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Early Childhood Education provision seen as vital



Lynda Florian works with children at a University ECE centre in Symonds Street.

A recent review of Early Childhood Education (ECE) at The University of Auckland highlighted its importance not only to the welfare of families and the career advancement of individual staff and students but also to the strategic objectives of the University as a whole.

ECE was identified as vital for recruitment, retention and success of staff and students, with particular relevance to women, Māori, Pacific and postgraduates, and with the potential to meet the needs of older staff and students with grandparenting responsibilities.

Links to professional training and to the University's research goals were also seen as highly relevant.

Led by Trudie McNaughton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities), with external consultant Kim Hope as reviewer, the review team's working group included students and staff, two unions – the Association of University Staff (AUS now TEU) and New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) – as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Property Services, the Pacific Reference Group, Student Administration and Human Resources.

In addition the team received academic advice from the Faculty of Education on ECE research and training, and from the University's Department of Statistics on the survey development and analysis.

Kim Hope said one pleasing aspect of the review was the degree of support for quality provision of ECE from across the University, including from those who had no direct personal need for the services.

The Women Returning to Work Report (2007) identified access to ECE centres as the single greatest priority for women returning to work after taking parental leave. The report noted the importance of retaining highly skilled women after they had taken leave, and the benefits this had for the organisation.

"Our approach was to engage very broadly, both in the composition of the group and its spread across the campuses," says Trudie McNaughton. "We worked very hard to get a diverse range of views and expertise."

Kim Dirks, Auckland Branch President from the TEU, said: "The whole process was so positive and

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Key events

Shape of the future

Professor Rod Gover (Mathematics), in his inaugural lecture, will speak of how geometry has a key role in the quest for understanding "Life, the universe and everything". To understand this we need to throw away the idea that geometry is just about points and straight lines. In fact, the very idea of what geometry and shape means is evolving rapidly. The lecture will take place from 7-8pm on 13 August at Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering.

Electoral challenges

In the first of five sessions in the series "Big challenges for a small nation: Setting the 2010 agenda" the Department of Political Studies invites you to hear "The future of electoral politics in New Zealand" with Associate Professor Raymond Miller (Political Studies) and political organiser Matt McCarten, chaired by Dr Jennifer Curtin (Political Studies). This will take place from 12.30-2pm on 13 August at Old Government House. See www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/mpp for further information.

Evolution and purpose

Does evolution by natural selection rob life of its purpose? On 19 August in a lecture entitled "Evolution, art, science and purpose", the third in the Liggins Institute's Seasons of Life series, Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd will argue the contrary view. He will show how evolutionary thinking has lately expanded first into the social sciences and recently into the humanities and the arts, and how, in a very real sense, evolution creates purpose. The lecture will be at 6pm in the Robb Lecture Theatre, 85 Park Road. It is free and open to the public but bookings are essential.

Email friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz or tel 09 303 5972 or ext 83372.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

From 27 July to 3 August, I presented to staff on each campus (and will present to the University Council on 17 August) the outcomes of the 2009 Staff Survey. Although the Survey participation rate was down slightly from the first Survey in 2007 (49 percent vs 53 percent), the results nonetheless give us a very useful insight into how staff view the institution.

In all but one of the Survey categories (*Satisfaction with the work*), there was a statistically significant increase from 2007 in the proportion of staff who had a positive view of the University. This change was most apparent in the categories of: *Leadership* (+10 percent); *Employee engagement*, *Communication and career development* (all +7 percent); and *Working relationships and collegiality*, *Image and reputation*, and *Work organisation and Operating efficiency* (all +6 percent). Lesser (3-5 percent), but still significant, improvements were recorded in *Innovation and empowerment*, *Immediate manager* and *Reward and recognition*.

The Survey also allows us to make comparisons with the Global Applied and Academic Researcher Norm calculated by the survey company, Towers Perrin-ISR, using responses from staff in international research and educational institutions. University of Auckland staff were more positive than the international norms about their institution's environment for communication and reward/recognition, but less positive in areas such as leadership, image and reputation, and the opportunity for innovation in the working environment.

