

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

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Sharing the accolades



From left to right: Dr Garth Carnaby, President of the RSNZ, Dr Di McCarthy, Chief Executive of the RSNZ, Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter and his wife, Karin Nielsen. (Photo: Chris Miller).

“Let me show you a picture that says it all.” Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter brings up one of his favourite images on his computer screen: a photographic montage of 50 or more graduate students in the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI).

“This,” says Peter, looking at the young faces beaming back at him from his PC, “is the future of the New Zealand economy – bright young people working in an environment where they can be highly productive, both in terms of science and commercial outcomes. Look at the cultural diversity and the dozens of different disciplines they represent,” he enthuses. “Young people like these are our biggest asset.”

So why is finding funding for “New Zealand’s greatest resource” so extraordinarily difficult? laments Peter, the Director of the ABI. “Helping graduate students get into research through PhD scholarships is the biggest problem our institute faces. New Zealand does a good job in many respects with science, but it seriously under-funds student scholarships.”

By the time the *News* catches up with Peter, the world-renowned biomedical engineer has had his

fill of interviews. He has just received the Rutherford Medal – the Royal Society of New Zealand’s highest scientific honour – and it’s fair to say he didn’t enjoy the media limelight one little bit. “There’s been a really big focus on me because of the Rutherford, but in reality the ABI is large team of people. I’m the lucky one who helped them set up, but they should share in the recognition.”

Around 150 people work in the ABI, perhaps best known for its ground-breaking modelling of the human heart. That modelling has given the world a far better understanding of the heart’s mechanics and is now finding its way into a variety of applications. The ABI’s Professor Nic Smith, for example, heads a €12 million European consortium project, called euHeart, at the University of Oxford, “where models from here are being used over there and there’s a constant stream of interchange”, says Peter. Many of the students in the Oxford team, by the way, are Kiwis.

Back in Auckland, it is Associate Professor Alistair Young and Dr Brett Cowan (ABI and Anatomy with Radiology) who lead the application

of the models to the interpretation of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) data – applications which Auckland City Hospital’s clinicians use. “Alistair and Brett have led the clinical side of the cardiac work for years and have done a wonderful job of translating the models into software that’s useable by cardiologists.”

The ABI’s Deputy Director, Associate Professor Bruce Smaill, the overall leader of the cardiac team has, with Associate Professor Ian Le Grice (ABI and Physiology), led the experimental side. “Ian has been absolutely crucial in the understanding of the cardiac structure.

“There are lots of other groups as well, of course,” Peter adds. Associate Professor Poul Nielsen (ABI and Engineering Science), for example, has directed CellML, “a way of encoding models which allows them to be reused and is now the world-wide standard for cell modelling”, explains Peter. (Think of it as computer “language” for cells.)

Associate Professor Martyn Nash (ABI and Engineering Science), with Poul, leads the ABI’s breast modelling work – once again, the world-leader with respect to understanding how to better interpret breast tumours.

Newly elected Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Professor Andrew Pullan (ABI and Engineering Science), leads the institute’s research on the digestive system. Dr Duane Malcolm steers the ABI spin-off company, eBonz, currently conducting research into electrotherapy for a major United States healthcare company. Dr Kumar Mithraratne is working with Weta Workshop to develop improved models for representing facial expressions. Meanwhile, Dr Merryn Tawhai, an acknowledged world leader in lung modelling, in particular paediatric lungs, is “doing a fabulous job not only on the science side, but also on the people side of engaging major groups around the world in a collaborative effort on lung work”, says Peter.

Peter lists many other individuals within the ABI, alas, too many to mention here. With so much happening within the institute, what is his biggest challenge?

“Maintaining collegiality – ensuring people don’t just think about themselves and their areas. To build critical mass, you’ve got to build collegial environments and you’ve got to have international partners.”

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From the Vice-Chancellor

My last column for 2009 provides the opportunity to reflect on the University's progress during the year and to acknowledge Council, staff and students for their contributions and support.

This has not been an easy year for universities around the world. The global recession has led to major funding cuts, a decline in earnings from philanthropic sources and staffing reductions in many universities. We too have seen a slowing in philanthropic support, although the total gifts to our *Leading the Way Campaign* have risen from \$48 million to \$57 million. I am grateful to all those who have contributed in this way, particularly as the campaign focuses on supporting our most important asset, our people.

Despite the recession, our research has continued to flourish, with total research income rising to an impressive \$205 million, including a 14 percent increase in UniServices' income. This is an outstanding result and a testimony to the quality of our researchers. The most obvious example of that quality, and of the connection of basic research to real outcomes, is Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter, 2009 winner of the Rutherford Medal, New Zealand's top science honour. On the teaching front, two of our outstanding young teachers, Rachel Fewster and Paul Denny, won National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, continuing our tradition of winning one of these awards in every year since they were inaugurated in 2002.

We have also continued to make major investment in the University's infrastructure, most notably in the \$240 million upgrade of the Grafton Campus; in the Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology; and in the Student Management, Research+ and timetabling systems.

Although there are claims that "green shoots" are appearing in the economy, New Zealand's weakened economic position and ongoing pressure on public funding mean that next year is also likely to be one of considerable pressure on universities. Nevertheless, I continue to be impressed by the resilience of this organisation, and by our ability to stick to our strategies and values, despite the buffeting of the external environment.

As this somewhat difficult, but nonetheless productive year draws to a close, Deborah and I wish you and your families a restful and safe Christmas break. Next year promises further challenges, but with the contribution and support of each of you the University will, I am sure, continue to flourish.



General Staff Excellence Awards



The Career Services team.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 General Staff Excellence Awards. These awards recognise and celebrate the value that colleagues place on the nominees' contributions to their departments and to the University as a whole.

