

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 38 | Issue 4 | 7 March 2008

## Magnificent complex a team effort



Left to right (front row) Takutai Wikiriwhi, Hugh Fletcher, Owen Glenn, Sir Howard Morrison, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Dr John Hood, and Professor Barry Spicer.

It was a gala event for a momentous day: the official opening of the magnificent new Owen G Glenn Building, home of the University's Business School.

A welcome and speeches for the 450 guests in the Fisher & Paykel Auditorium were followed by the cutting of the ribbon at the entrance to the main foyer by benefactor Owen G Glenn, the unveiling of the plaque by Prime Minister Helen Clark, and a reception in the foyer.

The creation of this splendid, purpose-built complex was truly a team event – with most key members of that visionary team at the launch.

The presence of Prime Minister Helen Clark attested to the strong support of the New Zealand Government, which supplied funding to match donations from business through its Partnerships for Excellence scheme. Another very welcome guest was expat businessman Owen G Glenn, who gave what is believed to be the largest private donation ever to support a New Zealand educational venture.

Strong University supporters of the project included former Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, who was largely responsible for conceiving the project and who guided it through its early stages; Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, who has overseen the project and brought it to completion; and Professor Barry Spicer, Dean of

the Business School, who, with enormous energy and enthusiasm, supported the creation of the complex from conception to completion.

Chancellor Hugh Fletcher, described by Stuart McCutcheon in his welcome to the guests as “a man not unfamiliar with the construction of large buildings”, said the launch signalled the start of a new era of partnership with the Crown and private commercial enterprise.

Owen G Glenn said he was glad to see the dream come into reality. “With this wonderful faculty and great buildings, New Zealand has everything on its side,” he said. However, continued Mr Glenn: “It is what happens inside here that will count: the thousands of minds that will go through the building long after I am gone.”

“Buildings are built by many people,” said Professor Barry Spicer, thanking the Prime Minister, for the Partners in Excellence scheme; Owen Glenn for his gift which was “a landmark in education”; and John Hood “who imbued the Business School with the confidence that the project would succeed”. He also acknowledged the important input of Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon – and of Peter Fehl and his team in Property Services, the architects (FJMT + Archmedia), and Fletcher Construction which built not only the Owen G Glenn Building but also another University icon – the ClockTower, completed in 1926.

## Key events

### Finding and funding

Eminent botanist Carrick Chambers was professor of botany at the University of Melbourne for 20 years, and for ten years was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, which flourished under his direction. In his public lecture, “Highlights in the career of an academic botanist”, forming part of the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series, he will touch on areas of his botanical research and interests, some of which have resulted in unpredicted outcomes. The lecture is on 10 March in OGGB4, Owen G Glenn Building, with refreshments at 6.15pm and the lecture at 7pm.

### What women want

Major changes occurred in the practice of childbirth during the twentieth century. From the 1970s, many historical accounts argued that these changes were imposed upon women under the guise of medical progress. This lecture by Associate Professor Linda Bryder (History) revisits the history of childbirth, investigating women's activism in particular, questioning whether that history is more complex than the development of the medical model and its imposition upon women. The lecture is on 12 March at 1pm in Room 107, Centre for Pacific Studies.

### Can molecules explain minds?

Exploring this question is Professor Andrew Matus from the University of Basel in Switzerland. Our senses and behaviour depend on connections in the enormously complex circuits of the brain. Recent research has uncovered a molecular mechanism that produces rapid changes in the structure of synaptic connections between nerve cells. This adds a new perspective to the debate on the extent molecular events in the brain can explain mental phenomena. This public lecture is on 12 March at Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, with drinks at 5.30pm and the lecture commencing at 6pm.

## In this issue

- 2 | Waipapa Marae turns 20
- 4 | Sir Douglas Robb Lectures
- 6 | New associate professors

## From the Vice-Chancellor

On 21 February, we held a very successful event to mark the opening of the stunning Owen G Glenn Building, the new home of our Business School. A feature of the opening was the high level of interest from, and engagement with, the Auckland and wider New Zealand business communities. This reflects the extensive range of programmes that have been developed by the School to build connections between staff, students and business. These connections are a key part of the School's drive to create a more entrepreneurial culture in New Zealand, something that is critical to the future wealth of our country.

One such programme is *Spark*, a highly successful student-led initiative that encourages students and staff to commercialise ideas and start up new business ventures. *Spark* provides budding entrepreneurs and creators of technology with the chance to develop their entrepreneurial skills through a *Vision to Business* seminar series and three business plan challenges. *Vision to Business* teaches the basics of building a business, and is delivered by leading academics, entrepreneurs and successful business people. The business plan challenges translate that knowledge into proposals for the creation of new businesses, the best of which then receive financial and mentoring support. However, it's not just about wealth creation – another part of the programme, *Spark Aspire*, is a social entrepreneurship challenge, which calls for ideas that will have a positive social, cultural or environmental impact.

