

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

# news

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## Māori insights in science



Michael Walker at the launch of *Te Ara Pūtaiao: Māori Insights in Science*.

The launch of a new publication from Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga was also a celebration of Māori scholarship and an exploration of the unique contributions that Māori can offer to science.

In the whareniui at Waipapa Marae, in the presence of staff, students and friends of New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence – including such eminent scholars as Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker and Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond – Professor Michael Walker, Codirector of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and a scientist internationally renowned for his research on animal navigation systems, spoke of the recent advances in Māori scholarship and of the measures taken to achieve this.

He also spoke of the uniquely rich perspective of Māori researchers in New Zealand, partly born of the intimate knowledge of two cultures and ways of thinking which leads to a rich dual perception of scientific and other phenomena and an inclination to explore multiple solutions to complex challenges.

On a personal level he told of the connection between his own success as a scientist and the fact that as a Māori he brings to his research a uniqueness of approach and a different set of operating assumptions.

Michael is just one of a group of Māori

scientists who have earned international reputations. His own discoveries on the navigation of birds and other animals have been extensively published in journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. The world-acclaimed breakthrough by Associate-Professor Shane Wright (Biological Sciences) in understanding evolution in warmer climates was published in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States*, and was widely reported in publications such as *The Guardian* and *The Economist*. The work of Associate Professor Ross Ihaka (Department of Statistics) – co-convenor of “R”, a statistical and graphics software system now used worldwide by Shell, Google, Merck and the Bank of America, and by Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard Universities – was acclaimed in a recent 1200-word feature in *The New York Times*.

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga set a goal of seeing 500 more Māori either having completed or successfully advancing PhDs within five years, and has exceeded this with time to spare. While this increase covers all disciplines a significant number of these research degrees are in scientific fields.

Among scientific investigations being supported by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga is research to

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## Key events

### Antarctic responses

Antarctic Research Centre Manager Tamsin Falconer will discuss the intersections between art and science in Antarctica in response to an exhibition by Joyce Campbell, Anne Noble and Connie Samaras, now on at the Gus Fisher Gallery. This will take place at the gallery on Saturday 13 June at 1pm.

### History of waters

Transformations of water have embraced assaults on pagan water deities, the Christianisation of wells and waters, their reformation into a medicalised commodity, and the adoption of water as an icon of modernism. In “Towards a history of waters” Dr Phil Morgan from Keele University in Britain examines water in a particular English landscape, the Lichfield region. This Department of History seminar will take place in Room 52, History Department, 7 Wynyard Street. For more information, contact Associate Professor Linda Bryder (l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz).

### Franchise law reform

At a symposium organised by the Business School and the New Zealand Governance Centre, local and international experts on franchising will present arguments for and against changing the way the sector is regulated. Franchising is a proven business structure which can provide a place of relative safety in uncertain economic times. Many who find themselves redundant might consider buying a franchise. However recent high profile reports of franchise deals going wrong have raised the question of whether New Zealand should follow Australia in adopting specific safeguards for those who buy franchises. The symposium brings together industry leaders, public and commercial lawyers and academics in an interactive format.

It will be held on 25 June from 1-5.45pm at Lecture Theatre OGB3 in the Owen G. Glenn Building. The cost is \$75.

For further information contact Tressy Menezes (T.menezes@auckland.ac.nz) or phone 09 923 2628.

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The new Government's first Budget, delivered on 28 May, represents yet another chapter in a long history of governments failing to take full advantage of the contribution our universities can make to social and economic development.

Although it increased the tuition subsidy by 1.95 percent (the expected rise in the Consumer Price Index) and allowed student fees to rise by the same amount, the Government simultaneously decided to withdraw \$22 million in tripartite funding from 2011. This decision is extremely disappointing given that the tripartite funding was provided by the previous government on the condition that it be used to bring about permanent increases in staff salaries. Its withdrawal will effectively negate the increases in the tuition subsidy and student fees, and leave us vulnerable to poaching of staff by Australian and other foreign universities.

On the research front, the Government is to be commended for increases, albeit modest, in the Marsden Fund (by \$9 million per annum) and in Health Research (by \$8 million per annum). There will also be a one-off \$16 million allocation in 2010/11 for the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN). However, the Government announced at the same time that it will be doing away with Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships, and with the provision that allows French and German students to study for masters degrees in New Zealand at domestic fee rates.

In a positive development for students, there will be a \$4 million fund to provide summer scholarships for students, with \$4 million matching funds provided by the universities. This was an initiative proposed by The University of Auckland through our participation in the Prime Minister's Employment Summit earlier this year.

The Budget compares unfavourably with our Australian neighbours who, recognising that investment in universities generates a 14-15 percent return (as discussed in my last column), have committed well over a billion dollars in their latest Budget to enhancing their university sector. Whereas they will continue to grow their level of educational and research achievement, it seems that we may be destined to at best stand still, leaving the potential of our universities to contribute to economic recovery underutilised. This is clearly not the kind of future that will allow New Zealand to regain its place near the top of the OECD.



## Honours for seven staff

Seven University of Auckland staff – Professor Peter Thorne, Associate Professor John Henley, Professor Michael Walker, Emeritus Professor George Clark, Kaa Williams, Dr Lorna Dyall and Robyn Boswell – were named in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Two prominent supporters of the University, Jenny Gibbs and Gus Fisher, were also honoured.

Professor Peter Thorne was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to auditory neuroscience through scientific research, discoveries, teaching, and developing services for the deaf and hearing impaired. He established the Audiology Section at the University (now in the School of Population Health) and co-directs the Auditory Neuroscience group in the Department of Physiology.