The awards were presented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, at a ceremony held on 26 November, with citations read by Registrar Tim Greville.

Anatol Bogun (Centre for Educational Design and Development, Faculty of Education) won the award for Excellence in Innovation. Anatol led the technological implementation, customisation, improvement and maintenance of the online learning management system (LMS) Moodle.

Louise Moffatt (New Zealand Eye Bank, Ophthalmology) won the Excellence in Leadership award. Louise has developed the New Zealand Eye Bank (NZEB) into an organisation that is well respected within the corneal and eye banking community and has raised the profile of the service internationally.

The AskHR Team (Human Resources) was honoured for Excellence in Teamwork. The team has been the primary point of contact for the new PeopleSoft HR system, dealing with over 34,000 inquiries during the year since its launch.

John Baek (Anatomy with Radiology) won the award for Excellence in Contribution to Research and Creative Work. John has been essential to the international success of the Auckland MRI Research Group, with a track record that includes grants, awards and a successful commercialisation.

Viral Shah (Innovative Learning Technologies Unit, Business School) won the Excellence in

Contribution to Teaching and Learning award. Viral created an inexpensive, simple, enterprise-wide solution for lecture-theatre recording that can be easily used by lecturers and tutors at any site within or outside the University.

Angela Smith (University Careers Services) was honoured for Excellence in Contribution to the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Angela was integral to the development and launch of the "Successful Māori careers role models" posters and, in particular, their translation into Te Reo Māori.

Two awards were presented in the Excellence in Contribution to Engagement with Communities category. Richard Harvey (Centre for Continuing Education) was honoured for reworking the centre's branding, online presence and tabloid of courses.

Margaret Woolgrove, Robert Carter and Neil Morrison (Faculty of Science, Centre for Academic Development) were rewarded for their work on the MathsReach website for teachers, school students and careers advisers, which aims to show how maths is all around us and a part of everyday life.

Shalveen Ballu, Myriam Benito, Omar Fahmy, James Hairsine, Usha Jacobs, Susan Sum and Brad Weekly (Business School) received the award for Excellence in Contribution to Excellent People for their work on the Business School Staff Council.

Ian Jones, Ursula Loots, Janet Austin and Upeksha Amarathunga (Library) won the award for Excellence in Contribution to Resourcing and Organising for Quality for their work on CoMRAD - the Course Materials Request Administration Database.

Samoa relief effort

A team from the Faculty of Engineering volunteered its time to assist with the reconstruction of Samoa following the September tsunami.

Six academics, PhD and undergraduate engineering students travelled to the south-eastern parts of Upolu in mid-October to survey damage. They are all volunteers with Resilient Organisations, which brings together New Zealand academics to assist countries to recover from major disasters.

Stuart Mitchell, an engineer based at UniServices, says the group is working on ways to speed up the rebuilding of housing and infrastructure; guidelines to equip locals with the knowledge to rebuild; and help with early warning systems for earthquakes and tsunamis. Members plan to return to Samoa in the New Year. The group estimates it could take up to six years before the island nation fully recovers from the tsunami.

Sir Peter Gluckman on science

“What impact would science have on New Zealand if our universities and Crown Research Institutes housed not just one, but 50 Peter Hunters?” That was one of the many questions Professor Sir Peter Gluckman (Liggins Institute) posed during his public lecture “The evolution of science: Where is New Zealand going?” at the Maidment Theatre last month.

Sir Peter, the Chief Science Adviser (CSA) to the Prime Minister, stressed that New Zealand urgently needed an aggressive strategy to attract and retain the best entrepreneurial scientists. And he pointed to Singapore – a country which only a generation ago collected foreign aid from New Zealand – as an example of a nation that had transformed itself into an international hub for leading scientific minds.

He was currently writing a report on the talent issue for the Prime Minister, he said.

Sir Peter, the first appointee to the newly created, non-executive role of CSA, highlighted the mind-shift happening inside government. “There is more intense focus on the science system now than there has been for well over a decade,” he said. The attention reflected growing realisation that expenditure on science represented an investment in our country’s future rather than a cost.

“There is probably not a ministry or agency of the Crown for which science and the scientific approach are not important or indeed critical,” the self-confessed “Darwin nut” told University staff, students and colleagues from AUT University. Using Darwin’s discovery of evolution to illustrate the unpredictable rewards of doing science, he said not even Darwin himself could have recognised how his findings would impact on so many disciplines.

Agri-food conference

Two out of five Europeans believe the food they eat may damage their health, found the 2006 Eurobarometer survey of 25,000 people in the European Union. Meanwhile, Britons are no less anxious about their tucker than the Continentals. Anxieties about healthy eating rank in their top five concerns – ahead of global warming, according to a 2007 British Food Standards Agency survey.

Professor Peter Jackson from the University of Sheffield conveyed these rather startling findings to the international Agri-food XVI Conference held at the University late last month in his keynote lecture, “Consumer anxieties about food: A moral economy perspective”.

The paradox was that food supplies are arguably safer now than they have ever been, asserted Peter, who is leading the European Research Council-funded project, “Consumer anxieties about food”.

“If you think historically there are underlying questions about anxiety as a social condition. At some points we may be anxious about terrorism, another moment about food...Part of the question is why now? And why food?”

The 2009 Agri-food Research Network conference lured delegates from around the world,

To date, Sir Peter’s advisory role has largely focused on addressing four key questions: why should New Zealand undertake research; how should a small country distant from markets and global populations undertake research; how should we take that research to scale; and how should New Zealand place its scientific investment priorities? “We’re only four million people so we have to make choices.” We need to pinpoint “the research domains that will transform New Zealand, for we need a transformational rather than incremental strategy”.