On 13 March, *Spark* will launch its 2008 programme with an event to be held in the Owen G Glenn Building. The event will feature Seeby Woodhouse who founded Orcon, New Zealand's fourth largest internet service provider, at only 24 years of age. Fady Mishriki a recent graduate of our University, will describe how his newly established company, which was runner-up in the *Spark \$40K Challenge* in 2003, is now dealing with one of the largest companies in the US to commercialise its technology. Further details can be found at [www.spark.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.spark.auckland.ac.nz)

As a country that is still heavily reliant on traditional primary production, and about as far from markets as it is possible to be, New Zealand must create new, innovative industries if it is to prosper. Programmes such as *Spark* are making an important contribution in encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship among our staff and students.



## Waipapa Marae turns 20



Sir Colin Maiden, Merimeri Penfold and Takutai Wikiriwhi (Ngati Whatua), University Kaumatua, cut the cake at the Waipapa Anniversary dinner.

**The opening of Waipapa Marae 20 years ago was a major milestone in the history of the University.**

It was also the culmination of many years of effort, planning, persuasion and protest by a small core of energetic and inspired people within the University and a network of others out in the community who gave support in a variety of ways.

Its establishment meant the coming together of three iwi: Ngati Whatua, Ngati Hine and Tainui.

In the 20 years since it began the Marae has proved its deep and lasting value, not only as a proud place of belonging for Māori students and staff, but also by encouraging potential students to see the University as a place for them, and by providing a venue for learning and absorbing understanding of Māori art, culture, knowledge and ways of being.

The warm hospitality and the relaxed enjoyment of guests at the Waipapa Anniversary dinner on 23 February spoke of the success of the week-long Waipapa Anniversary celebrations, 18-24 February.

Guest speaker was Dr Patu Hohepa, a former Head of Māori Studies, a former Māori Language Commissioner, and a major force behind the establishment of the Marae. In speaking of what the Marae means to himself and others he struck a strong chord with the 170 guests.

Patu had also been part of a panel, with nine others, earlier on that day, in a discussion of what facilitator Matiu Ratima (Centre for Academic Development) called "not a history of the marae, but histories or stories of the marae", told from the perspectives of individual speakers.

These stories, which included those of Dr Merimeri Penfold, Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond, former Vice-Chancellor Sir Colin Maiden, and Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker, who all worked with energy and dedication to make the vision a reality, came together to form a powerful and multifaceted picture with new

insights to offer to all who attended, even those who have been closely involved with the Marae.

A notable absentee was Pakariki Harrison, master carver, who was tohunga whakairo for the project, but was unable to attend the anniversary celebration. However, Anthony Wilson was on the panel to give insight into his own work and that of the team he was part of.

Also on the panel were Ivan Mercep, architect for the Marae, and Hone Edwards who, as a student, was one of the protesters who focused attention on the need for the Marae. "We weren't coming to the University just for the degrees," he said, "but were very much aware of the bigger political picture."

The gala dinner and the discussion of histories of the Marae formed the core of the week of celebrations, which was divided into two parts,

During the week functions and seminars were held in the faculties, which were all represented on the Waipapa Marae anniversary committee. The committee was chaired first by Lee Cooper (who was seconded late last year to AUS) and later by Rangimarie Rawiri (Māori Studies).

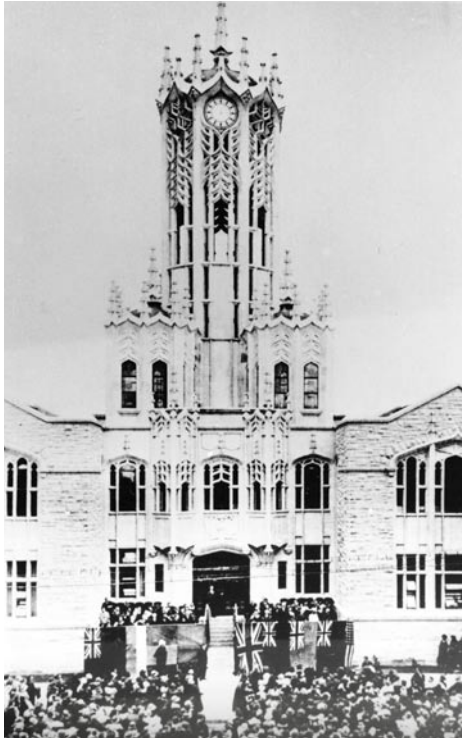
Also timed to coincide with the celebrations was the inaugural James Henare Māori Research Centre Lecture Series.

The weekend celebrations centred on the Marae, with a powhiri on Friday evening, the discussion of histories on Saturday afternoon, the gala dinner on the Saturday night (held in the main foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building), and the closing ceremony and breakfast on Sunday morning.

Eight special scholarships were presented as part of the anniversary celebrations. One of the winners, third-year law student Siaoisi Tofi, was introduced at the dinner by Jim Peters, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), and read out the essay which won him the scholarship – on the meaning of the Marae.