While improvements since 2007 are encouraging, there are several potential confounding effects in a study of this kind. Following the last Survey we worked hard to improve staff knowledge of and interaction with the Senior Management Team (something that was noted as a particular area of concern) and that appears to have paid off in terms of how staff view University leadership and feel engaged with the organisation. On the other hand we have also, since 2007, entered a worldwide recession with increasing unemployment and therefore perhaps a tendency for staff to feel more positive about an organisation that provides a relatively stable employment environment. Future surveys may help us to understand the relative magnitude of these effects. Meanwhile, each Dean and Service Division Director will be provided with results for their area so that they can discuss them with colleagues. Action plans will then be developed and incorporated into Annual Plans to make the University an even better working environment for staff.



'Giant leap' for biotechnology

Construction of an innovative new research space at the University to house an incubator for biotechnology companies began on 28 July, with the Honourable John Banks, Mayor of Auckland City, turning the first sod.

The Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology – the first such incubator in New Zealand – brings together academics and industry in one location. The new purpose-built annex, designed by Stephenson & Turner, will increase the existing research space and facilities to over 10,000 square metres, giving the Institute a permanent home and allowing its expansion.

"The concept is very simple – it's about inviting the biotechnology industry to work alongside University scientists," said Professor Joerg Kistler, Director of the Institute, explaining that it would allow companies to share costly equipment as well as encouraging the flow of information between scientists.

"There are also many benefits for the University. Additional research projects will come from industry – there are already examples of this with industry internships – and it's a way to grow the next generation of biotechnology scientists."

John Banks quipped that this start of construction was "one small step for this great University and a giant leap for the biotechnology industry".

He quoted Sir William Jervois, Governor of New Zealand, at the opening of the University in 1883. "The work in which we are engaged – placing the advantages of a university within the reach of every man and woman of Auckland – is one the importance of which it is almost impossible to over-estimate. It is work that will, I trust, influence not merely the immediate neighbourhood and the present generation, but also indirectly the whole colony, and that for all time."

"It's extraordinary that on this day in 2009 we are repeating these words, and it's wonderful to see that the Governor's vision continues to benefit not just this city but the nation," said John Banks.



Mayor John Banks turns the first sod, with Joerg Kistler, Stuart McCutcheon, director of Property Services Peter Fehl, and Chancellor Roger France.

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forward-looking; that was what made it so successful."

Alex Sims, also from TEU, added that the availability and quality of ECE is extremely important, to the extent that it "makes a difference to whether people can continue to work at the University".

Prue Toft, EEO Manager, also noted that high quality and affordable ECE centres aid staff recruitment. Many staff are "dual career couples" and may not have family living locally to provide back-up. Good facilities on campus can support their decision to work at The University of Auckland.

The major outcome from the review is a set of strong and comprehensive recommendations, building on the excellent work already being done in ECE and closely in accord with the University's strategic objectives.

These recommendations are already approved in principle by the Vice-Chancellor and the University's Senior Management Team.

"We can now move towards the development of a business case and an implementation plan," says Trudie.

She is pleased that the University's Campus Development Plan gives a "wonderful opportunity to align the review's recommendations with future planning".

Among major recommendations are that the University commits to the "provision of high-quality ECE centres utilising research and teaching expertise and opportunities".

The full set of recommendations covers planning (for example, that the University commits to

provision of high-quality ECE on each campus); quality (for example, by providing non-contact time, pay parity and professional development for ECE staff); communication (for example, improved accessibility of information and establishment of online registration); accessibility (for example that the ECEs reflect the University's standard hours of 8am till 6pm and should open at least from 7.30am to 6.30pm); and service provision (for example, that the University investigate the feasibility of campus school holiday programmes).

The review recommends that the University continue to provide both Kōhanga Reo (with total immersion in Te Reo Māori) and Kōhungahunga Centres (providing instruction in Māori language). It also recommended investigating the feasibility of provision of a Pacific Island language nest.

Trudie McNaughton's own family "has benefited in the past", she says, "from very high-quality early childhood education from dedicated ECE staff at the University including the iconic Elaine McCulloch".

Her overall vision for ECE provision is that it be of highest quality, that it support the strategic objectives of the University including high-quality research, growth in postgraduate studies, and training for ECE professionals, that it support our commitment to Māori and Pacific communities, and that it assist in recruitment of talented staff and students. She says that while the recommendations of the Review are ambitious, she is sure that they are achievable over time.

The review is available on www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/eo-equal-opportunities/eo-updates-and-events

Significant stories preserved



Megan Hutching (left) with two of her interviewees: Warwick Nicoll (right) and Jock Brookfield.

Stories of the most important twists and turns in the University's history over the past 50 years – remembered by those who led the changes – are now on record, thanks to the 125th Jubilee oral history project.