Now the Government has formulated a set of 13 strategic priorities for publicly funded science – “the first time we have had general principles”, which Sir Peter outlined.

Among the many areas which needed addressing was how to leverage science not just nationally, but so that we are relevant to the world and so that our knowledge-based industries can get to scale, he said. Another was the country’s run-down scientific infrastructure. For example, “our deep-sequencing capacity nationally is less than what might be in a single laboratory in, say, Singapore”. It concerned him that too few scientists, technologists and academics sat on companies’ boards in this country. “New Zealand businesses have got too focused on a mix of lawyers and accountants running their businesses.

“The Prime Minister has repeatedly stated his belief that science is going to be central to New Zealand’s innovation strategy...The consequent readjustments will require many of us to move beyond our comfort zones, but we cannot squander this opportunity.” Sir Peter’s full lecture notes are published on www.pmcsa.org.nz An audio recording is at <http://tinyurl.com/ydhc49a>

says Professor Richard Le Heron (School of Environment). This year’s programme featured papers as diverse as “Sell banks, buy cheese: The global financial crisis and farmland investment in developed countries” to “The regulation and de-regulation of New Zealand’s commercial fisheries since 1970”.

“We’re an inter-disciplinary group committed to creating a knowledge space for critical engagement over agriculture and food issues,” explained Richard.

During his visit to New Zealand, Peter Jackson remarked that New Zealand and Australia had an excellent reputation for this kind of work. The Agri-food Research Network was a renowned group, which had a distinctive approach. “People don’t come here to grandstand. They come here to dialogue.” The network had good connections to policy-makers and to the commercial sector. “There’s an openness and receptiveness to it, which is great.”

In brief ...

Rhodes to bioengineering

Engineering student Richard Stebbing has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford where he will study for a DPhil degree in biomedical engineering. The 20-year-old, who has a passion for medical imaging, hopes to work with Oxford’s Biomedical Image Analysis Group on image-guided therapy, analysing tissue elasticity for detecting cancers and assessing heart health.

Pacific connections

Seminars on “Indigenous peoples and the state” in the context of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples presented by the NZ Centre for Latin American Studies took place late last month.

The seminars focused on the concepts of self-determination and indigenous sovereignty in the areas of law, media and human rights – and coincided with a visit by Professor José Aylwin from the Universidad Austral, in Valdivia, Chile, to the University’s Faculty of Law.

Professor Aylwin co-founded Indigenous Rights Watch and Citizens’ Rights Watch, two Chilean NGOs dedicated to the promotion and defence of indigenous rights within the larger context of human rights. The seminar “Constitutionalising citizens’ and indigenous peoples’ rights” saw Mike Smith, Kingi Snelgar (Law) and Professor Aylwin discuss the new constitutions of Bolivia and Ecuador in the context of the debate in Aotearoa for a written constitution. The other seminars addressed: the right to media representation, indigenous sovereignty and media in Aotearoa; and human rights case studies from several Latin American countries.

New HRC funding

Eagerly awaited decisions about who will be invited to submit full proposals for the second round of the application process for the Health Research Council’s new Investment Signal funding will be announced on 16 December.

The Investment Signal Research for the New Zealand Health Delivery (RNZHD) fund comprises a \$25 million targeted funding stream to be allocated to successful projects over the next three years. It’s aimed at research which can improve the productivity, performance and organisation of the health sector. The focus of the new funding reflects the growing need to develop a highly trained and sustainable health sector workforce.

Staff have their say on sustainability



Seventy staff members shared their ideas for shaping the University into a world leader in sustainability research and teaching at a workshop held at the Fale Pasifika on 30 November.

"We had an amazing variety of different disciplines attend. We invited people to come, not so much as representatives of their respective areas, but as people who cared about moving the University forward in terms of sustainability," said Dr Lesley Stone, the University's Sustainability and Environmental Coordinator.

Staff shared their vision for what a truly sustainable University might look like in the future and how those visions might be realised. The ensuing discussions generated "a huge number of ideas about what the University can do".

Dr Glen Lauder, an independent facilitator from the company, Commonground, wrapped up the seminar by asking everyone to complete the sentence, "As I leave here today I am committed to...".

"Out of that exercise we got maybe 40 concrete steps that individuals have committed themselves to doing personally to help within their working environments. And out of those flow the steps the University can take to support them," said Lesley.

The workshop was the first in a series of three to be held at the University on the Universitas 21 Statement of Sustainability. And if you haven't grasped the thrust of what the U21 Sustainability Project is all about yet, well, it's one of the biggest news stories around the University right now.

An international network of 21 research-led universities have signed the U21 statement and in so doing committed themselves to improving how their university delivers sustainability. "The statement acknowledges the huge challenges out there and that achieving a sustainable way of life is a race against time and that we need unity of purpose and of leadership," said Lesley.

"It recognises the role universities need to play in bequeathing a sustainable world to future generations, not only in terms of teaching and research, but also as citizens. By engaging with outside groups, including industry, government and civil society, we can all help advance sustainability."

In the quest to make sustainability a reality, the statement outlines five commitments for universities to focus their attentions on: research towards a sustainable future; education for sustainability; leading by example (or "using the University as a living laboratory" as Lesley put it); emphasising citizenship and engagement; and building capacity through cross-network collaboration.

The University's first round of U21 initiatives is funded by the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund. One of those initiatives centres on building staff consensus on the actions "we", as opposed to "the University", need to implement to meet the teaching and research aspects of the statement, said Lesley. "Building consensus is essentially what these workshops are all about.