Anniversary events were closely followed by a camera crew and will be the subject of a documentary on TVNZ.

# Retrospective 1883-2008



*The opening of the Clock Tower building (then known as the Arts Building and Student Block), 12 March 1926. Photo: University of Auckland History Series, Further Papers 1890-1995, University of Auckland Library Special Collections.*

This column commemorates the opening of the Clock Tower building on 12 March 1926. The extracts were taken from the *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 13.

## 'New Arts Building – Opening by Governor – A Memorable Event'

What is by common consent the beginning of a new era for the Auckland University College was celebrated yesterday, when the new Arts Building was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor General Sir Charles Fergusson, at the largest gathering that has ever witnessed a university ceremony in Auckland.

The Hon George Fowlds, president of the college, who presided, said the presence of Their Excellencies and of so large a gathering

of citizens emphasised that the opening ceremony was an important event in the history of Auckland. "We are compelled to admit," he went on, "that the people of Auckland have been backward in their appreciation of the importance and value of university education. Great progress in this respect has been made in recent years, and I am convinced that the provision of this fine commodious building in which to carry on the work will complete the process and that henceforth Auckland will take its rightful place in the leadership of the Dominion in higher education, as she does in so many other respects.

"...we have been exceedingly fortunate in the appointment of our architects, and in spite of a great deal of criticism the public of Auckland is now beginning to realise that this is one of the outstanding pieces of architecture in the Dominion." (Applause.)

The architect, Mr R. A. Lippincott, in presenting His Excellency with a gold key said he and his partner, Mr Bilson, had given their best efforts in the past five years to provide the Auckland University College with more than a mere shelter. His Excellency unveiled a commemorative tablet in the outer wall, and then unlocked the front door. He was followed into the building by the invited guests and hundreds of the general public, who spent the next hour roaming through the corridors and rooms.

## 'Like a Fairy Palace – The Colledge at Night – Floodlights Illumine Tower'

The much-criticised tower of the new University building took on a new and, to many eyes, a delightful appearance last evening. To mark the formal inauguration, a small battery of floodlights was placed round the tower's base throwing into sharp relief the elaborate ornamentation of tracery and crocketed pinnacles. Seen from Symonds Street across its expanse of terraced grounds, the building looked more like a fairy-tale palace than a home of traditional learning. The students, by way of a house-warming, held a dance in the new hall, over a hundred couples taking part. A good number of graduates attended in gowns and hoods. Supper was served in the club-house, and everybody had a most enjoyable time.

## Clock Tower lights up



The Clock Tower was flooded with light in changing colours to mirror the myriad lights in Albert Park for the Lantern Festival.

The huge crowd of visitors to the festival was made welcome also in the student quad – with cooperation from AUSA and with security officers on duty.

The University also supported the festival by taking responsibility for restoring the University grounds to their usual state after the influx of visitors.

At the Confucius Institute's festival display space, visitors were able to see films on Chinese culture, to learn basic Chinese phrases for use at the festival, and to be given Chinese names and see them printed out.

## ... in brief

### APRU conference submissions invited

The ninth Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Distance Learning and Internet Conference will be hosted by Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, from 19 to 22 November. The conference theme is "New directions for inter-institutional collaboration: Assessment and evaluation in cyber learning". This will explore global issues in distance learning and utilisation and application of advanced information technology, with a special emphasis on issues of concern to universities on the Pacific rim. Abstracts should be submitted on-line. Details of submission requirements can be found at [www.waseda.jp/DLI2008/](http://www.waseda.jp/DLI2008/). The deadline for submissions is 30 April.

### Neurological Open Day

On 15 March, the University is inviting anyone with an interest in neurological disease to learn more. The free Neurological Open Day, to be held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road, Auckland, from 10.30am to 3pm, is part of international brain awareness week. It will include talks from University scientists, including Rutherford medallist Professor Richard Faull and MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Jessie Jacobsen, about current research in neurological diseases, and demonstrations of the University's neuroscience laboratories. In addition, associated support groups, such as Alzheimers Auckland and the Stroke Foundation, will be holding information workshops throughout the day.

For more information, call the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand on (0508) BRAINS (0508 272 467).

### Oxford Medical Fellowship

Applications are invited for an award in either clinical medicine or medical science for an Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellowship. This carries an allowance on the scale of £39,207 to £41,001 to £42,795 subject to UK tax with direct economy class return air fares for the appointee, his or her spouse and children up to 18 years. Applicants should have graduated from The University of Auckland or the University of Otago and should either hold a medical qualification obtained in New Zealand or the UK, or have appropriate research experience. The fellowship is tenable for two years in the first instance, with the possibility of an extension for a third year. For further information, see [www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/) departments

# Competing pressures on the modern university



Professor Sheldon Rothblatt.

Universities' concerns about measuring up to international standards will be among the issues addressed in the 2008 Sir Douglas Robb Lectures.