His research is into the effects of noise and aging on the inner ear and causes of deafness. He has been a strong advocate for newborn hearing screening, now being implemented throughout New Zealand.

Dr John Henley, an honorary associate professor in the Department of Medicine, became an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to medicine. In addition to his major contribution to clinical medicine, he has been a stalwart of the teaching of medical students at Auckland Hospital for his entire career.

An ONZM also went to Professor Michael Walker (Biological Sciences) for services to science. Noted for his research into magnetic sense and its use in long-distance navigation by animals, he has been a strong advocate for Māori in science through support for Māori students and through service on the boards of two CRIs as well as on the Council of the Royal Society of NZ. He is also Joint Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement.

Emeritus Professor George Clark (Chemistry), made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to biochemistry, has had a career as a bio-inorganic chemist for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) from 2001 to 2008, where he served as deputy chair, and has successfully led high-level moves to manage and regulate chemical products, hazardous substances and new organisms.

Kaa Williams, a Māori language tutor in the

Māori Studies Department and a pioneer of bilingual and total immersion education, was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to Māori. With her husband Tawhirimatea Williams she founded New Zealand's first bilingual school at Ruatoki in the eastern Bay of Plenty in 1977.

Mrs Williams is Pouako Matua (senior lecturer) at Te Wānanga Takiura o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, a private Māori tertiary institution that trains teachers for Kura Kaupapa Māori (Māori-language immersion primary schools).

Dr Lorna Dyall, Ngāti Maniapoto (Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, School of Population Health), received the Queen's Service Medal for services to Māori health. Her research has focused on improving and developing health services and outcomes for Māori. In particular she has investigated ways of reducing gambling-related harm to Māori and the health of their children.

Robyn Boswell, Tai Tokerau Gifted Education Facilitator with TEAM Solutions at the Faculty of Education, received the QSM for services to education. She has facilitated workshops and presented at conferences nationally and internationally. She introduced the Future Problem Solving International Programme to New Zealand and is the National Director of Future Problem Solving New Zealand, a programme that provides gifted and talented students with high-level thinking, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Jenny Gibbs, made a Dame Companion for services to the arts, has been an important benefactor of the University. She has gifted works to its art collection and established a fund for Elam School of Fine Arts for an international artist-in-residence programme. She has contributed to the University Foundation, the Hood Fund and the Liggins Institute, and is a patron of the "Leading the way" fundraising campaign. For more than 25 years she served on the University Council and was Pro-Chancellor three times.

Gus Fisher, made an ONZM for services to philanthropy, has long been a generous supporter of the University. The Gallery in Shortland Street which bears his name is notable for its exhibitions of experimental and groundbreaking work. He was a founding donor of the Hood Fund and funded a Postdoctoral Fellowship specialising in neurodegenerative diseases and the quest for a cure to Parkinson's disease.

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### story continues from page 1

meet specific needs in water protection and in conservation of endangered species, and new ways of providing better information for management and control of possums as a pest, including through increased efficiency of trapping, using GPS technology.

This latest publication by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, launched last month at the Waipapa Marae, was *Te Ara Pūtaiao: Māori Insights in Science*, a monograph in the Tihei Oreore Series, edited by Dr Joseph Te Rito and Dr Susan Healy.

The monograph comprises a compilation of

papers presented by four Māori scientists - Dr James Ātaria, Associate Professor Elizabeth McKinley, Professor Michael Walker and Dr Shane Wright - as part of the Policy Seminar Series "Progressing Māori development through research", convened by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga in Wellington in November, 2005.

Each of these scientists, write Joseph Te Rito and Susan Healy in the introduction, "has carried out pioneering work in his or her field and contributed to wide Māori enterprise and development".

For more information about this publication, see the next issue of *University News*.

# The stories we seek



A photograph from the Still exhibition by Geoffrey Habberfield-Short

A highly engaging and exciting exhibition of photographs by five Elam students is on now at the George Fraser Gallery and will continue until 20 June. The exhibition, curated by Ariane Craig-Smith and entitled *Still*, dances around the relationship between film and the still image, and explores the idea of the stories we seek in a photograph. The five students – Carolin Casey, Mhairi-Clare Fitzpatrick, James Lowe, Geoffrey Habberfield-Short and Dane Taylor – present a variety of approaches to photography, digital and physical. The exhibition forms part of the Auckland Festival of Photography.

## Postgraduates spread the word

The second University of Auckland Postgraduate Information Week, held this year from 18-22 May, was a popular and engaging event. It gave potential and future postgraduates the chance to check out the postgraduate study and research options on offer in all the faculties, and to share in some of the excitement many current postgraduate students feel about their studies.

Faculties opened their doors throughout the week, with information sessions, display presentations and opportunities to meet staff, students and postgraduate advisers. The events were well attended by current undergraduate students, as well as graduates both new to and thinking of returning to the University.

“The numbers were well up on last year and the event is gaining a higher profile,” says Catherine Kerins (Events and Projects Manager, Communications and Marketing). “In the current economic climate, many see postgraduate study as an especially wise and positive move and I think this was reflected in the high numbers of visitors. Postgraduate study offers the chance to upskill, time to reassess career opportunities and prepare to enter the job market in better times, as well as the opportunity to pursue a long-thought-of passion.”

A feature of this year’s Postgraduate Information Week was a cocktail function, to which a selection of top prospective students were invited to meet other students and staff. Guest speaker was Professor Peter Gluckman from the Liggins



Zoe Wilson, a PhD student in organic chemistry, spoke at the cocktail party.

Institute. Current postgraduate students Angus Blair (studying a Masters of Commerce in Management) and Zoe Wilson (studying a PhD in Organic Chemistry) also spoke.