"We have funding to develop a proposal for a collaborative research effort. We're talking loosely about creating a research centre of excellence, but what it will look like depends on what comes out of the workshops."

The U21 Steering Group also has funding for networking with other New Zealand universities and for hosting an international symposium, which would bring together university leaders in sustainability.

The ideas and information gleaned from November's workshop will form the basis of the action-planning that will happen in the New Year's U21 workshops on 9 and 17 February. "We will be drilling down into the detail of what needs to happen to achieve the things we've identified so far." For more information go to www.auckland.ac.nz/environment



Jenny Chu

In Copenhagen

John Key's in. Barack Obama's a "maybe" (at the time of writing). But Engineering and Law student, Jenny Chu, is a definite. The 21-year-old has already flown to Copenhagen to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference as a member of the New Zealand Youth Delegation.

The Sir Peter Blake Trust donated a Team New Zealand spinnaker to the delegation, which they took around the country as part of their public awareness campaign prior to departing for Copenhagen. Young New Zealanders wrote messages on it expressing their concerns about climate change, which the Kiwi youth delegation will present to the New Zealand delegation at the conference. "We're literally taking the voice of Kiwi youth to Copenhagen," said Jenny.

The New Zealand Youth Delegation comprises 12 delegates aged between 17 and 26. Jenny is the only university student from the Auckland region attending.

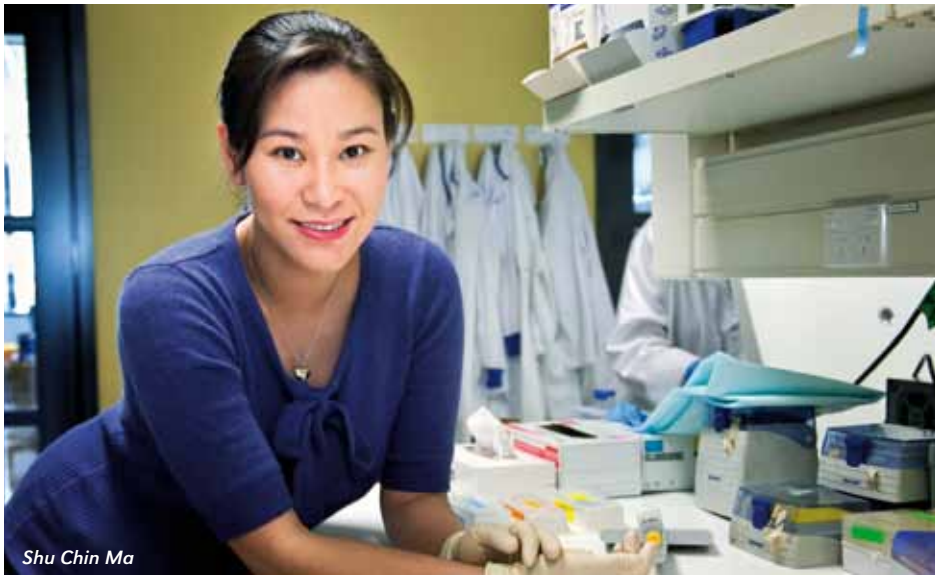
"We will link in with other youth delegations from around the world. We will keep the pressure up on negotiators and politicians to take our views into consideration. And we will relay information from the conference back to New Zealand." For live feedback go to www.youthdelegation.org.nz

Get up and go

If you fondly remember converting your car to CNG during the Rob Muldoon era – when generous subsidies made it worth your while – then perk up: revolutionary new CNG technology looks set to make the dream of driving on cheap, green, clean CNG a reality again.

Back in the 1980s, New Zealand was the world's leading pioneer in natural gas vehicles. That said, retrofitting a CNG fuel system to your car did have its drawbacks: your vehicle didn't perform as well; the CNG tank had a pretty short range; and your engine didn't always want to start on cold mornings!

Little wonder CNG never did overtake petrol as the people's fuel of choice, despite being very economical. "In the 1980s, the CNG fuel technology was mechanically based and it wasn't very efficient," says Dr Shu Chin Ma, the Gus Fisher Fellow currently working with Professor Mike Dragunow (Pharmacology) and Professor Richard Faull (Centre for Brain Research).



Shu Chin Ma

Cars have moved on since then, of course. Today's vehicles run on an electronically based on-board diagnostics control system. But although CNG technology has advanced to the electronic era, converting a modern car to CNG still requires extensive engine modifications.

Now that looks set to change. Enter the Eco-Rhider (Electronically Controlled Retrofit High Driving performance) conversion system, developed by Nova Eco-Tech, an eco-fuel company co-founded by Shu Chin and her husband, Gordon Hain.

"Our system doesn't require any engine modification and it can interact with the on-board diagnostics to deliver superior performance," says Shu Chin. What's more, the system also operates on bio-gas, which can be harvested from waste products.

Commercially-scaled beta-testing of the conversion system is due for completion in April 2010.

Their company was accepted into the ICEHOUSE Accelerator programme in June and they have been working with technology venture development organisation Pacific Channel to have their "baby" investment-ready for final development and market entry in 2010.

The technology is Gordon's brainchild, says Shu Chin.

As if being the Gus Fisher Fellow (inducing human neuronal cells to behave like those in the brains of Parkinson's disease sufferers and looking at how different neural factors react to drugs) isn't enough to keep her busy, Shu Chin retains a close involvement in Nova Eco-Tech.

At the New Zealand Global Entrepreneurship Week last month, the Eco-Rhider collected the award for overall winner in the CleanTech competition.

"I wish New Zealand would reinstate the infrastructure to encourage car conversion again so we can reduce our reliance on imported fuel," says Shu Chin.