Professor Sheldon Rothblatt, a renowned historian of British, European and university history from the University of California, Berkeley, is delivering three lectures on *"The Uses of the University revisited"* starting on 11 March. *The Uses of the University* by Clark Kerr, former President of the University of California, is a modern classic on the meaning of a university.

The lectures will touch on funding, problems of student access and expense, and relations between government and university (audit, accountability, bureaucratic oversight and steering) in the context of what is happening in other countries.

"What has happened over a century and a half out of the much longer history of the university to make them both expensive and necessary? Why do differences exist between governments and universities about how best to go about meeting the multiple needs of a modern society when the stated ends are presumably similar?

"The expressed anxieties and problems are almost exactly the same in country after country," says Professor Rothblatt.

Universities – the second oldest institution in the western world – were once part of an aristocratic heritage; today they are mass-access institutions.

The "multiversity", as it has become, is constantly having to redefine itself and satisfy a multitude of interests while operating within a strong consumer culture.

"Over the twentieth century the university became a behemoth, a primary engine of technical and scientific growth, astonishingly wealthy yet financially insatiable," says Professor Rothblatt.

The 125th Jubilee of The University of Auckland provides an opportunity to reflect upon the history of the university as a special institution, he says, and to join that history to present-day concerns.

There are three lectures:

- Tuesday 11 March, 7pm: "Born to have no rest and to give none to others": The origins and history of the multiversity
- Thursday 13 March, 7pm: The multiversity and democratic dilemmas
- Tuesday 18 March, 7pm: "A Thyestean banquet of claptrap": Culture and the soul of the multiversity

The venue is Lecture Theatre 260-098, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road. Admission is free and all are welcome. Evening parking is available for \$5 in lower levels of the Owen G Glenn Building.

Full details on the lectures are at [www.auckland.ac.nz/robb](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/robb)

## Can you recognise yourself?

An animated gathering of about 800 staff packed into the Alumni Marquee on the lawn of Old Government House at the invitation of Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon for an all-staff cocktail party.

The party was organised as part of the celebrations for the University's 125th Jubilee.

"It is worth reflecting on the fact," said Stuart McCutcheon, in addressing his guests, "that universities are some of the most enduring of institutions internationally. There would not be many businesses or other organisations established in 1883 that still exist in a recognisable form today.

"The University of Auckland was one of a wave of universities founded in the UK, US, Australia, and Canada in the 1870s and 1880s. These universities had a mission to provide higher education relevant to their emerging communities and to expand the availability of that education.

"Many of them, including our University, are now among the most prestigious universities in the



Some of the many staff who attended the Vice-Chancellor's cocktail party.

world. They have shaped the way people learn, teach, research and serve in modern universities. We can be proud of a tradition that links us to this founding period and to the achievements of the past 125 years..."

"Here we are starting the year with this function for all staff to say thank you for your contribution to

this great institution and to wish everyone well for this year. Later in the year we will have a function for former staff and a town-gown function."

For more news of the Jubilee and for the full text of the Vice-Chancellor's speech, see [www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/uoa/history/125jubilee/125jubilee.cfm](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/uoa/history/125jubilee/125jubilee.cfm)

## Correction

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon would like to congratulate Associate Professor Papaarangi Reid, Deputy Dean (Māori) in Māori and Pacific Health, for her involvement with the development of Pūkawakawa, Northland Regional Rural Health Programme. Owing to editorial error, her name was not mentioned in the Vice-

Chancellor's column in University News, page 2, Issue 3, 22 February, 2008.

## Blessing of Owen G Glenn Building

From left to right are Hone Sadler (Māori Studies), Mufti Saddiqi, Javed Malik, John Komene, and Marama Wieldraaijer of Ngati Whatua at the

dawn blessing of the school. Ngati Whatua leader, Takutai Wikiriwhi, who is a Ratana Minister and Kaumatua of the University of Auckland and the Business School, prepared the ceremony. A greenstone, or pounamu kahurangi, sculpture was blessed by the ministers and given the name *Te Toka Kamaka o Waiparuru*. Each minister then led the blessing ritual on each floor of the building.

(Photo opposite page) ►



*Kath Clarke (standing) with HR managers from the Group of Eight. From left to right are Nigel Waugh and Mitch Bown from the University of Melbourne and Andrew Picouleau, Monash University.*

Human Resources directors and managers from the Group of Eight (Go8), a consortium of top Australian universities, met at The University of Auckland on 14 and 15 February.

The Group of Eight, formally incorporated in 1999, brings together the Australian National University, Monash University and the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, New South Wales, Queensland, Sydney and Western Australia.

For the last two years Human Resources at The University of Auckland has been invited to participate in the Go8 HR group meetings. Kath Clarke, Director of HR, says this aligns with the University's international strategy and its desire to benchmark internationally.

It is two years since Auckland last hosted a meeting, and it is particularly good to have had the opportunity to host the first one of the year, says Kath.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, opened the meeting, and members welcomed the

opportunity to speak with him.

The HR directors discussed four key topics: career development and workplace relations; organisational development and leadership development; recruitment, retention and remuneration; and HR policy and practice.