“Prospective students were really inspired by hearing current students talk passionately about their experiences, giving a real sense of what postgraduate study at the University is like,” says Catherine. “The purpose of the cocktail function, and the week as a whole, was not just to give information, but also the chance to create networks and give prospective students the chance to explore their potential and discuss their study and research interests with our world-class academics.”

## ... in brief

### AUP leads the field

Auckland University Press has seven finalist authors of six finalist books – more finalists for the second year running than any other single publisher – in the 2009 Montana New Zealand Book Awards shortlist.

The AUP finalists are spread across the Award categories: *Get Some* by Sonja Yelich (Poetry); *The Lakes of Mars* by Chris Orsman (Poetry); *Heaphy* by Iain Sharp (Biography); *First Catch Your Weka: A Story of New Zealand Cooking* by David Veart (History); *Peter Peryer: Photographer* by Peter Simpson and Peter Peryer (Illustrative Arts); and *Collected Poems 1951–2006* by C K Stead (Reference and Anthology).

Auckland University Press also has two finalists in the NZ Society of Authors (NZSA) Best First Book Awards; the winners of which will be announced as part of the Montana NZ Book Awards ceremony: *Everything Talks* by Sam Sampson (Poetry) and *First Catch Your Weka* by David Veart (Non-Fiction)

### Chinese for staff

A course in Chinese language and culture especially designed for staff of the University with little or no knowledge of the language will begin on 6 August.

The course will continue for ten weekly sessions on Thursdays from 1-2pm (except on 10 September when there will be a study break). The course co-ordinator is Meiju Wong (meijuwong@auckland.ac.nz, ext 87544). The cost is \$20, which includes class materials.

Participants will have the chance to improve their knowledge of Chinese culture and society as well as gaining some skills in Chinese language.

### Building makes final

The Owen G Glenn Building is a finalist in the Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand’s INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence.

Beca, the project manager, surveyor and structural engineer for the project, is among 35 finalists countrywide.

The world-class 82,000 square metre building is described as featuring “a boomerang-shaped tower incorporating a full-height atrium, an expansive podium and large public square”.

Features include a long bridge spanning the central atrium, massive frameless glass walls and double-layered facades with the ends of the building cantilevered up to six metres. The 13-level tower and podium includes five levels of car park, two levels of teaching space for 2,600 students and five levels for offices and post-graduate teaching facilities.

Winners will be announced on 25 July at the INNOVATE NZ 2009 Awards Dinner to be held at the ACENZ conference in Queenstown.

# The power of face-to-face



Angela Smith (right) speaks with Sandra Laurence, a student in the Postgraduate Diploma in Business (Māori Development)

## Angela Smith is passionate about her culture.

She is also a member of a family renowned throughout New Zealand for their skills in kapa haka. Therefore her vibrant performance in the traditional Māori performing arts during her handover ceremony to her new position at the University Careers Centre was not entirely unexpected to her colleagues.

The Careers Services team, headed by director Marshall Barlow and supported by Tuākana Equity Adviser Dennis Ngāwhare, prepared the ceremony held late last year to welcome her as the first-ever careers adviser especially for Māori students.

Angela has been working for The University of

Auckland since 2000, first for External Relations, then later in the Mira Szászly Research Centre, Business School. During the last four years, in addition to her job, Angela has studied for a Master of Management degree, now completed.

Of her new position, Angela says: "It was time for me to find another area with new challenges. And I particularly like the idea of one position focusing on Māori students."

Angela believes that, for many Māori students, the fact that she shares their culture will make communication easier. "Not all, but some have a reserve that can prevent them from feeling free about using services offered to the general student

population." It is true that a relatively small proportion of Māori students have used the careers services up till now.

Angela's solution to that is simple. "Don't wait for them to come to you, but go out to Māori communities, show your face and present what the University can offer them." The power of this way, called "kanohi ki te kanohi" (face-to-face), is the key, she believes, to encouraging more Māori school students to study at university. "If you show your face to the Māori community, people will not forget this," she says.

But that doesn't mean house calls. It means showing her face at well known Māori culture events and festivals, and focusing resources not only on the prospective student alone but on the whole family. "Many Māori students' decisions are influenced by their whānau, because the whānau supports them when they come to university," Angela says.

To reach prospective PhD students, Careers Services works closely with the Māori and Indigenous programme (MAI). This is a nationally-organised network which supports Māori PhD students or those intending to study for a PhD, and helps them through the stages of tertiary education.

So, finding the "face of Māori tertiary education" is Angela's main work at the moment.

She is looking for Māori role models: Māori graduates with a special emphasis initially on careers in the health, law and business areas - faces and stories to encourage Māori school students to go to university.

"Our role models should impress and inspire," Angela explains. "It's about relationships, and about seeing themselves in the face on the poster and imagining the story told could be theirs."

# New associate professor

## Simon Bickerton (Mechanical Engineering)

I am very proud of my promotion to associate professor, and would first like to show my appreciation to the large number of staff members and students I have worked with in recent years.

Whether in the realms of teaching or research, many of my achievements have been made as the result of team efforts, and I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my friends and colleagues. My academic position provides me with the opportunity to work with a large number of intelligent and enthusiastic minds, young and old. Working with them through the exciting processes of learning and discovery brings me a significant amount of enjoyment.

My research focuses on the manufacture and performance of materials, including polymers and fibre-reinforced plastics. I enjoy expanding the boundaries of application of these materials, in fields as diverse as aerospace, marine, automotive, infrastructure and industrial. I split my time between teaching on the City Campus, and research at the Centre for Advanced Composite Materials (CACM) at the Tamaki Campus. A native Aucklander, and a University of Auckland graduate, I completed my doctoral studies at the University of Delaware, USA. On my return, I was fortunate to join the Department of Mechanical Engineering prior to the formation of the CACM, which has allowed me to play a significant role in the development of our research centre.

