit in, combined with attendance at an NZIMA conference (held this year in the Bay of Islands). He also delivers lectures about his own work, and collaborates with New Zealand mathematicians – including Marston Conder, with whom he has had a continuing and fruitful academic association over many years.

The idea of the NZIMA conference (an annual event) is to attract top international mathematicians to New Zealand. "This has certainly happened", says Vaughan. "The word has spread

around that the conference has a lot to offer at that level."

During his visits Vaughan also makes a point of "getting around to talk to people and encourage younger people to do mathematics".

He sees the state of mathematics in New Zealand universities as very healthy, thanks largely to the education system he grew up.

"I was the product of what used to be a very good education system. I was extremely well-taught in mathematics and science. There were very talented people who were being encouraged to progress."

Mathematical strengths in New Zealand, he says, are in algebra, analysis, combinatorics, numerical analysis, dynamical systems, computational complexity and logic, and mathematical biology. "There are strong people in all those areas."

His own work he describes as "tricky to explain" to a readership of non-mathematicians. However in just a few words he can make its complexity obvious.

For around 15 years he has been working on developing a type of mathematics called "planar algebra". In what he refers to as ordinary algebra, operations such as multiplication or division are applied one after the other. In planar algebra, though it works with operations analogous to multiplication and division, these are applied simultaneously to a pattern of inputs, which exist on the Euclidean plane.

Planar algebra, Vaughan says, ties together features of many different mathematical structures, and is capable of throwing new light on different areas in mathematics. An example he mentions is a paper he wrote with Marston Conder, in which the "planar" perspective offered something new to the work Marston had been doing in another context, so that together they were able to produce new ideas that had applications in both areas.

Vaughan has returned to California for now but will be back at least twice this year, in March and again in December, when he will attend the first joint meeting of the New Zealand and American Mathematical Societies.

## Key events

### Speaking of art

Two exhibitions are beginning 9 February at the Gus Fisher Gallery at the Kenneth Myers Centre: *The Red Studio* with works by James Ross and *Speaking of Tongues* with Peter Gibson Smith. In the foyer is a selection of work from the University Art Collection by Gretchen Albrecht. Events to be held in conjunction with the shows include a floor talk by James Ross on 10 February at 1pm in Gallery Two; Peter Gibson-Smith in conversation with Linda Tyler on 17 February at 1pm in Gallery One; and a floortalk in the foyer by Gretchen Albrecht on 24 February at 1pm.

### Lecture explores libraries of the future

Thanks to database and web technology, nearly every dictionary and encyclopaedia is now available online. However, the rush to publish on the web brings up new questions. How do we find the origins of a piece of data? How do we preserve a database that is continually evolving? How do we cite something we find on the web? And what social, economic and legal infrastructure will provide the "libraries" of the future? This is what digital curation is about. At a lecture to be held at 7pm on 19 February, Peter Bunemann, professor of database systems at the University of Edinburgh, will discuss some of the new technology being developed to support it. The lecture will be in Lecture Theatre 1.439 in the School of Engineering, with drinks and nibbles at 6.30pm.

### Tickets to dinner

Tickets are still available for the Distinguished Alumni Awards annual dinner on Friday 23 February with His Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand, the Honourable Anand Satyanand, PCNZM as guest speaker. The dinner is to be held in the Alumni Marquee. Please contact Helen Sosna on 09 373 7599 ext 88800, for more information or register online at: [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp)

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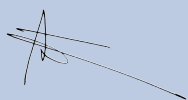


## From the Vice-Chancellor

It is a pleasure to welcome staff and students back to the University for the 2007 year. I trust that you have had a relaxing break and are ready for the opportunities and challenges that the year will send our way.

I am delighted to begin my 2007 columns with a couple of pieces of good news. First, just before Christmas, the Minister of Tertiary Education The Hon Dr Michael Cullen, announced the outcomes of the review of medical and dental funding. This review, undertaken earlier in the year with considerable input from the Universities of Auckland and Otago, examined the level of investment which government needed to make in order to ensure "that it can continue to offer the best available training for aspiring medical practitioners". The outcome of this review was a government decision to increase its investment in medical and dental education by \$24.6 million per annum, of which almost \$9 million will come to The University of Auckland (our component being smaller than Otago's because we do not have a dental programme). This is a most welcome decision, and one that will do much to ensure that we can maintain a high quality programme of medical education while remaining responsive to the country's health needs.