They also discussed the plans and programme for a higher education conference which is being organised by the Go8 and another Australian group and will take place in Sydney in April.

Kath has been asked to present a New Zealand perspective on international recruitment, leading the discussion with a colleague from the University of Virginia who will present a US perspective.

Go8 HR Directors group has been awarded \$1.3 million by the Australian Federal Government to develop a research leaders programme. The nine modules comprising this programme will be run in 2008 and 2009, and Kath is exploring the possibility of participation of staff from The University of Auckland.

## The Australian Apology: the importance of the symbolic

Australia's national day is 26 January. It commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and the establishment of European settlement. For many Aboriginal Australians, this day symbolises the demise of indigenous people, their land and culture. In 1938 on Australia Day, indigenous people staged a Day of Mourning and in 1988, a large group of Aboriginal protesters renamed it Invasion Day.

On 13 February 2008, 220 years later, another significant, symbolic, moment occurred in Australian history. Kevin Rudd, recently elected Labor Prime Minister, said sorry to the indigenous peoples of Australia. He apologised for past mistreatment, for the stolen generations, and for laws imposed on indigenous peoples that led to indignity and degradation. And while Rudd read, school children stopped and watched, workers sought out the giant screens set up all around the country, and others paused and listened to live radio broadcasts. Letters of support and heartfelt emotion poured into newspaper editors and Kevin Rudd's popularity reached 70 per cent.

Most commentators recognised the importance of this symbolic act as a step towards rectifying past wrongs and the start of a process of substantive reparation. Some Aboriginal leaders labelled it a noble step and an act of true reconciliation. Others, such as John Roughan, *NZ Herald*, have questioned the value of such symbolism.

Yet, symbolism matters in politics. Harnessing the symbolic is "part of the process of persuasion" by which it becomes possible to create public awareness and "reshape understandings".<sup>1</sup> And it regularly features in the repertoire of political leaders. In 2005, the Howard government disestablished the (comparatively small) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, an elected indigenous and administrative body charged with developing policy and administering programmes for indigenous people. This act symbolised a complete abandonment of the concepts of self-determination and indigenous rights, coming after his government's refusal to apologise to the stolen generations, and regressive amendments to the Native Title Act.

Kevin Rudd's apology was a symbolic act. But it is one that has been greeted with a sigh of relief and gratitude by many, indeed most Australians. Now his government needs to harness this renewed public awareness and implement policies to advance Aboriginal self-determination. And they should make 13 February Australia Day.

**Dr Jennifer Curtin (Political Studies)**

<sup>1</sup> M. Keck and K. Sikkink, 1998, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Cornell University Press, p. 22.



# New associate professors

## Michelle Glass (Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology)



Associate Professor Michelle Glass with her son Rohan.

I am a graduate of the University of Auckland, having received my PhD in 1995.

I then spent five years at the National Institutes of Health in USA before returning here to a lectureship. While I was completing my PhD the binding site (receptor) for cannabis in the brain was discovered. My PhD supervisors “encouraged” me to map this site in the human brain. They now like to remind me of how unenthusiastic I was about the project at the time, as it has become the cornerstone of my research career!

I now run a lab of eight people all focused on cannabis-like compounds and their role in brain function. We are particularly interested in how receptor expression in the brain is controlled and potentially altered in disease. We have been lucky enough to receive several Marsden grants over the past eight years to carry out this work.

In addition to teaching pharmacology, I am the Director of the Biomedical Sciences programme.

I love to hike and kayak, but right now most of my time outside of work is spent with my gorgeous 16-month-old son, Rohan.

## Renata Meyer (Statistics)



Associate Professor Renata Meyer.

I came to New Zealand in 1994 after completing a PhD in Statistics at the University of Aachen, Germany.

Since then, my research evolved from theoretical matrix preorderings in multivariate analysis to very applied research in Bayesian inference and Markov chain Monte Carlo methods.

I thoroughly enjoy the collaboration with scientists from other disciplines and most of my research projects have been highly interdisciplinary, ranging from survival analysis in medical statistics, analysing financial time series in econometrics, and state-space modelling for fisheries stock assessment to gravitational radiation data analysis in astrophysics.

Teaching undergraduate statistics courses is a lot of fun in our very collegial department but most enjoyable and rewarding is working together with my highly motivated postgraduate students.

My two youngest research assistants, though, do their very best to keep Mum from meeting important deadlines, submitting research proposals, writing papers, attending conferences, preparing for lectures and, worst of all, socialising with my colleagues. To fit in Playcentre, cricket games, bush walks, swimming etc, I have been working half-time since 2005.

I am very grateful to the department for flexible working hours and to my husband Kevin for his share in looking after the kids, the key factors for combining family and research.

## Judith Littleton (Anthropology)



Associate Professor Judith Littleton.