Shu Chin has a high-octane background of her own. She graduated with first class honours in Chemical and Materials Engineering from the University; received her masters in Biomedical Engineering from Cornell University; her MPhil and PhD from Yale University and worked with two biotechnology companies before returning to the University to take up her current fellowship.

School of...

What's in a name? Quite a lot, actually. The former School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science has renamed itself The School of Environment in a move which signifies its intention to become a more integrated body.

"Our former three-barrelled name connoted very much a 'silo effect' and we wanted to break away from that," explains Professor Glenn McGregor, Director of the school. "Having a single-barrelled name was one step in that direction."

The school's academic programmes haven't changed, but along with the name change it is taking the opportunity to discuss new themes for research. "Globalising processes", "Pacific futures" and "Environmental change" are just a few of the working titles up for consideration.

"Notice we are The School of Environment, not The School of the Environment," points out Glenn. "There's a subtle difference. The addition of the word 'the' would imply we were focusing on the biophysical aspects of the earth. Whereas we hope our new name conveys our interest in the forces and factors that shape the earth's surface and shape people's lives. It reflects our place in contemporary social science thinking."

2010 calendar

The University's poster calendar for 2010 features scenes from graduation and comes with a useful wall-planner on the back.

Order it from Communications and Marketing, Level 10, Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant (ext 87467, ke.jackson@auckland.ac.nz). Staff wanting both the poster calendar and the wall-planner are welcome to two copies.



Is Christmas pagan?

That question looks like a no-brainer. The clear answer is "yes". We don't have to go much beyond Christmas trees and mistletoe to become aware of likely pagan roots to significant Christmas trappings. And, of course, stuff like reindeer and Santa have no real place in the Christian story.

Christmas was not celebrated on 25 December – or at any time – by the Church in its first centuries. The first evidence for a 25 December Christmas comes from the middle of the fourth century AD, a time when Church, State and society were starting to fuse (previously they had stood in opposition). Why did they opt for 25 December? We can only guess, but it might be a Christian substitute for the Saturnalia festival or for a celebration of the sun (at the time of the winter solstice). The Christian Church certainly showed willingness from around that time to rework aspects of paganism so that they became "Christian" in nature.

In the sixteenth century, radical Protestant reformers held that many Catholic practices had degenerated into superstition. This led to a questioning of Christmas in some quarters as a Christian celebration. In early New England, colonial administrators erected a sign: "PUBLIC NOTICE: The observation of Christmas having been deemed a Sacrilege, the exchanging of Gifts and Greetings, dressing in Fine Clothing, Feasting and similar Satanical Practices are hereby FORBIDDEN with the offender liable to a fine of FIVE SHILLINGS."

This sort of attitude spilled over into nineteenth-century New Zealand, especially in Otago. Catholics and Anglicans were all for celebrating Christmas. Presbyterians and smaller Nonconformist groups were opposed. The Reverend John Christie, in preaching at Waikouaiti on 25 December 1892, was at pains to note that he was preaching that day because it was Sunday, not because it was Christmas. In his view, the celebration of Christmas had no biblical warrant; it was linked with "Popery and Prelacy"; and it was a festival of "heathen" origin. It was only in 1932 that his denomination (Presbyterian) officially approved the observance of Christmas.

Should Christians today observe a festival which is both a pagan import and currently being swamped by rampant commercialism? What a Scrooge question to ask! Contemporary Christmas may currently be missing the transcendent half of the celebration of Christ's birth – Christmas means God in this world. But at least the contemporary Christmas has got the other half – goodwill to all people. In a sometimes hard and individualistic world, here is one day when hearts soften, when family and other relationships become vital, when hundreds of volunteers feed the lonely and destitute in City Mission-type dinners. That alone outweighs the paganism and commercialism.

Goodwill to all people – a wonderful half of Christmas. And a Merry Christmas to you all.

(My thanks to Alison Clarke for her writings on early Otago.)

Laurie Guy, Carey Baptist College
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Keeping ancient technology alive

“When technology becomes obsolete for industry it becomes available for art.”

So said Marshall McLuhan, the author of *The Gutenberg Galaxy* and *Understanding Media* – or at least he uttered words to that effect.

The same philosophy underpins The Holloway Press, says the press’s Director, Dr Peter Simpson.

The Holloway Press was set up by the University in 1994 to publish letterpress-printed texts with unusual literary, artistic, scholarly or historical interest, which wouldn’t make it into commercial print. But The Holloway Press does something else besides: it keeps ancient printing technologies alive.

“Computer typesetting and modern automatic presses almost immediately rendered obsolete the metal types and hand-fed letterpress machines that were essentially the same technology as those invented by Gutenberg in the fifteenth century although, of course, presses were motorised during the Industrial Revolution,” says Peter.

The Holloway Press’s main printer, Tara McLeod, uses a hand-fed Littlejohn cylinder proofing press dating from the 1950s. “Such machines were simply abandoned when computer typesetting became available, but were snapped up by enthusiasts of letterpress printing because of the high quality printing they enable,” explains Peter.