Historian Megan Hutching was commissioned last year to interview 16 former senior administrators about their early lives and their time at the University. The results – more than 50 hours of recordings featuring a veritable “Who’s who” of University decision-makers – have now been lodged in the Library’s archives.

More students! More buildings! is a recurring theme of the interviews, which cover long periods of University expansion. The establishment of the Tamaki Campus, Maidment Theatre and student Recreation Centre are discussed by several interviewees including Sir Colin Maiden (Vice-Chancellor 1971-94). Others, such as Professor Pat Bergquist (Head of Zoology 1986-92) and Dulcie McNaughton (North Shore Teachers College Dean 1960-80), recall their own days as undergraduates in the 1940s and 1950s, when the Clock Tower and Old Choral Hall were practically the only permanent buildings on campus. Fast-forward 60 years, and Professor Barry Spicer (Dean of

Business and Economics 1998-2008) talks about the Owen G. Glenn building, officially opened in February 2008.

Of particular significance in the growth of the University were the establishment of the Medical School in 1968 – discussed by founding staff members Professor Sir John Scott and Professor Jack Sinclair – and the opening of Waipapa Marae 20 years later, recalled by Professor Ranginui Walker, first Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Dame Anne Salmond, first Pro Vice-Chancellor (EO), and others. But expansion wasn’t always smooth – regarding the Human Sciences Building, built in the late 1970s, long-time Registrar Warwick Nicoll quips: “At one stage during its construction, it was further from completion than when it started.”

The increasing importance of research – and research funding – is highlighted by recollections of the founding of Auckland UniServices Ltd in the 1980s to manage applied research funding. The firm, recognised world-wide, is now probably “the most successful university spin-off commercial company in Australasia”, says Warwick Nicoll, who also talks about the development of Auckland University Press as one of his “joys”.

Māori and Pacific participation and research also grew over the years, as did female participation in traditionally “male” subjects. Trailblazer Professor Charmian O’Connor recalls how she became a junior lecturer in Chemistry at the tender age of 20 in 1959. This was in spite of the era’s attitudes which prohibited females from applying for most scholarships, forbade male and female hostel dwellers to mix apart from on Sunday afternoons and didn’t allow for childcare facilities. But by the 1980s a liaison officer was appointed who encouraged women to take engineering and science subjects – a very positive move according to Charmian O’Connor, who is pleased to report during her interview that the male:female ratio for chemistry students has changed to about 50:50. She also talks about her work establishing the Equal Opportunities Office and Staff Development Office (now the Centre for Academic Development) while she was Assistant to the Vice Chancellor.

Judge Mick Brown (Chancellor 1986-1991 and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) 2002-2005) and Professor Nicholas Tarling (rotating Deputy Vice-Chancellor, among other posts, 1978-91) discuss the time the University, with the aim of defending academic freedom, took the Government to court in the late 1980s over proposed education legislation. The case was settled out-of-court when the University was assured of certain safeguards such as the Senate.

Light-hearted moments and colourful characters pop up in between explanations of administrative matters such as governance structure. Warwick Nicoll talks about his job of signing every single degree and diploma for every single graduation until the advent of electronic signatures in 2001. Jack Sinclair remembers that Cecil Lewis, first Dean of Medicine, had learned how to break quarter-inch bolts with his hands while working in circuses in his youth (studying melanoma in lions). He willingly demonstrated this strongman ability for Medicine’s staff and visitors.

Other interviewees include Jock Brookfield (Professor of Public Law 1985-93), Ray Meyer (Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Tamaki, 1991-97), Warren Moran (Dean of Arts, 1993-97) and Jack Woodward (rotating Deputy Vice-Chancellor, 1982-1991).

University wins at Montana Awards

Emily Perkins, an acclaimed New Zealand fiction writer and member of the Department of English, has won the top prize in this year’s Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

Novel About My Wife (Bloomsbury UK; distributed in New Zealand and Australia by Allen & Unwin) was awarded the Montana medal for fiction or poetry. The book, about a grieving husband reconstructing events that led to his wife’s death, was described by judges’ convenor Mark Williams as “highly assured fiction by a writer working at the height of her powers”.

Emily Perkins is currently enrolled in the University’s Master of Creative Writing programme,

and next year she will work as an MCW adviser. The MCW is a one-year full-time programme in which students who are interested in writing a novel, short story or poetry collection, cross genre/multimedia work, or other approved project, explore both the theory and practice of writing. Participants undertake first and second drafts of their project in seminars, research their writing subjects and genres, and work under the guidance of academic staff and professional writers.