**My career began in archaeology.**

After graduating from the University of Sydney, I excavated on Bahrain (1981-85). That experience spurred my fascination with human remains so I went to the Australian National University to undertake a MA and PhD (1993) in biological anthropology, analysing prehistoric demography and health.

I then obtained a postdoctoral fellowship analysing eroding prehistoric burials in western New South Wales. The experience of working with Aboriginal communities and farmers fostered my interest in “living people” and moving to Auckland in 1998 allowed me to pursue that while maintaining prior projects. I have joint projects with

archaeologists in the department and with social scientists on the contemporary experience of TB.

My work focuses upon the political ecology of health – how economic and social organisation has a reciprocal relationship with individual health status.

I maintain burial projects in Australia and Bahrain as well as undertaking work when requested by iwi in New Zealand. Most recently I spent a season in Mongolia excavating with an international team.

I do however love being back in Auckland walking the dog (Maisy). She has introduced me to different areas of Auckland and to a very diverse set of friends.

## Martin Wilkinson (Health Systems)



Associate Professor Martin Wilkinson.

**I am a political philosopher who now teaches health care ethics.**

I am writing a book on the ethics of acquiring organs for transplantation. The topic raises interesting philosophical questions that are also relevant to policy – for instance about rights to control over our bodies and whether these persist beyond death or entitle us to sell our organs while alive.

I am interested too in problems in public health, such as how far people should be coerced or cajoled into being healthy. Much of my current research builds on my work, when a straight political philosopher, on various rights and paternalism.

One push into applied ethics came from my time on the University’s Human Subjects Ethics Committee, where all sorts of interesting problems arose, and this shows that not all university service is at the cost of one’s research. Currently, as Chair of the Bioethics Council, a ministerial advisory committee, I try to apply my philosophical skills to practical problems.

I enjoy competitive sport, lately indoor rowing, which offers a unique blend of effort and futility. Since being promoted, there has been a welcome reduction in pitying glances from my wife, already an associate professor here.

# From the collection

Described as “a woman of mettlesome and sparkling personality, with passionate intellectual and philosophical interests”, Gabrielle Hope had a career as a painter that lasted just two short decades.

Enrolling in classes at the Elam School of Fine Arts the day after her younger child began school in 1946, she said she chose watercolour as her medium because it dried quickly, meaning she could get her work cleared off the kitchen table before the family came home. Stylistically, her approach to painting wavered between Fauvism, Surrealism and Cubism before settling into a gestural Expressionist course.

Motifs and composition came from her surroundings. Absorbing lessons in paint from Frances Hodgkins, she loosened her brushwork and dissolved still life into landscape. Dreams surfaced in her work. She studied Chinese calligraphy, the Tao of painting, the poetry of W.B. Yeats, Buddhism and the mystic teachings of George Gurdjieff, and she went on painting excursions around Auckland with Robert Nettleton Field, Geoffrey Fairburn and Lincoln Lee.



By 1955, her work had been collected by the influential patron, Charles Brasch, and published by him in *Landfall*, as well as being acquired for public collections from the Auckland Society of Arts and from her dealer, Peter Webb.

Her inclusion in Colin McCahon’s nationally touring exhibition of five watercolour painters, which began at the Auckland Art Gallery in 1958, indicates how well-regarded her painting was in its time.

With her older friend, the painter Peggy Spicer,

## Art

she set up camp at Mt Tauhara near Taupo, in 1962. Captured by the spectre of the dormant volcano – its Māori name translates as “lonely mountain” – which rises to a height of over a thousand metres on the eastern side of Lake

Taupo, both artists painted many versions of the subject. Milled in the early twentieth century, Mt Tauhara’s second generation forest cover of kanuka, kamahi and bracken fern had been regenerating until a disastrous fire wiped out the regrowth.

This devastation is recorded here in one of the artist’s last works, with a palette of Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber and Lamp Black used to reveal the structure and colour of the volcanic landscape.

It has been suggested that Gabrielle Hope’s early death at the age of 46 years has led to her becoming one of the most unjustly neglected painters of her generation.

This work is included in the exhibition *Lyric Watercolours: Gabrielle Hope (1916-1962)* which will be on display at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 7 April.

Linda Tyler

*Gabrielle Hope, Mount Tauhara after fire, 1962  
Gouache on paper, 440 x 565mm  
The University of Auckland Art Collection.*

## Books

# Book brings together huge team



Left to right are Vicki Carpenter, Peter Roberts, Joce Jesson and Maxine Stephenson, the four editors of the publication. In the background to the left is a framed photo of contributor Emeritus Professor John Codd, of Massey University, who died on Christmas Day, 2007, before the book was published.

“What better way to start the year?” said Professor John Langley, Dean of the Faculty of Education, at a particularly warm and inclusive event held to launch a book of great significance to teacher education in New Zealand.

Entitled *Ngā Kaupapa Here: Connections and Contradictions in Education*, this book was published by CENGAGE Learning and edited by four of the faculty staff: Dr Vicki Carpenter, Dr Joce Jesson, Associate Professor Peter Roberts and Dr Maxine Stephenson (all from the School of Critical Studies in Education).