The press’s newest publication, *Body English*,

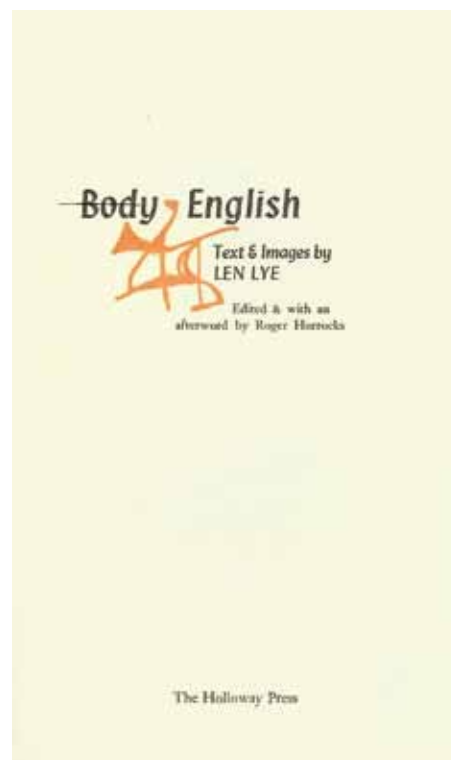
by the radical New Zealand film-maker, kinetic sculptor and writer, Len Lye, edited by Emeritus Professor Roger Horrocks, was typeset by Auckland printing business, Longley Printing Company, in 12 point Granjon, a 1928 linotype font named after a sixteenth-century French type designer, with titles handset in 18 point Lydian italic. “We make use of many local craftsmen who practise the traditional ways of making books,” points out Peter.

Within *Body English* 10 previously unpublished “doodles”, as Lye called his lively drawings, are printed from photopolymer plates made by Inline Graphics.

Tara printed the pages on Evergreen ivory text 104gsm and the books were bound by Design Bind, Auckland. A 1938 photograph of Lye was tipped in as a frontispiece.

Because creating such books uses more expensive materials and more labour-intensive processes, they inevitably cost more than commercially manufactured books, says Peter. *Body English* sells for \$250, but with only 150 copies printed, it’s certain to become a collector’s piece. “Fortunately there is an audience for such fine printing in limited, signed, editions.

“In some letterpress printed books the contents are of secondary importance, but we believe that it is only worth taking infinite pains with design and production if the contents are of a standard to justify all the effort involved – as is definitely



the case with the previously unpublished Lye material made available through Roger Horrocks’ outstanding scholarship.” For more information see www.hollowaypress.auckland.ac.nz

Chinese cultural centre opens



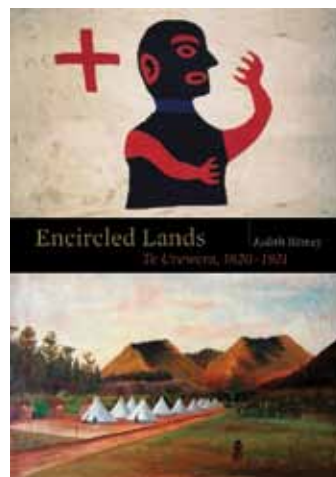
Pupils from Parnell District School formed a welcome avenue for the Vice-Chancellor and the guests who attended the opening of the Chinese Cultural Centre.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and China’s Deputy Consul General, Mr Li Yongquan, cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Confucius Institute’s Chinese Cultural Centre, housed in the Business School.

Children learning Chinese at the Parnell District School formed a welcome avenue for guests from the Chinese and New Zealand communities who attended the event on 12 November.

The centre is home to a beautiful collection of antique Chinese furniture and artefacts donated by Mrs Wai Loo Chan and her late husband, as well as an extensive collection of reading materials and Chinese language resources. These are available for viewing by staff members, teachers and Friends of the Confucius Institute from 9.30am to 3pm on Mondays and 11am to 5pm on Tuesdays.

Books



Encircled Lands by Judith Binney

For Europeans during the nineteenth century, the Urewera was a remote and savagely enticing wilderness; for Tūhoe (and others) who lived there it was a sheltering heartland. Now this remarkable new book, *Encircled Lands: Te Urewera, 1820-1921*, by Emeritus Professor Dame Judith Binney (History), documents the first hundred years of Te Rohe Pōtae o Te Urewera – the encircled lands of the Urewera – following European contact. In so doing, Dame Judith brings forth new historical understandings of the Urewera, its people and their stories. (Rrp \$79.99)

New director for Māori research



Dr Charles Te Ahukaramū Royal is the first full-time Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the Māori Centre of Research Excellence.

Dr Charles Te Ahukaramū Royal is packing up and shifting his family from Wellington to Auckland over Christmas to become the first full-time Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the Māori Centre of Research Excellence, based at the University.

The highly acclaimed researcher, composer and leading creative Māori thinker says that in his new role he will spend much of 2010 consolidating the growth and successes of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

The centre, founded in 2002, supports Māori scholars, community members and international academics in research and research applications. It met an early goal of creating 500 new Māori PhDs ahead of target and has seen its research

projects widely published in the international media and scientific journals.

Charles says that in the longer term his vision is “to model excellence in indigenous creativity. By that I mean conduct research that is valuable to the nation overall and internationally, and has good international standing, but which is directly relevant to Maori communities and particularly the transformation of those communities.”

Dr Royal, who belongs to the Ngāti Raukawa, Marutūahu and Ngā Puhī peoples, has written and edited several books on Māori song poetry, research and tribal history; composed works for orchestra and chamber pieces; and more recently composed works through “Ōrotokare: Art, Story, Motion”, the theatre and performing arts organisation he founded.

He was the Director of Graduate Studies and Research at Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa between 1996 and 2002; a New Zealand Senior Fulbright Scholar and a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow in 2001; and a research resident at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center, Bellagio, Italy, in 2004. Previously, he has been a member of the board of Fulbright New Zealand and is currently a trustee of the SOUNZ New Zealand Music Centre. He has also been a member of the Oxygen Group and Chair of the Vision Mātauranga Advisory Group, both convened by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. Prior to his new appointment he was on the board of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

Elam and ArchPlan show



Stephanie Wilson BFA (Hons) Untitled, 2009

Several thousand fans of the visual arts, architecture and planning turned out for the much-anticipated Elam Graduate Show and ArchPlan Show 2009.