The second piece of good news is that, after a difficult 2006, our student numbers are looking reasonably firm. Each year at this time, the Planning Office monitors enrolments carefully, because the first couple of months have a profound impact on whether we will meet our annual budget. Although the figures are, of course, tentative given that the enrolment process is not yet complete, all of our faculties appear to be at, or slightly ahead of, their enrolment targets (though in one or two cases the targets are lower than those last year). This is an encouraging start, and one that will, I hope, persist through the enrolment period. Enrolment is a very busy time of the year and I am grateful to the many staff – and senior students – who are contributing to this process and to welcoming new students into the University.



## Effective support for children in grief

Something as simple as pouring a glass of water for a critically ill family member can help a child to feel included and validated.

This inclusion and validation, along with comfort and explanations, are the keys to supporting a child through the illness and death of a close relative.

This was one of the central messages delivered by Professor Betty Davies from the University of California, San Francisco, in a profoundly thoughtful, compassionate – and fully subscribed – seminar supported by the School of Nursing, the Centre for Child and Family Policy Research, and the Faculty of Education, as well as other agencies. Entitled "When a loved one is dying... Helping the children", the seminar was held for academics, members of the public, and health and counselling professionals at the Clinical Education Centre at Auckland City Hospital on 6 December.

Professor Davies has observed that when parents, grandparents or siblings are seriously ill, the needs of children or adolescents in the family are often not adequately addressed. In an interactive day combining presentation and discussion, she drew on research,



From left are Dr Jane Skeen from the Child Cancer Foundation, Professor Betty Davies and Andrew Thompson, bereavement coordinator at Starship Children's Hospital.

clinical experience and her own personal history to offer suggestions about how to support grieving children and to lift the quality of adults' interactions with children who are coping with loss. One unusual and effective aspect of the seminar was the emphasis on the relevance of the arts – in particular music and story-telling – to the acceptance of loss and the dynamic process of grieving. Another was the importance placed by Professor Davies on the reflections of individual clinicians and researchers on their own histories. In the final session of the day – "The end is the beginning" – she spoke of her family history and of the effect of this on her own career choices and professional development.

Professor Davies sits on the advisory board of Supersibs ([www.supersibs.org](http://www.supersibs.org)), a non-profit organisation formed to honour, support and recognise siblings of children with cancer, and chairs the board of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement. Additional sponsors for the seminar included the Child Cancer Foundation, Canteen (supporting young people living with cancer), NALAG (the National Association for Loss and Grief), and Starship Children's Hospital. Also visiting Auckland with Professor Davies was her husband, Dr Thomas Attig, who delivered a seminar on 5 December at St John's College in Meadowbank entitled "Catching our breath in grief".

## Breath of life

When someone we love dies it takes our breath away, says Dr Thomas Attig, a former professor of philosophy in the US and an international leader in the field of loss and grief, who led a workshop in December at St John's College, Meadowbank.

This means, he explains, that we have stepped out of our regular way of being in the world, that our ego is in crisis because of the loss of the illusion of being in control. "Our daily routines don't work any more... our souls and spirits are in crisis so we are struggling to catch our breath".

In his workshop entitled "Catching our breath in grief" – jointly sponsored by the School of Theology, the Faculty of Education, the Centre for Child and Family Policy Research, the New Zealand Association of Counsellors and NALAG (the National Association for Loss and Grief) – Dr Attig explored the implications of loss and grief and the ways of "breathing into life again".

"It seems to me we can learn from our sorrow," he says. "The word 'emotion' means 'without motion'. If you think of it, fear, love and sadness catch us and hold us until we puzzle through them and work out what they're telling us and what we need to do."

In the workshop he spoke of "sorrow-friendly practices", which might include receiving counselling, keeping a journal, examining dreams or musing on the arts for the purpose of "accessing our deeper selves, and learning what we need to do to reconnect in the world".



Dr Margaret Agee (Education) with Dr Thomas Attig

Grieving, he says, is not just about sorrow but about re-engaging.

"It's about reactivating our soul and spirits... realising that most of the lifelines we took for granted as supporting and sustaining us are still in place, even if this one major one is missing.

"We have to relearn our physical surroundings, our social surroundings and aspects of ourselves. Finally we have to relearn our relationship with the person who died."

Participants in the workshop included counsellors, psychotherapists, students, academics and staff from St John's College. It was hosted by Dr Mary Caygill (School of Theology) and Dr Margaret Agee, (Faculty of Education).



# Hood Fellows chosen for 2007

The Hood Fellows for 2007 – two outbound and four inbound – have been selected.