“This book,” said John Langley, “contributes to the process of nationhood, our understanding of each other, who we are, what we are and what we stand for.”

Head of School, Dr Airini, in introducing the speakers for the evening, spoke of the considerable effort required to bring together such a huge team. She gave tribute not only to the editors but also to the contributors, many of whom were drawn from within the Faculty of Education. Chapters were also contributed by academics from Bristol, Monash, and Massey Universities, and Eastern Institute of Technology.

Guest speaker was Emeritus Professor Ivan Snook, former Dean of Education at Massey University. He discussed chapter content, and

signalled the importance of the book, and the teacher education courses the book is intended to inform.

*Ngā Kaupapa Here* encourages students and practising teachers to analyse and critique the political and professional contexts that impact on their work and on students’ learning.

Its comprehensive text provides students with a contemporary and historical view of the relationship between educators, teachers and the state. It addresses questions of class, culture, ethnicity and gender. Contributors examine local and global influences on education in New Zealand, and show that social and economic trends affect the nature and direction of educational change. They also focus on the history of education, deeper philosophical and sociological questions, and theory-informed teacher practice.

Unique to this publication is the chapter written in Te Reo. This chapter explores the economic and political dimensions of education in indigenous cultures.

# Hood Fellow bound for Oxford

Professor Jillian Cornish (Medicine), with the help of a Hood Fellowship (generously supported by the Lion Foundation), will be travelling to Oxford University to further strengthen research links.

Jillian has been invited to take up a Visiting Professorship at the Botnar Research Institute at Oxford.

Already, she has established a formal collaboration with two researchers of that institute and is directing research on bone cell activity,

using complementary skills in biology of highly experienced researchers from Auckland and Oxford. Her time in Oxford will provide an opportunity for a more "hands-on" approach in directing the collaboration. While at Oxford, Jillian has been invited to present lectures at Oxford University and Nuffield Hospital, and will also visit another major UK bone research group at the University of Sheffield.

She has been asked to speak at the International

Bone and Mineral Society Scientific Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, and at the European Calcified Tissue Society Scientific meeting in Barcelona. She will also speak in the AgroParis Tech in France and at the University of Rome, with the intention of facilitating new collaborative projects. She has also been invited by the Head of the Institute of Experimental Medicine in St Petersburg, Russia, to lecture on lactoferrin and related research.

Jillian is away from early March to late May.

## What's on

### SATURDAY 8 MARCH

#### Exhibition talk

Dr Erin Griffey, Senior Lecturer in Art History at UoA will speak on Adele Youngusband's characterisation of the men and women of the 1930s. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Email [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)

### MONDAY 10 MARCH

#### Accounting and Finance Fair

10am-4pm Fale Pasifika, 20 Wynyard St. Talk one-on-one with representatives from medium to large, local and international companies within the accounting and finance industry. Explore career paths and prospects and gain an understanding of what skills, experience and personal qualities future employers seek.

#### Public lecture

Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers: *Finding and funding: Highlights in the career of an academic botanist*. 7pm Lecture Theatre OGG84, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd. Refreshments from 6.15pm.

### TUESDAY 11 MARCH

#### School of Music seminar

Dr Suzanne Aspden, University of Oxford: *'Let division reign'? Managing Faustina versus Cuzzoni*. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Queries to David Lines, [d.lines@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.lines@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Faculty of Education lunchtime seminar

Prof Larry Ludlow, Lynch School of Education, Boston College: *Surveying teacher education candidates' and graduates' perceptions and experiences*. 12.15-1.15pm J2 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus. Queries to [g.beston@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.beston@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Bioengineering research seminar

Dr AV (Sasha) Panfilov, Theoretical Biology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands: *Integrative computer modelling in cardiac electrophysiology*. 4-5pm Rm 421 W-301, ALR5, Architecture.

#### Faculty of Education research seminar

Professor Marilyn Cochran-Smith, John E. Cawthorne Millennium Chair in Teacher Education, Boston College: *Teacher education for social justice*. 4.15-5.15pm J2 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus. Queries to [g.beston@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.beston@auckland.ac.nz)

#### First Sir Douglas Robb lecture 2008 "The uses of the university" revisited.

Prof Sheldon Rothblatt, University of California, Berkeley: *"Born to have no rest and to give none to others": The origins and history of the multiversity*. 7pm Lecture Theatre 260-098, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free. All welcome. Parking \$5 in lower levels of Owen G Glenn Bldg.

### WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH

#### Law distribution day

Day one. 9am-4pm Great Hall, ClockTower. Information from medium to large, local and international law firms on display. Explore career paths and prospects (including summer work/internships and graduate positions) and gain an understanding of what skills, experience and personal qualities future employers seek.

#### Chair in History seminar

Assoc-Prof Linda Bryder, UoA: *'What women want': Women's activism and childbirth services, 1930s-1980s*. 1pm Rm 107, Centre for Pacific Studies, Wynyard St.