Final-year students from the Elam School of Fine Arts, along with students from the School of Architecture and Planning, showcased their best work of the year over a weekend-long visual arts extravaganza across the City Campus.

This year marked the first time that Architecture and Planning students had exhibited concurrently with

Elam students. ArchPlan 2009 offered prospective students and those interested in architecture and planning an insight into both the briefs students work to at the school, and the creative and considered responses those briefs can inspire.

“By showcasing the work of our final-year visual artists alongside that of our architecture and planning students, we shone the spotlight on the excellence produced within and across our faculty,” says Jenny Dixon, Dean of the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI).

Tatties and tartan

Universitas 21’s Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Glasgow in October coincided nicely with “Homecoming Scotland 2009”, the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns’ birth, and a year-long celebration of some of Scotland’s great contributions to the world: golf, whiskey, great minds and innovations, wonderful art, design and architecture and shortbread.

The University of Auckland sent some great minds of its own along to present research at what was the fifth conference for undergraduates offered through the U21 network. Among those who signed up to experience distillery tours, castles, ceilidh dancing and close encounters with busby-helmet-wearing kilted pipe bands were Jessica Harding, who is studying Psychology and Theology; Max Harris, who is doing a conjoint degree in Political Studies and Law; and Mhairi-Clare Fitzpatrick, who has completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with honours at the Elam School of Fine Arts and is now completing a Bachelor of Arts in Film, Television and Media Studies.

The University’s students presented their findings alongside topics ranging from the stylistic characteristics of the French flute school to the effects of global warming on marine amphipoda.

Profiling new research being undertaken in the Psychology Department, Jessica marshalled convincing evidence derived from the testing of sample groups to support the contention that arguments for meritocracy are employed strategically in New Zealand to justify inequalities between Māori and Pakeha.

Max’s paper was a closely argued consideration of whether the Courts in New Zealand should have the power to make non-binding “declarations of inconsistency” with the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

NICAI student Mhairi-Clare produced a dynamically designed poster, featuring glorious examples of her own photographic practice, titled “Representational imagery and the female psyche”, which was displayed in the historic Hunter Hall. Her text and images critiqued the conventional use of the female form as a cipher for meaning in high art and popular culture.

Not all the pursuits were high-minded. On arrival, delegates were treated to a visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum where they enjoyed a shortbread-laden afternoon tea, for example, and the champagne flowed at a civic reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Glasgow in the magnificent Edwardian City Chambers.

The new Principal of the University of Glasgow, Vito Antonio (Aton) Muscatelli – one of Britain’s leading economists – hosted a conference reception and dinner at which he gave an excellent address on the importance of undergraduate research for growing links in the Universitas 21 network. Glasgow’s deans each chaired a table of students and guided appreciation on the finer points of the menu, which included tatties and neeps – peculiarly Scottish cuisine incorporating mashed potatoes and turnips.

Linda Tyler

What's on

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER

Department of Psychology Conference

Sexualisation and pornography:

Research, analysis, change? 10am-1pm Rm 604, HSB, 10 Symonds St.

In this symposium, young women will present research, critical analysis, and their creative ideas for change. We hope to generate wider discussion and debate, and foster constructive connections between people interested in these issues. Free and open to the public. RSVP to Meena Sadera, m.sadera@auckland.ac.nz
Queries to n.gavey@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering seminar

Professor Enrique Acha, University of Glasgow: *Distributed wind generation and its impact on the network*. 11am-12noon Lecture Theatre 3.401, School of Engineering. Queries to Dr Patrick Hu, phone 373 7599 ext 88435 or email a.hu@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER

NVivo 8 - Part 1: Working with data

9am-3.30pm, CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. NVivo 8 is the latest qualitative data analysis software produced by QSR International and offers a range of tools to help you explore complex ideas with ease. Enrolments are limited. Please complete an enrolment form via CAD's Courses and Workshops page at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz or contact cadreception@auckland.ac.nz on ext 88140 for assistance.

ISPS 2009: International Symposium on Performance Science

Until 18 December. Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg. The International Symposium of Performance Science (ISPS) brings together the worlds of art and science to explore issues related to performance excellence. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87586. Visit www.performancescience.org/ISPS/Home

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER

NVivo 8 - Part 2: Extending analyses

9am-3.30pm, CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Our extending analyses class builds on the basic functions learnt in introduction to NVivo 8: Working with data. Enrolments are limited. Please complete an enrolment form via CAD's Courses and Workshops page at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz or contact cadreception@auckland.ac.nz on ext 88140 for assistance.

Auckland Branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy and the Research Centre for Business Law seminar

Dr Richard Ekins: *Half-baked institutional reform: The report of the Regulatory Responsibility Taskforce*. 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, 3rd Floor, Bldg 801, Law School, Eden Crescent.

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER

Doctoral morning tea Christmas BBQ 12-2pm iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger

Information Commons. Please come and enjoy a free BBQ in iSpace. This is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues. A range of vegetarian, organic and halal food will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER

General Staff morning tea

10am Lawn, Old Government House. If it is raining morning tea will be served in the Main Lounge of Old Government House. Please RSVP to Carolyn Stilwell, c.stilwell@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Friends and family here for Christmas and not enough space?