The Hood Fund, established to mark Dr John Hood's contribution to the University as Vice-Chancellor and supported by the Lion Foundation, funds the fellowships.

These enable the University's top academics to travel to prestigious institutions abroad and to bring leading overseas academics to Auckland.

The two outbound Fellows are:

**Associate Professor Janie Sheridan (School of Pharmacy)**, whose major research area is substance misuse and the provision of primary healthcare services for drug and alcohol users.

She will develop collaborations with researchers



Janie Sheridan

in Britain (in particular Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen) and Europe. She plans to disseminate her school's research into legal party pills, an emerging area of concern.

**Associate Professor Stephen Davies (Philosophy)**, who has published widely on the philosophy behind music, literature and painting.

Stephen is vice-president of the American Society for Aesthetics and will be president in 2007-2008, the first person from outside North America to hold these positions. He will deliver a plenary lecture at the Society's Pacific division conference, will speak at its eastern division conference, and will deliver papers at the College of William & Mary, Amherst College and Mount Holyoake.

The four inbound Fellows are:

**Associate Professor Coco Fusco**, Visual Arts Division, School of the Arts, Columbia University, New York, an academic, interdisciplinary artist and writer. Dr Fusco will be a keynote speaker at a symposium hosted by the Art History Department in August. She will present her performance **A Room of One's Own: Women and Power in the New America** – a monologue about the role of female interrogators in the war on terror – at the Maidment Theatre.

**Professor Richard F. Thomas**, Professor of Greek and Latin, Harvard University, a leading authority on the study of Virgil and Horace, with an interest also in the lyrics of Bob Dylan and in literary reception theory.

He will deliver a faculty public lecture on "Virgil, Bob Dylan and reception theory", as well as other seminars and lectures.

**Professor Michael Trick**, Professor of Operations Research, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University, a prominent researcher and educator in operations research, the science of making better decisions.



Stephen Davies

While in Auckland from February to May he will work on a book on applying operations research methods to practical problems. He will also give public and University lectures, and will participate in a research seminar series.

**Professor Marlene Zuk**, Professor of Biology, University of California, Riverside, is a prominent biologist in the field of sexual selection who has made critical contributions to Darwin's theory of why organisms possess conspicuous displays to attract mates.

Professor Zuk will be in Auckland in June and July giving public seminars on gender equity and science, and on sexual selections in animals, along with research seminars on crickets, and working with postgraduate students.

## Postgraduate survival 101

More than a dozen newly-enrolled PhD candidates in the Faculty of Arts gathered at the end of last year for the inaugural Faculty of Arts Doctoral Writing Programme.

The cross-disciplinary programme, funded by the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund, combined preparatory writing workshops and a three-day residential retreat to develop strategies for postgraduate success.

Held at the Fale Pasifika, the writing workshops were led by educationalist Professor Alison Jones, who guided participants through the finer points of structuring a thesis and writing effective academic prose. The postgraduates then moved on to the Waikato University College at Hopuhopu in the Waikato, a specialist facility for writing retreats.

Led by sociologist Dr Tracey McIntosh, the doctoral writing retreat provided an excellent environment for students wanting to develop and refine a sustained piece of writing.

In addition to strengthening academic skills and writing techniques, the Doctoral Writing Programme also aimed to develop a sense of identity and camaraderie among new postgraduates, and to identify – and help minimise – challenges and potential risks along the academic road.

"Undertaking four years of largely independent study and research as a PhD candidate can be daunting and we want to help our new postgraduates prepare for both the challenges and rewards of their academic endeavours," says Faculty of Arts Dean, Professor John Morrow. "By offering these tools and techniques in a relaxed, collegial environment, we can help our students gain confidence academically and form friendships with their fellow postgraduates."

## Distinguished Alumni speaking

Three of the Distinguished Alumni Award winners for 2007 are making public appearances on campus in the coming weeks.

"Green chemistry: Sustaining a high technology civilisation" is the topic which Professor Terry Collins will address at a public lecture on 21 February (1pm, Maidment Theatre). Terry is the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA, and founder of the Institute for Green Oxidation Chemistry.

The writer Ian Wedde is giving a public lecture

on "Bill Culbert's light touch: Making life with art" on 22 February (6.30-7.30pm, Lecture Theatre B15, Library Basement). He is currently researching a book on the New Zealand-born artist Bill Culbert, a sculptor and photographer who has been exhibiting internationally for more than 40 years.