My family and I are enjoying sabbatical leave in 2009, currently in Montreal, Canada, and in Lille, France for the second half of the year. My entire family have always been very supportive of my career, for which I am very grateful.



The Bickerton family in Montréal.

# A first for Auckland



**“The media have a huge role to play in race relations.”**

With those words, Sue Abel captures the essential motivation of her research and teaching over the past two decades. As The University of Auckland’s first joint appointment to the Department of Māori Studies and the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies (FTVMS), senior lecturer Sue Abel taught a Semester One FTVMS paper, “Race, indigeneity and the media” (FTVMS 210 and FTVMS 325) and second-semester Māori Studies paper, “Māori and the media” (MĀORI 271 and MĀORI 370).

From 2010 these papers will be cross-creditable between Māori Studies and FTVMS.

Sue’s interest in the way Māori and indigenous people are represented in broadcast, print and online media dates to her time as a University of Auckland English masters student in 1989-1990. Mindful that 1990 marked the sesquicentennial of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Sue decided her thesis would examine television news coverage of that year’s Waitangi Day “celebrations” and events.

She concluded that the coverage of Waitangi from TVNZ and TV3 was usually reported from what might be called a “Pākehā” perspective, but that the adoption of this perspective was unintended, unconscious and unacknowledged. Instead, it was presented as “objective” and “truthful”. For these reasons, Sue believed, this coverage had the potential to impact negatively on attitudes towards race relations and biculturalism.

Unusually for a masters thesis, Sue’s findings were published by Auckland University Press in 1997 as a book, *Shaping the News: Waitangi Day on Television*. The book remains a seminal text for many undergraduate courses and journalism training courses in New Zealand.

“I wanted to explore representations of Waitangi Day through the lens of justice. I felt the news wasn’t giving a fair picture of Māori, but I needed to identify how that was happening. After all, the news is presented as objective and credible – I found that wasn’t entirely accurate,” says Sue, who describes herself as Pākehā but also has whakapapa links to Nga Ruahinerangi.

When Māori Television was established in 2004, Sue turned her attention to the way Māori media

cover their own issues, researching and analysing areas such as Māori music, iwi radio, Māori use of the internet and Māori magazines.

Sue says her work over the past two decades shows a positive shift in the way Māori are portrayed by “mainstream media” and that news organisations are increasingly mindful of their responsibility to deliver the news accurately and objectively.

However, although the “changes in media representation are for the better, mainstream media still often fall into blatant stereotyping or negative depiction of Māori. More often, however, they present what seems to be a fair coverage of issues that Māori are involved in but omit reference to the wider social and historical context within which the issue or event is placed, thereby ignoring what might be called a “Maori reality”. She points to coverage of the so-called terrorist raids in the Ureweras as a key example of this.

Sue is also part of a three-year, Health Research Council-funded project, “Media, health and wellbeing in Aotearoa”, which is based in Whariki, a Māori social science research group at Massey University. The premise for the project comes out of international research which shows that a continual pattern of negative representations of a minority group has a detrimental effect on the mental wellbeing of that group.

As the University’s inaugural joint Māori Studies-FTVMS appointment, Sue is delighted that the importance of this area of research and study has been recognised.

“I hope that many University of Auckland students will go on to do research in this very under-examined area, and that my own research will provide teaching material for others who work in this area.”

## More volunteers wanted

**A high profile pilot trial is underway for the polypill, a single pill aimed at preventing cardiovascular disease, but more participants are still needed.**

The trial is part of an international project, led at Tamaki Campus by the Clinical Trials Research Unit. Professor Rod Jackson, of the PILL pilot trial steering committee, said the intention was to have a pool of 50 participants for the trial. The team is still recruiting.

“The criteria are quite strict, in that participants cannot already be on associated medication, but must be able to demonstrate a raised risk of cardiovascular disease,” he said. The 12-week trial will assess tolerability of the pill and its effects on blood pressure and cholesterol and will test whether patients with increased risk can be identified early and reduce their risk factors with a single, once a day tablet.

Volunteers attend a trial clinic and anyone interested can self-refer through the website ([www.pillproject.org](http://www.pillproject.org)).

Internationally, the pill pilot trial is being conducted in Australia, Brazil, India, the Netherlands, the UK and USA, and in New Zealand is funded by the Health Research Council and the Wellcome Trust.

## Viewpoint

### Long-term planning essential

The announcement on 14 May of the proposal to complete the Western Ring Road with a mixture of surface and underground tunnel was never going to be anything but controversial.

In Mount Albert last year the “SH2O tunnel or nothing” placards could be seen dotted along Mount Albert Road. According to the New Zealand Transit Authority website after the current period of community engagement ends in July, NZTA is due to prepare a report for its board summarising the feedback received before confirming an option for consenting.

The 48-kilometre motorway between Manukau City in the south and North Shore City at Albany in the north will link three state highways, the Southwestern Motorway (SH20), the Northwestern Motorway (SH16) and the Upper Harbour Highway (SH18).

The \$1.4 billion motorway is the most expensive road project ever in New Zealand and should reduce reliance on the Auckland Harbour Bridge and on the Southern Motorway. In that case maybe we’ll see the long awaited clip-on lane on the bridge for bikes!