Give them a special treat: book them into Scandinavian Light B&B in beautiful Titirangi/Laingholm, let them experience the West Coast and our stunning Waitakere Ranges and Manukau Harbour views. Your hosts: former Scandinavian lecturers Ingwior and Ivo Holmqvist. Inspections welcome! Website www.scandinavianlight.co.nz

Grey Lynn, two people wanted to share with one female who works in media, mature, must love dogs. Large beautiful villa minutes from shops, parks, bus stop. Garden, roof garden, two lounge areas. Both vacant bdrms large and sunny, one is particularly lovely. \$200 and \$180 pw + expenses. Phone 027 482 6615.

House and garden to share.

Kingsland end of Dominion Road. Large garden, OSP, on frequent bus route to town. Two bthrms. Wireless Internet. \$200 pw inclusive of basic expenses. Available from January onwards. Phone 630 5303.

One-bedroom/studio apartment.

81 Wakefield Street, CBD. Five minutes walk from the University. On the 8th floor with a nice balcony view. Fully furnished. Available now. \$275 pw. Phone (021) 251 0029.

St Johns. Large two-bedroom unit. Big spacious light-filled lounge. One shower, two toilets, kitchen. Phone and Internet connections in all rooms, alarm, and OSP for two cars. 400m walk to Tamaki Campus. Walking distant to railway station, bus stop and Pak n Save. \$350 pw + expenses. Phone Chris on (021) 687 386.

Two-bedroom townhouse for rent.

Fully furnished (including linen) with some antique furniture. Study, and open plan kitchen, dining and living. A sunny terrace and two small courtyards. Carport. Private location in a safe neighbourhood. An excellent primary school nearby. Would suit staff on sabbatical leave with up to two young

children. On bus route (two stages) to UoA and AUT. \$499 pw. Email r.jenner@auckland.ac.nz or phone 373 7599 ext 88692.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Executive rental home required by professional family.

4 January 2010 for up to 12 months while own home is being built. Four-bedroom furnished/unfurnished optional. Preferred areas Remuera, St Heliers, Kohi, Mission Bay, Parnell. Phone (021) 054 0171 or email stephenerin@xtra.co.nz

Visiting scientist would like to rent a three-bedroom apartment or house from 20 January to 31 March 2010 for his family (wife and two 13-year-old girls), preferably in the Parnell area, but all suggestions and offers will be welcome. Thanks! Please email Olivier Gascuel, gascuel@lirimm.fr

Wanted: Short-term rental from around 7 January to mid-May 2010 for visiting University of Virginia law professor, his wife and four children between 2 and 13 years. Require 3/4-bedroom house near good schools in Auckland Central, Eastern Suburbs or the North Shore. Please email s.shaw@auckland.ac.nz

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Waiheke bach. Orapiu, stunning views, easy access to beach, own mooring. Pretty 1930s bach, refurbished. Two bedrooms inside plus sleep-out. Suit family of four to six or fewer. \$120 a night in high season. Available mid-January for two weeks, exact dates negotiable. Phone Jenny or Josie on 624 5422 or email jaldeng@xtra.co.nz

Beachfront cottage at Snell's Beach.

One bedroom cottage, fully equipped, delightful position. No pets or smokers. Available Jan-Feb for holidays (minimum rental one week). Photos available. Contact m.harris@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

Donor needed for University staffer.

Can you help? We are a loving married couple who have been trying to have a baby for some years, both naturally and with assistance. Our only chance now to have the child we really want is through egg donation. Would you consider making that special gift? If you are a healthy n/s, aged 37 or younger, and have preferably completed your own family, please contact Angela or Toni (in confidence) at Fertility Associates Shore on phone (09) 925 5962 or email them on fas@fertilityassociates.co.nz, quoting Beam of Joy.

Ezishelter are portable shelters that are the ideal solution for your car, boat or tools to eliminate exposure to the weather, as well as storing your possessions out of sight. These shelters are good quality and great value for the home or bach. Visit our website www.ezishelter.co.nz

Have you got my CD of Shakespeare Songs performed by the Deller Consort?

Left in player in Old Government House Lecture Theatre week beginning 19 October. I would really appreciate its return. Please

contact Sophie Tomlinson, English Department, ext 87345 or s.tomlinson@auckland.ac.nz

Kadimah College Scholarships.

Kadimah College, 108 Greys Ave, Auckland is offering a limited number of scholarship places in its intermediate school from 2010. This unique, independent school provides co-ed learning from New Entrants to Year 8. Kadimah offers a newly renovated heritage site together with high academic standards; small classes; NZ and Cambridge systems; and a values-based education founded on Jewish traditions. For more information, call Adina Halpern on 029 200 7440 or 378 7997.

Mother's help: professional woman with newborn seeking a pair of extra hands to help with baby, domestic chores in first few months of motherhood. Position starts end of February in central Auckland suburb. Hours, hourly rate negotiable; references required. Email aotearose@gmail.com

Research Cooperative.

<http://cooperative.ning.com>, an international NPO and network for research students, researchers, science writers, technical communicators, illustrators, editors, proofreaders, translators, and publishers. Contact researchcooperative@gmail.com

Te Wahi Ora: A retreat for women at Piha. Do you need to break? For over a decade, women have been enjoying Te Wahi Ora's hospitality. We supply all bedding, linen, plus delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information visit www.tewahiora.co.nz

The Poetisocial Society is seeking curious misfits to share quotes, poems, prose, images, insights or ideas. Bring your own material or someone else's. Come for epiphanies, awe, admiration and silliness. Phone (021) 210 2325.

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



Season's greetings
Best wishes for the festive season to the readers of University News from Judy Wilford, Caroline Courtney, Miranda Playfair, Bill Williams, Vanda Tong, Godfrey Boehnke and Kathryn Robinson.
Issue 1, 2010 will be published 29 January.
Deadline for copy is Monday, 18 January.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

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