Dr Peter Watson will be holding a public conversation with the Rt Hon Mike Moore on "International trade and New Zealand's role in the global economy: The US and China in focus" on 26 February (5.30-7.30pm, Maidment Theatre). The moderator is Paul Holmes.

Peter is an author and international businessman, and was a senior civil servant in three

successive US administrations. Registration for this session is essential due to space constraints. Please RSVP to [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp)

Full details of the three events can be found on the Alumni & Friends website: [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/alumni/news/calendar/home.cfm](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/alumni/news/calendar/home.cfm)

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# NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

## Felicity Goodyear-Smith (Population Health)

After many satisfying years as a busy general practitioner, I moved towards an academic career when our daughter (now aged 12) was born.

I now work eight-tenths of the time at the University while maintaining two-tenths' clinical practice.

I am involved in many primary health care research projects, which has allowed me to rediscover and progress my pleasure in writing.

Because one of my roles is to assist colleagues in the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care to develop, implement and publish their research projects, my HOD, Professor Bruce Arroll, has assigned me the title "research navigator".

My academic career affords me the flexibility to travel and have adventures with my husband and daughter such as white-water rafting and tramping (we have just completed the challenging north-west circuit of Stewart Island). This freedom was not possible when I had the commitment of a full-time general practice.

I am very fortunate to have such a rewarding profession which has enabled me to move along such a stimulating and varied career pathway.



Associate Professor Felicity Goodyear-Smith

## Bridie Kent (Nursing)

I'm a Registered Nurse (had my silver anniversary in 2006) with specialist expertise in the fields of acute and critical care nursing.

I gained a PhD in 1998 from the University of Wales, Bangor, after studying the factors influencing nurses' willingness to discuss post-mortem donation wishes (bit of a conversation stopper!).

I have been at The University of Auckland for four and a half years and am really fortunate to have a post that allows me to combine teaching, research and practice to make a difference to patient care.

I have a joint appointment with the School of Nursing and the Auckland District Health Board as Director of Clinical Nursing Research and the Centre for Evidence Based Nursing – Aotearoa. Consequently I spend a lot of time in Auckland City Hospital, working closely with clinicians of all professional groups to develop or improve care provision in acute and primary care.

I do have time for other things; my husband (Rodger) and dog (Bobby) are really important to me and I am also a keen windsurfer, enjoying the water here which is much warmer than in North Wales. I love running, and am an outreach therapy pet volunteer for St John/SPCA (with Bobby).



Associate Professor Bridie Kent

## Joe Deans (Mechanical Engineering)

My engineering career started with a craft apprenticeship in Scotland and continued with both undergraduate and post-graduate studies in mechanical and chemical engineering at the University of Strathclyde.

After a postdoctoral fellowship I returned to industry where I specialised in the construction and commissioning of large process plants and power stations. These activities involved secondments to various countries in the Middle East and South East Asia. I came to New Zealand to gain experience in managing a large construction site which was beset with industrial problems. This was one of the few areas where this type of experience could be obtained.

At the completion of this contract I was offered a position in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The transition from industry was difficult but I enjoy teaching and the luxury of researching a wide range of thermal processes. In recent years I have published studies on the analysis of geysers, the design of heat exchangers and the thermometric detection of landmines.

My wife, Trish, and I live in an old Devonport villa where our weekends are occupied with renovation, gardening and maintaining contact with our five children. I am also a past president of the Devonport Rotary Club.



Associate Professor Joe Deans

## Lisa Matisoo-Smith (Anthropology)

I was born in Hawaii, grew up in Japan and returned to the US to attend the University of California, Berkeley, where I obtained a degree in Anthropology in 1985.

After spending time travelling around Europe and working on several archaeological excavations in France, I moved to New Zealand with my husband Brent and began graduate studies at The University of Auckland. I obtained my PhD in 1997 and in 1998 was appointed as a lecturer in Biological Anthropology within the Department of Anthropology.

My major area of research involves analyses of DNA to address issues of Pacific prehistory. Most of my work focuses on the use of mitochondrial DNA variation in commensal animals (rats, dogs, pigs and chickens) to track the paths of human migrations across the Pacific.

Over the last ten years I have established ancient and modern DNA labs in the department and have conducted fieldwork throughout the Pacific, most recently in Papua New Guinea.

I am a principal investigator in the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, one of the Centres of Research Excellence established in 2002.

Brent and I have a 16-year-old daughter Tessa and we spend our free time enjoying travel, music, wine and food.



Associate Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith



## How do we power our future?

New Zealand's energy policy should make use of its own abundant resources, and be careful not to adopt overseas approaches to reducing emissions that may not be viable here, says a visiting energy security expert.