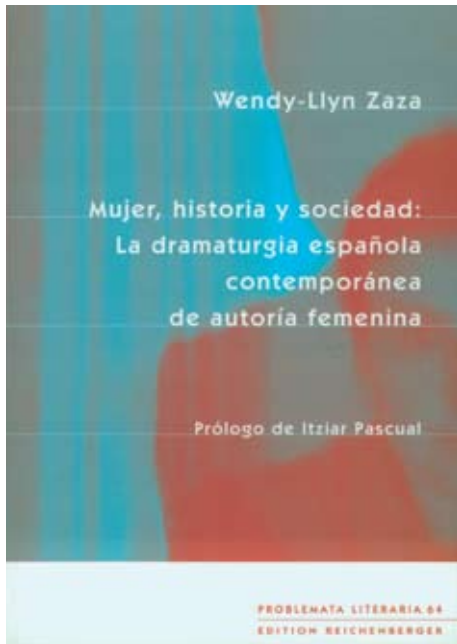
The new proposal, which is cheaper than the original tunnel option, will apparently result in 365 properties being demolished. It will be crucial that the transport agencies work constructively with the communities to be affected at each stage or phase of the development between now and 2015 when it is due to be completed. According to the briefing material NZTA is committed to an urban design strategy so that communities remain connected and provided with pedestrian access ways and other facilities. So we will be watching the final design proposals.

Reports suggest that the bill for the road will come from the national land transport fund of fuel taxes and motor licence fees. But time will tell. Road schemes seem to fly in the face of sustainable cities. Yet the lead times for these developments are enormous. Although planned at a time when public transport was unfashionable, there is a need for the road network to be completed and at the same time keep the focus on public transport, cycle ways and pedestrian ways.

It is important for the long-term strategic planning that the road scheme is completed to keep Auckland moving.

**Professor Dory Reeves (Planning)**

## Mujer, historia y sociedad



This pioneering study by Dr Wendy-Llyn Zaza (European Languages and Literatures) replaces the veil of silence which formerly concealed woman-authored theatre with a comprehensive analysis of the personal and collective voice of 17 contemporary dramatists. The 36 works selected revisit key mythological and historical figures, challenge Francoist historiography, and expose current socio-political concerns.

*Mujer, historia y sociedad: La dramaturgia española contemporánea de autoría femenina* thus contributes to the revision of traditional pillars of Western civilisation and modern Spain; it throws light on dissident writing related to the pre-war, Civil War and post-war periods, and it engages with debate which emerges largely from the difficult reconciliation of desire, reality and representation from the Transition to the turn of the 21st century.

It includes a prologue by Itziar Pascual and is published by Kassel (Reichenberger edition).

## Histories, Cultures and National Identities

Publishing on cultural and political matters has traditionally been considered the province of men.

When women have participated in fashioning national and cultural paradigms, they have invariably been cast in masculine histories as minor players or exceptions.

This book, *Histories, Cultures, and National Identities: Women Writing Spain, 1877-1984* by Associate Professor Christine Arkinstall (European Languages and Literatures) addresses the visions of history, culture, and national identity in modern Spain articulated by three women: Rosario de Acuña (1851-1923), Ángela Figuera (1902-1984) and Rosa Chacel (1898-1994).

## Rich harvest

The Spanish Department had six good reasons to celebrate on 6 May.

Staff and students gathered in the Common Room of the School of European Languages and Literatures to celebrate the publication of five books within the last couple of years, representing a rich harvest for a department of its modest size.

Three of these were the work of staff, while another was written by a former student, Elena Garcia, now teaching in Spain, and the fifth was from another former student, Nicola Gilmour, now teaching in the Spanish Department at Victoria University of Wellington. (Yet another book by a former student, Sarah MacDonald, has just been accepted for publication).

The sixth reason to celebrate was simply a fluke of excellent timing, since the function happened to coincide with the visit of eminent scholar, Catherine Davies, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Nottingham, who was visiting Auckland to discuss the possibility

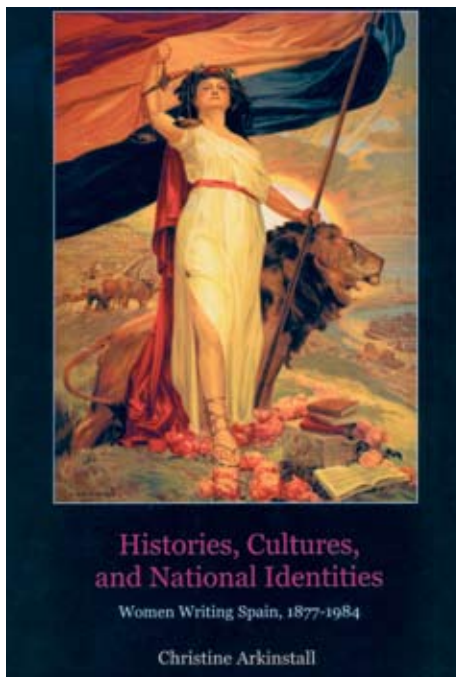
of joint co-supervision of research students between the two universities.

"The visit could not have been better timed," said Head of Department, Dr Kathryn Lehman. "First it meant Professor Davies could see the calibre of research coming out of the department. And second it meant that we were able to ask her to give a seminar, which was a great thrill to those who attended."

The discussion on co-supervision was very fruitful, added Kathryn. She expects the visit will result in valuable future cooperation.