#### Chair in History seminar

Prof Jonathan Scott, University of Pittsburgh: *'When the waves ruled Britannia: Geography, empire, and the discipline of the sea'*. 3pm Rm 107, Centre for Pacific Studies, Wynyard St.

#### Hood Fellow Lecture

Prof Andrew Matus: *Can molecules explain minds?* 6pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. All welcome. Drinks from 5.30pm, social function following the lecture at 7pm.

#### Auckland Branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy meeting

Simon Hope, Philosophy Dept, UoA: *Common law rights and Māori political claims*. 6pm Algie Lecture Theatre, Bldg 801, Faculty of Law. Queries to Jim Evans, email [pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 13 MARCH

#### Law distribution day

Day two. 9am-4pm Great Hall, ClockTower.

#### Faculty of Education lunchtime seminar

Prof Marilyn Cochran-Smith, John E. Cawthorne Millennium Chair in Teacher Education, Boston College: *Holding teacher education accountable for students' learning*. 12.15-1.15pm J2 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus. Queries to [g.beston@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.beston@auckland.ac.nz)

#### General Staff Managers Forum

4-5pm Federation Rm, OGH. The first forum for 2008. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or [je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Second Sir Douglas Robb lecture 2008. "The uses of the university" revisited.

Prof Sheldon Rothblatt, University of California, Berkeley: *The multiversity and democratic dilemmas*. 7pm Lecture Theatre 260-098, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free. All welcome.

### SATURDAY 15 MARCH

#### Neurological open day

10.30am-3pm Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. An insight into current neuroscience and clinical research activities at the UoA. Queries to the Neurological Foundation of NZ on (0508) BRAINS (0508 272467).

#### Exhibition talk

Jo Drayton, author of the acclaimed biography of Frances Hodgkins, will discuss Hodgkins' work in relation to the paintings of Gabrielle Hope. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

### TUESDAY 18 MARCH

#### Forum on the modern university and its discontents

12-2pm FGW Rm, OGH. Prof Sheldon Rothblatt is giving the 2008 Robb lectures entitled "The uses of the university" revisited". One of his books is entitled 'The Modern University and its Discontents'. This forum will be an open session of questions and answers based on his first two lectures, but not restricted to this; other matters relating to universities and their perceived role can be raised. Chaired by Professor John Morrow, Dean of Arts. All staff are invited to attend. Bring your lunch. Tea, coffee and juice provided.

#### Final Sir Douglas Robb lecture 2008 "The uses of the university" revisited.

Prof Sheldon Rothblatt, University of California, Berkeley: *"A Thyeanean banquet of claptrap": Culture and the soul of the multiversity*. 7pm Lecture Theatre 260-098, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free. All welcome.

#### Department of Psychology seminar

Prof Roger Thompson, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster PA, USA: *Nature's Turing test*. 1pm HSB 604. Queries to Mike Corballis, ext 88561 or [m.corballis@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.corballis@auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH

#### Faculty of Education seminar

Dr Julia Hirst PhD, BSc (Hons), PGCE,

Sheffield Hallam University, UK: *Pathways into parenthood: Critical reflections from three generations of young mothers and fathers*. 12.15-1.15pm Rm N356, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus. For further information please email [j.hirst@shu.ac.uk](mailto:j.hirst@shu.ac.uk)

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

#### Modern two-bedroom apartment

with secure carpark. Available early April. 5-10 minute walk from UoA. Suitable university staff. Stunning harbour views. Whiteware included. \$450 pw. Phone 820-0143 or email [tab@vodafone.net.nz](mailto:tab@vodafone.net.nz)

**Room to rent**, available now. Shared kitchen, two bathrooms, large garden etc in Mt Albert. Frequent buses/good bus route to University. Off-street carparking. \$200 pw includes expenses. Phone (09) 630-5303.

**Stylish three-bedroom townhouse in Epsom**. Available to rent, fully-furnished from 15 July to 15 Dec (approx). 15 minutes by bus or car from University. Ideal for visitors. For details and photos see [#34568](http://www.sabbaticalhomes.com). Phone Mike on 630-1565.

#### Swedish postdoctoral researcher

in disability law visiting University of Auckland 14 March-18 April seeks flatmate to share accommodation costs. Furnished Unilodge apartment. Rent \$225 pw. Please email Richard Sahlin at [Richard.Sahlin@juridicum.su.se](mailto:Richard.Sahlin@juridicum.su.se)

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**Quiet mature woman** and mature, well-behaved cat seek quiet one-two bdrm unfurnished flat. Please phone 373-7599 ext 89054 or (021) 590-788 or email [v.parslow@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:v.parslow@auckland.ac.nz) Flat does not need to be available immediately.

**Unfurnished two-bedroom town house or villa** required from early April 2008 for 6-12 months. Preferred location Mt Eden and surrounds. Ph 373-5537.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**International travel insurance**. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uni-Care Educational Travel Insurance, 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)

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).