Dr Jan Kalicki – a scholar from US think tank the Woodrow Wilson Center and former adviser to the Clinton administration – was in New Zealand last week to address the Powering the Future symposium, jointly hosted by the Business School and the Center. He joined a panel of five, including Energy Minister David Parker, to discuss how New Zealand will source power in the future.

"New Zealand should look to global business practices and be an early adaptor to its own conditions," Dr Kalicki told the symposium.

"New Zealand should develop its inherent strengths, as well as doing a lot of due diligence to see what initiatives are developing overseas," he said.

Dr Kalicki also said there were opportunities for the US and New Zealand to collaborate as they developed energy policies that made greater use of renewable fuels.

"We have the opportunity to cooperate bilaterally, regionally and globally. We can do this through upstream and downstream development," he said, adding that energy security should be made a priority in talks in the Asia Pacific region, including the APEC, ASEAN and East Asian Summits.

The Energy Minister talked favourably of biofuels and electric vehicles playing a bigger role in the future.

"The cost of greenhouse reduction would be cheaper here than in other parts of the world," he said. "The challenge in New Zealand is on the transport front."

Powering Our Future attracted an audience of nearly 200 people, including industry representatives and former Prime Ministers Jim Bolger and Jenny Shipley. Other panel members were Peter Watson, international businessman and former US civil servant, Doug Heffernan, CEO of Mighty River, and Gary Romano, Director Group Manufacturing at Fonterra.

Attendees heard the Minister outline New Zealand's national energy strategy, alongside a discussion about the energy goals of the United States.

Much of the discussion centred on what technologies New Zealand should invest in today and the focus in 15 to 20 years time, when fossil fuels are predicted to no longer be economically viable and a surge in alternative fuels will be required.

Panel members agreed that New Zealand's policy focus should be on the energy needs for transport, and that improving energy efficiency was a higher and more immediate priority than introducing new technologies to replace existing infrastructure.

Panelists agreed New Zealand is considered abundant in natural resources and able to produce energy at a low cost compared with most other countries.

The debate also covered security of energy supply, the complexities of the energy market, and the costs of adopting new technologies.



Dr Jan Kalicki (left) with the Hon David Parker, Energy Minister

### Associate Professors continued

## Xun Xu (Mechanical Engineering)

I took up a lectureship position in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in October 1996 after obtaining a PhD from the University of Manchester, then UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology).

I now lead the Intelligent and Interoperable Manufacturing Systems research group. The mission of this group is to develop the next generation Computer Numerical Control (CNC) systems that are featured as intelligent, interoperable, adaptable and STEP-compliant. This group has become one of five top research teams in the world working in this field.

I was a senior guest researcher at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and a senior research fellow at the Japan National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST).

As reflected through my more than 100 publications, I have broad research interests – from CAD/CAM to product lifecycle assessment and management, and from 3D digitisation of artefacts to remodelling and visualisation.

I am now on the editorial boards for five international journals and have guest-edited two special journal issues. I have, though, no "allies" at home: a plant pathologist wife with a molecular biology PhD, and two daughters, one a fourth-year student doctor and the other a 12-year-old inspired writer. In my spare time, badminton is my favourite sport and a huntaway is my regular jogging companion.



Associate Professor Xun Xu

## WHEN NETWORKS GO BAD .....

Another day, another motorway, or so it sometimes seems in the news.

Auckland's roading network is critically loaded. Over the New Year period, driving around Auckland has been comparatively pleasant, with less traffic congestion than usual. Contrast this with the usual state of the roads, when even a relatively minor disruption such as rain leads to much longer delays. However, this poor state of affairs also signals an opportunity. If even a small increase in traffic volumes leads to increased delays, then, equivalently, even a small reduction in traffic on the roads will decrease delays. Thus encouraging more people to use public transport is an effective way to improve traffic flows.

Building more roads, on the other hand, does not always have the desired effect. Traffic engineers are familiar with the Downs-Thomson paradox, that increasing roading capacity (whether by building new roads or widening existing ones) may just lead to greater delays for everyone as shifts in traffic lead to ever greater congestion, while the public transport system languishes.

How does this come about? If roads are improved, some commuters shift from using public transport to private transport, and if the shift is large enough then congestion on the roads returns to its previous high levels, while the frequency of public transport declines in response to reduced usage, which then pushes yet more commuters to shift to private transport. This cycle may continue until an equilibrium is reached where congestion on the roads is greater than it was previously, and public transport less frequent, so the average delay for everyone has increased.