Left to right are Gwyn Fox, Christine Arkinstall and Wendy-Llyn Zaza



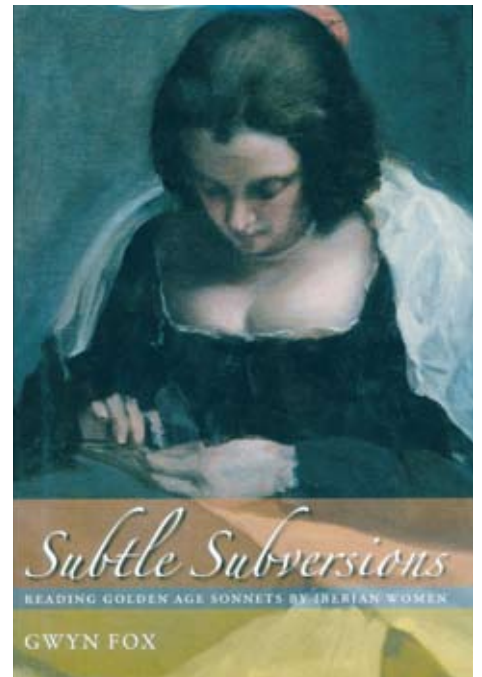
It argues that the emphasis in their work on liberal histories associated with Republican ideals throws light on the history of Spanish democracy and its interaction with competing concepts of national and cultural identity for over a century.

The book is published by Bucknell University Press/Associated University Presses, 2009.

## Subtle Subversions

*Subtle Subversions*, by Dr Gwyn Fox (European Languages and Literatures) is the first full-length, contextual and analytical study of the sonnets of five seventeenth-century women in Spain and Portugal.

Using the sonnets as a basis for inquiry enables



illuminating insights into women's interpersonal relationships. Moreover, analysis of their works reveals their clever manipulation of power and patronage.

As a difficult form of poetry requiring wit, artistry and education, sonnets provided the ideal framework to display women's intellectual skills and education, but the nature of the sonnet also allowed women to create a subtle subtext of criticism of contemporary systems of control.

*Subtle Subversions* is published in Washington DC by Catholic University of America Press, 2008.

## From the collection



Judy Millar, *Simon-Peter*, 2009, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 800 x 2000mm  
The University of Auckland Art Collection

Thousands of renowned (and aspiring) artists, curators, writers, collectors, and anyone else significantly interested in contemporary art recently converged from around the world for the opening of the 53rd Venice Biennale.

In addition to the main international exhibition, Making Worlds, which features 90 artists, there are 77 countries with their own pavilions and 44 collateral events from a range of organisations. Included in the collateral exhibition Glasstress is Elam School of Fine Arts graduate Hye Rim Lee, who appears alongside such international luminaries as Louise Bourgeois and Mona Hatoum.

This year Creative New Zealand has selected two artists to represent New Zealand: Francis Upritchard and Judy Millar. Millar's project *Giraffe-Bottle-Gun* will be installed in Santa Maria

Maddalena, the only circular church in Venice, which has existed on the site in various forms since at least 1222. *Giraffe-Bottle-Gun*, named from oddly-shaped long-necked canvases leaning against the walls surrounding the large looping installation at the heart of the installation, interrupts the spaces between the viewer, the architecture and the art.

*Simon-Peter* was created specifically to help raise funds for New Zealand's presence at Venice. It is named after St Peter, who initially refused to wash Jesus' feet at the last supper, a scene painted in 1547 by Venetian late Renaissance master Tintoretto. It echoes Millar's enthusiasm for Italy's heritage of palaces, cathedrals and frescoes, in which painting plays an active role in the environment. It is an interest that was sparked

during a year she spent in Turin in 1990 studying Italian artists of the 1960s and 1970s who combined baroque space with gestural painting.

Millar graduated from Elam with an MFA in 1983 but became disillusioned with the relationship between life and art so went on to run several Auckland cafes. She returned to the University in 1989 to study Italian feminist authors before receiving an Italian Government scholarship to study in Turin. On returning to her West Coast home in Anawhata, she developed her now-familiar approach to painting, and teaches at Elam.

Along with Tintoretto, her work has also been compared to that of movie director Quentin Tarantino. The accompanying text for a pivotal exhibition at the New Gallery in 2005 stated that: "If Tarantino makes action movies about action movies, Millar makes action painting about action painting." She works in a large, gestural manner that recalls the heroic expressionist paintings of the 1950s but in lurid colours. More importantly, instead of splashing and dribbling, Millar's paintings take a more reductive approach, wiping away layers to deconstruct the work, revealing new spaces beneath and placing tension on the processes employed.

*Simon-Peter* is the second work of Millar's to be acquired for the collection after *See-See*, which was produced in response to one of the University's Frances Hodgkins paintings for a 2002 staff exhibition at the Gus Fisher Gallery, the same year she won the Wallace Art Award.

Andrew Clifford

## A Companion to Aesthetics

Associate Professor Stephen Davies (Philosophy) led the editorial team responsible for *A Companion to Aesthetics*, published by Wiley-Blackwell.

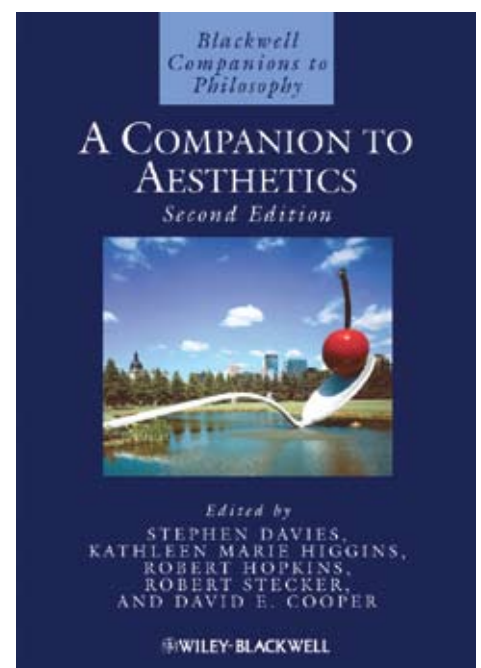
This reference work, which is directed both to specialists and to students, contains some 185 entries, including long overviews of the history of aesthetics from the Paleolithic to the present, discussions of the individual arts, and alphabetical entries on leading historical figures and on topics in aesthetics and the philosophy of art.