The paradox arises because most commuters choose their mode of transport to minimise their own costs, without considering the effects of their choice on delays for others. Road tolls or congestion pricing are one way of forcing the whole transport system to a better operating point, by making road use expensive compared with public transport. A friendlier solution that would have a similarly positive effect is to make public transport cheaper!

Ultimately though, it is the individual's choice that matters. Public or private transport: even a small change in usage can make a difference.

Dr Ilze Ziedins  
Statistics



## From the collection: Minnie F. White, Australian Landscape, c.1950

Though not as well known as Lois White, the Art Deco painter who was her cousin, Minnie Francis White (1891-1984) also had a long and successful art career. The youngest of eight children, Minnie White grew up in Huntly Lodge in Grafton, and was apprenticed as a dress designer and seamstress before enrolling at Elam School of Fine Arts in 1910.

There she studied commercial art, including advertising media and ticket writing, but also pottery, which had been introduced by Elam Director Edward Payton.

Later in her life she made and sold glazed ceramics which matched the rugs she had designed. This small painting was purchased for the University collection from the 1979 retrospective exhibition organised at the Pumphouse Gallery in Takapuna by Betty Cumow and Genevieve Becroft.

At Elam, Edward Fristrom was Minnie White's tutor in drawing, and encouraged an Impressionist technique. Minnie's mother was convinced that figure drawing from life would corrupt her young daughter's morality and forbade her attendance until Fristrom suggested that a family chaperone might accompany her to classes where the male nude model was posed.

Awarded the South Kensington Art Teachers' Certificate in 1912, she chose not to teach but instead worked for Chandler Advertising. Her specialty was fashion drawing and she did piece work for George Courts until 1922 when the head of the studio suggested that she go down to Christchurch and study painting at the Canterbury College School of Art.

Olivia Spencer Bower and Russell Clark were in her classes at Canterbury, and Rhona Haszard, Evelyn Page and Rita Angus preceded her.

Moving back to Auckland in 1925, she returned to Elam as a mature student, exhibiting "free and

imaginative" landscapes at the Auckland Society of Arts.

Marrying Frederick Gash in 1935, she lived in Opoho, Dunedin for six years before again returning to Auckland, where her husband died in 1946.

The Elam School of Fine Arts Archive contains the many sketches she made during an extensive trip to

Australia in 1948, travelling from the Whitsunday Islands to Hobart in Tasmania.

Concentrating on the characteristic Australian stone farm buildings and eucalypts with large patches of the sky left unpainted as bare support, this work epitomises her assured style.

Linda Tyler



MINNIE F. WHITE, *Australian Landscape*, 1950, The University of Auckland collection

## Migrant advocate wins writer's prize

A South African immigrant who tackled the themes of exile and literature has won the annual Faculty of Arts Writing Competition for English, earning him free tuition for his first year at the University.

Jed Horner, from Rotorua's John Paul College, submitted his NCEA level three English paper, "Exile and literature: A life on the periphery? Exile in the writing of Amaichai, Coetzee, Gordimer, Oz and Said", to the competition. He also submitted a short essay, "Things that make you go hmmm", highlighting the cynical and often cliched ploys used by aid organisations to solicit funds from the public.

Jed says he was heartened to have his work recognised in the competition and is grateful for the tremendous support he's already received by members of the English Department.

Having moved to New Zealand at the age of 11, Jed says his experience as an immigrant has imbued in him a strong sense of performance-based success.

"I think such an experience engrains a consciousness of personal and, to an extent, collective identity, and a realisation that in order to succeed, everything must be done on merit. I wouldn't trade my first generation immigrant status for anything," says Jed.

The young scholar has certainly impressed a variety of people through his work over the years, both in school and through his extracurricular activities.

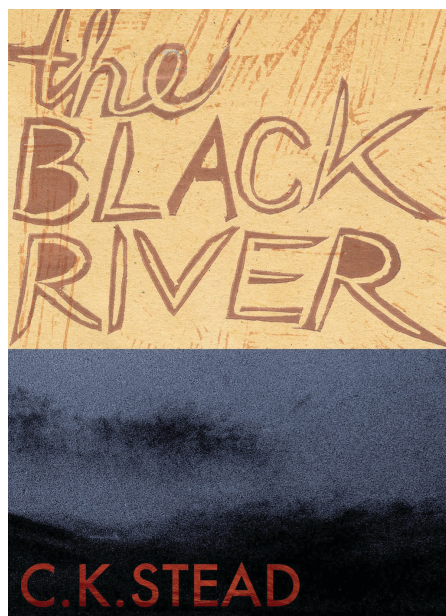
For two years, Jed was a member of the Young Peoples Reference Group, acting as an external adviser to the Children's Commission. Describing himself as a "vociferous advocate" of migrant children and young people in New Zealand, Jed also worked with the Human Rights Commission and played a lead role in



Jed Horner, with friends and supporters. From left to right are Jessie Clark, Judith Horner; Jed Horner; Professor John Morrow (Dean of the Faculty of Arts), Mick Horner and Sham Blanchard, supporting the tenth Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, held in New Zealand in 2006.