The latter include, for instance, essays on authenticity and art, creativity, the definition of "art", expression, formalism, genre, horror, interpretation, kitsch, modernism and postmodernism, narrative, objectivity and realism in aesthetics, performance, representation, sentimentality, style, taste, and tragedy.

Though the emphasis is on Western art and philosophy, the volume contains entries on African, Amerindian, Chinese, Indian, Islamic, and Japanese aesthetics, on the concept of *rasa*, and on universals in art.

In addition to topics that have been debated for millennia, such as the nature of the beautiful and the sublime, of aesthetic properties and experience, of representation and expression, of fiction, of art's value and its place in education and citizenship, *A Companion to Aesthetics* addresses issues prompted by recent developments in the arts and in philosophy. These include a turn toward everyday and environmental aesthetics, which are covered along with entries on the aesthetics of food and drink, humour, comedy, gardens, pragmatist aesthetics, mass art, and popular art; interest in conceptual art, performance art, and art and technology; and the relevance of empirical study to art's appreciation, with essays on science and art, cognitive science and art, and evolution, art and aesthetics.

Among the entries directed to art's wider relations to society and culture are those on art history, censorship, pornography, erotic art and obscenity, morality and art, feminist aesthetics and criticism, cultural appropriation, Marxism and art, museums, psychoanalysis and art, race and aesthetics, and religion and art.



# NZUSS and Planning for Retirement

Many staff at The University of Auckland are members of the NZUSS scheme. The investment performance of the balanced and growth NZUSS funds, as with most investment plans of this type, have shown significant drops in value in the latest annual report to December 2008. This reflects the

crisis in the international investment markets and the global economy over the last 18 months. How will you respond?

In late June the University will be offering a series of one-hour seminars that will look at the NZUSS scheme, the role it plays in delivering retirement benefits to its

members and whether it is delivering credible results. The seminars will also highlight other investment planning issues including the sorts of steps members can and should take to secure their own desired lifestyle for retirement.

The seminars will be presented by Jordi Garcia, Director and Financial

Planner, NZ Financial Planning Company Ltd, ED, BCom, LLB, CFP(CM)

Further details of these seminars at the City, Grafton, Epsom and Tamaki campuses can be found at [www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu)

## What's on

### FRIDAY 12 JUNE

#### Chamber music assessments

12noon Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St.  
12noon - Britten Serenade for voice, horn and piano.  
12.45pm - Operatic duet/trios.  
1.15pm - Brahms Zigeunerlieder  
5.30pm - Sor/Dowland/Guiliani duos for voice and guitar.  
6.15pm - Guiliani duo for guitar and flute, Brouwer duo for guitar and viola.  
[Viewconcerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:Viewconcerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 13 JUNE

#### Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Antarctic Research Centre Manager Tamsin Falconer discusses the intersections between art and science in Antarctica in response to the exhibition by Joyce Campbell, Anne Noble and Connie Samaras. View [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

### TUESDAY 16 JUNE

#### Dealing with conflict during postgraduate supervision

12-1.30pm, CAD Seminar Rm, 5th floor, 76 Symonds St. Please enrol through Peoplesoft HR (code DWCON) or call CAD reception, ext 88140.

### WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

#### Maori Staff Advancement Hui

8.30am-4.30pm, Waipapa Marae. The Hui is a seminar and workshop series open to all staff who wish to contribute to improving Māori staff recruitment, retention, participation and achievement at The University of Auckland. Please enrol through Peoplesoft HR (code MSTAH) or call CAD reception, ext 88140.

#### Department of Chemistry seminar

Assoc Prof Kate McGrath, School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, Victoria University: *Biomimicry: From proteins to model systems to mimics*. 3-4pm Rm 407, Bldg 301. Queries to Dr Cather Simpson, ext 82279 or [c.simpson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.simpson@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 18 JUNE

#### Feedback that motivates

9am-1pm. Designed for staff in management positions. Develop your confidence and skills so feedback exchanges are easier and more effective. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HRFTM). For queries phone ext 89630.

#### Doctoral morning tea

10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Information Commons. A chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues.

#### Department of History seminar

Dr Philip Morgan, School of History, Keele University, UK: *Towards a history of water: Ritual, medicalised and modernised landscapes in an English context*. 4pm Room 52, History Dept, 7 Wynyard St. Queries to Linda Bryder, [l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz)

### FRIDAY 19 JUNE

#### Finances: Financial management in tough times

11am-12.30pm Presentation Rm, ClockTower. This seminar will assist you to take control of and better manage your financial affairs, particularly in the current environment. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HRWFI). Queries to ext 89630.

### SATURDAY 20 JUNE

#### Workshop

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. In advance of their concert, live cinema artists Joel Stern and Dirk de Bruyn present a workshop on their approach to live sound and vision using projection of found photography and celluloid. Visit [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

#### Concert

7pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Joel Stern (Brisbane), Dirk de Bruyn (Melbourne) and local artists present a concert of live, expanded and experimental cinema, organised by the Floating Cinemas collective.

### MONDAY 22 JUNE

#### Women to Watch seminar series

Auckland Graduate Women continue their series with a talk by Dr Charmian O'Connor, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry. 5pm Graham Hill Lecture Theatre, Level 12, Auckland Hospital. RSVP to [janebellamy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janebellamy@xtra.co.nz) by 19 June.

### WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE

#### Chamber music assessments

7.30pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Bach Cantata, counter-tenor, chamber organ, baroque violins, viola, cello. View [concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 25 JUNE

#### Franchise law reform symposium

1-5.45pm OGG83, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. \$75. Organised by The University of Auckland Business School

and the NZ Governance Centre. Queries to Tressy Menezes, phone 923 2628 or email [t.menezes@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.menezes@auckland.ac.nz)

#### NICAI's Pasifika Information Evening

6.15pm Fale Pasifika, 20 Wynyard St. For Pacific students interested in studying fine arts, dance, music, architecture or planning. Queries and to register phone 0800 61 62 63 or visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz)

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**Apartment to Let.** Spacious one-bdrm fully-furnished apartment in the Hyatt Residences on level 9. Good sea views, large deck. Rent includes two memberships to Hyatt Spa and gym, heated indoor 25-metre pool, one carpark, air conditioner, free power and water. \$550 pw. Available 29 June. Phone Kevin on 376 5354 (evenings).

**Eden-Epsom.** Near Pencarrow Avenue. Quiet, self-contained flat, 50 square metres, with separate entrance, in historic villa. Right on bus stop to UoA. Spacious living area, kitchen, hall, walk-in-wardrobe, one dble bdrm, bthrm with shower. Polished kauri floors, high ceilings, oriental rugs. Available furnished or semi-furnished. Osp. No smoking or pets. Price includes water. Electricity and phone separate. Available mid-June. \$290 pw. Also slightly smaller one dble-bdrm fully-furnished flat at same locale. Heat pump, bath. \$260 pw. Phone Kate or Peter on 630 5776.

**Grey Lynn house available** for short-term rental. 30 June - 2 August. Four bdrms (one with ensuite). Fully furnished. Sunny, modern, central. \$250 pw. Contact [rogerboyd@gmail.com](mailto:rogerboyd@gmail.com)

**Hillsborough house to rent.** July-Dec 2009. Spacious family home in quiet cul-de-sac, with sea views, four bdrms + study, two living spaces and dble garage. On main bus route to University and variety of schools. Available fully furnished. Suit visiting academic and family. Contact (09) 625 6016 or email [larry.julie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:larry.julie@xtra.co.nz)

**Stylish townhouse Epsom.** Available to rent, fully-furnished, 1 July to 15 Dec (approx). Three bdrms + study, two bthrms, dble garage. 15 minutes by bus or car from UoA. Ideal for visitors. Small private garden with fishpond and herb patch. \$600 pw + utilities. Phone Mike on (09) 422 0491.

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

#### Are you looking for a house-sitter?

Mature person available to care for your home and pets. If you're going on holiday or sabbatical for one month or more, contact Kim, [k.robson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.robson@auckland.ac.nz) References available.

#### Film Festival - inter semester break.

Piha screenwriter would like to sub-let (or house sit) a room or apartment in the CBD during the first week of the Film Festival. Between 9-18 July. Contact Savage on

812 8155.

**House-sitter available.** British female (UoA staff member) available for house-sitting from late June until early August (available for shorter period if required). Happy to look after pets. Responsible person, n/s and able to provide references. Please email [archibaldh@hotmail.com](mailto:archibaldh@hotmail.com)

### OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

**Greek apartment:** Study leave or holiday. An Auckland academic's retreat is available to rent anytime. Located within three hours of Athens Airport, Tyros is an ideal base for study leave in Europe. It is well served by buses to Athens. The Tyros apartment is brand new within a classic Peleponnese village with its bay and beach-front tavernas. Check out the website [www.tyrosapartment.com](http://www.tyrosapartment.com) Email [t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz)

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Mission Bay house for sale.** \$520,000. Fully renovated, warm and sunny, 1960s weatherboard house with bush outlook. Two bdrms + large study, workshop and garage. Stunning new Fyfe kitchen. Balcony, deck and low-maintenance garden designed for outdoor living. Five minutes to Tamaki Campus, 10 minutes to city. Phone (021) 883 503.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Egg donor needed.** We need your help! We are a married couple in a loving and secure relationship who, in last 10 years, tried every possible way to have a baby. Our only chance now of becoming parents is with the help of an egg donor. Would you consider being that special person for us? If you are healthy, 37 or younger, ideally have completed your own family, and be willing to help us, please contact in confidence Juanita or Joanna at Fertility Associates, phone (09) 925 5982 or email [FAADOnurse@fertilityassociates.co.nz](mailto:FAADOnurse@fertilityassociates.co.nz) Please quote Happy Baby.

#### New Zealand Red Cross Book Fair

Grab a bargain! Over 30,000 books to choose from along with jigsaws, games, magazines, DVDs, CDs and records. Opening night, Friday 12 June, 3-9pm. \$10. Sat 13 June and Sun 14 June, 8am-4pm, free. Alexandra Park Function Centre, Level 2, Delightful Lady Lounge. Queries to Joanne Bishop-Sime, 0800 733 276.

**Tour packages to Asia:** Planning a holiday to Asia? Visit [www.exoticholidays.co.nz](http://www.exoticholidays.co.nz) for tour packages. We can customise or tailor-make as per your requirements. Book online from home/office and save heaps. Most competitive deals in the market - watch out for monthly specials. **Wanted to buy;** a house or unit for first home buyers. Two or three bedrooms, weatherboard or brick and tile preferred. Most Auckland Central and North Shore suburbs considered. Up to \$390,000. Phone Richard on (021) 593 663.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: [www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events)

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