Now, after enjoying a summer holiday working part-time and relaxing with friends and family, Jed is excited about launching his new life at the University. Although he isn't entirely certain which career path he will follow, Jed's goal is to continue as he has started – in his words, to "be dynamic and make the world my oyster".





## The Black River

In May 2005 Emeritus Professor Karl (C.K.) Stead (English) suffered a stroke which left him briefly dyslexic and innumerate but otherwise unaffected.

During the days that followed he composed a series of short poems in his head, scribbling them into a notebook kept by his bed, "as if writing in the dark". In a few weeks he was completely recovered and went on – in a period of just over a year – to write the poems that make up this, his 14th collection. (The S-T-R-O-K-E poems gathered at the end of the book are the ones composed while he was still unable to read.)

The poems are in some ways darker than any he has written before, apprehensive, death-possessed, but still with his characteristic mix of wit, cool realism and affectionate levity. Dead family members – the mother who "never looked back", the father imagining himself Odysseus expecting "his men" to come for him at any moment, the grandfather (did he row for Oxford?), the sister with MS who laughed so much he feared she would fall out of her wheelchair – are brought to life, together with a whole department of former colleagues ("it comes / to me only slowly / that they're all / dead, even Bill"), and even the mysterious Anactoria caught sight of for a moment in the House of Death

running from room to room  
hunting for your rings  
your necklaces of gold  
your 'things'.

Images of the part of France he knows best are here, together with a long disquisition on Mussolini's Italy ('History'), and the inevitable poems of swimming and Auckland. This is a poet looking very steadily, very calmly, at life, and at the life the dead seem to possess, in poems which reveal again the technical mastery several of his fellow poets have acknowledged, and the quality of clarity, of "clear light", he has made his own.



## An Index to Common Law Festschriften

Edited by Professor Michael Taggart (Law) and published by Hart Publishing, Oxford, this is the first-ever index to common law Festschriften and fills a serious bibliographic gap in the literature of the common law.

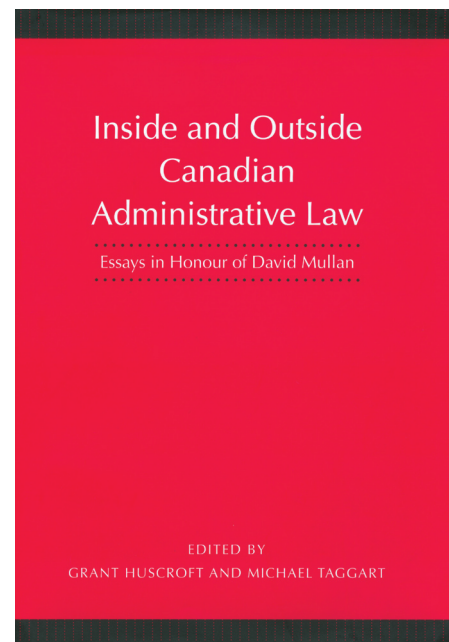
The German word Festschrift is now the universally accepted term for a published collection of legal essays written by several authors to honour a distinguished jurist or to mark a significant legal event.

The number of Festschriften honouring common lawyers has increased enormously in the last 30 years. Until now, the numerous scholarly contributions to these volumes have not been adequately indexed. This index fills that gap.

The entries included in this work refer to 296 common law Festschriften indexed by author, subject keyword, editor, title, honour and date. It includes more than 5,000 chapter entries.

In addition there are more than 1,000 entries of English language contributions to predominantly foreign language, non common law legal Festschriften from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The indexing project was completed over three years in the Faculty of Law by editor, Michael Taggart, in cooperation with two experienced law librarians, Roslyn Smith (Cataloguing Department, University Library) and Bernice Cole (Davis Law Library). Leonie Hayes and Brian Flaherty (Digital Services, University Library) developed the fully-searchable database, and Mary Rose Russell (Manager, Davis Law Library) also provided both encouragement and support.



## Inside and Outside Canadian Administrative Law

This book, subtitled *Essays in honour of David Mullan*, pays tribute to a New Zealander who formed part of a wave of lawyers who moved to Canada in the 1960s and 1970s.

Many of these lawyers made major contributions to their adopted country. David Mullan went on to become Canada's leading administrative law scholar, and has often been claimed by New Zealand's administrative lawyers as one of our greatest legal exports.

When David Mullan took early retirement from Queen's University in Canada in 2004, Professor Michael Taggart (Law) and Professor Grant Huscroft – who spent ten years on the staff of The University of Auckland before moving to the University of Western Ontario – organised a Festschrift to honour his contribution to Canadian and Commonwealth administrative law and scholarship.

The book of essays, published by the University of Toronto Press, contains contributions from leading administrative lawyers from around the world including Hugh Corder from the University of Cape Town, South Africa; Robin Creyke from the Australian National University; Justice John Evans from the Appellate Division of the Federal Court of Canada; Sir Kenneth Keith, Judge of the International Court of Justice, former member of the New Zealand Court of Appeal and recipient of an honorary LLD from The University of Auckland; and Janet McLean from the University of Dundee (formerly on the staff of The University of Auckland).

## Shakespeare outdoors

In a muggy summer, what could be better than a little al fresco thespian action?

Outdoor Summer Shakespeare is swinging into its forty-fourth summer season with *The Merchant of Venice*. This popular comedy gets a contemporary



spin and an updated soundtrack with hints of emo, the ego, reality tv and hedonism. The result is seductive, charming and challenging, Shakespeare seen in yet another new guise.

*The Merchant of Venice* opens on Saturday 10 February and continues until 10 March. All shows start at 7.30pm, with no shows on Sundays. Performances are held in the Old Arts Quad, between the Graduate Centre and ULT/LLT, behind the ClockTower.

See the Maidment's website, [www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz) or [www.summershakespeare.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.summershakespeare.auckland.ac.nz)



## WHAT'S ON

### SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

*The Merchant of Venice*  
7.30-9.30pm Old Arts Quad, UoA.  
Until 10 March. \$27/\$16. To book  
phone 308-2383. Visit  
[www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Introduction to University teaching  
and learning  
Wed 14, Thurs 15, FGW Rm, OGH;  
Fri 16 CAD, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St.  
[Registertocadreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:Registertocadreception@auckland.ac.nz)

### MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Dept of Computer Science  
public lecture  
Prof Peter Buneman, University of  
Edinburgh: Digital curation. 7pm Lecture  
Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20  
Symonds St.

### TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Orientation Welcome  
9-10.15am Waipapa Marae, Wynyard St.  
Powhiri for new students, welcome by  
Vice-Chancellor and morning tea. The  
full orientation welcome programme  
is on the University home page under  
"notices".

Orientation to doctoral education  
policy and process at UoA  
9.30-11.30am Seminar Rm, Graduate  
Centre. Register to  
[cadreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cadreception@auckland.ac.nz)  
The art of graduate research  
supervision  
1-4.30pm CAD, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds  
St. Register to  
[cadreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cadreception@auckland.ac.nz)  
Australia/New Zealand-ASEAN-FTA  
update meeting  
Martin Harvey, lead negotiator, will  
update you on the current status  
of negotiations. 4-5.30pm Rm 204,  
ClockTower Bldg, 22 Princes St. Queries  
/RSVP by 15 Feb, contact 373-7599 ext  
83723 or email [nzai@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:nzai@auckland.ac.nz)  
Visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/nzai](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/nzai)

### WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Commencement service  
11am Maclaurin Chapel. To be  
addressed by the Most Reverend  
Patrick Dunn, Catholic Bishop of  
Auckland. All welcome. Refreshments  
served afterwards.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2007  
recipient lecture

Prof Terry Collins, Thomas Lord  
Professor of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon  
University, Pittsburgh: Green chemistry:  
Sustaining a high technology civilisation.  
1pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.  
Queries to Helen Sosna, contact  
373-7599 ext 88800 or  
[alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Distinguished Alumni Award 2007  
recipient lecture  
Ian Wedde, writer and anthologist: Bill  
Culbert's slight touch: Making life with art.  
6.30-7.30pm B15, Basement, General  
Library, 5 Alfred St. Queries to Pauline  
Sheddan, [p.sheddan@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.sheddan@auckland.ac.nz)  
Visit [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.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).