Esteemed writer, poet and literary critic Emeritus Professor C.K. Stead (English) won the Montana Medal for Reference and Anthology for his *Collected Poems 1951-2006* (Auckland University

Press). The judges said the book’s “editorial intelligence marks it as an anthology that adds something significant and new to the work as it has appeared thus far”.

Sam Sampson, who earned a masters degree in Philosophy from the University and tutored for some time in ethnomusicology, won the NZSA Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry. The judges said his collection, *Everything Talks* (Auckland University Press), “displays an uncompromising effort to make language work intensely, to generate excitement and involvement from the reader, and to toy with access to meaning”.

Waste not



Transport officer Doug Oliver with one of the new "double station" bins.

"This is something people have been wanting for years and it's really great that it's happening now," says Environmental Coordinator Lesley Stone.

Lesley was speaking of the new recycling system for bottles and cans now being rolled out across all campuses.

A survey of 1,000 staff found that 94 percent of those surveyed would like to see the University recycling its waste.

After two and a half years of research, preparation and trialling, the University's waste and recycling team is satisfied that the system chosen for University-wide roll-out has been proven to work well.

The research began with a look at just what comprised the University's waste. "We took eight tonnes of the University's waste, had it dumped on a concrete pad and took a one-tonne sample from it," says

Lesley. "We found that 22 percent of the waste stream by weight was bottles and cans, with another 12 percent paper, so we set about finding effective ways to get them out of the waste stream in both the common areas and offices."

The result after two years of work and trialling is a set of internal and external bins that enable bottles, cans, paper and cardboard to be separated in all the main common areas, and in increasing numbers of departments and units. For offices, a system of desktop cubes and paper trays is now being used by more than 2,000 staff and is helping to reduce by up to 60 percent the paper sent to landfill.

When the team, made up of staff from Property Services, first discussed recycling, it seemed fairly straightforward. "But that turned out to be famous last words," says Lesley with a laugh.

As well as renegotiating contracts with waste collectors and bringing the cleaners on board the project involved research and trialling of several possible bins and systems.

When blue wheelie bins were introduced for cans and bottles in the open areas, the results were disappointing, with high levels of contamination from waste of other kinds. However, the working group discovered that by placing the "bottle-and-can" bin beside one for general waste, the level of contamination then dropped dramatically – to around nine percent. "But wheelie bins remain problematic because they can be moved around and people are so used to just using them to dump things in. If a recycling wheelie bin gets separated from a general waste bin, it tends to get trashed," says Lesley.

By trial and error the team discovered also that the shape and position of openings made a difference: "If both types of bins had open tops, the rate of contamination went up."

The final decision was to use stainless bins with a rubber flange for bottles and cans – which reduced contamination to 0-6 percent – and to use three different recycling combinations in different environments around the University.

In high-use areas – for example close to the cafeterias – large purpose-built double stations have been installed, with different apertures for rubbish and

recyclables. In the lower-use areas, matching bins are placed together, while in the public spaces inside buildings, smaller paired bins are used.

This three-tiered system is now being put in place in all campuses.

Lesley acknowledges the tireless work of many people in this University-wide initiative. The waste and recycling team is made up of staff from Property Services – Emmett Mackle, facilities manager, Kieran Pollard, campus services manager, Michael Steves, contract administrator, Doug Oliver, transport officer, Bob Koosache, superintendent, Tamaki and Epsom, and Stanley Jones, grounds and precinct manager. Also involved have been the waste management and cleaning contractors, the cleaning staff "who have been very supportive", and the thousands of staff and students who have helped with the trials. AUSA's Albie Morsley and Tom O'Connor, and their team, have played a significant role in trialling and effecting a workable system for high-use areas such as the main student quad.

The new bins are now working very well in high-use areas, says Lesley. Intensive monitoring will continue as the team streamlines the system and works out where more bins are needed. It's now over to students and staff to make sure the work of the team pays off in terms of a cleaner environment for the University and for the wider world.

Stories without end



Judith Binney.

President of the Polynesian Society, Dr Dame Joan Metge, presented the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal to Emeritus Professor Judith Binney

(History) in a packed lecture theatre at the Department of Māori Studies on 22 July.

The medal, first presented in 1970, recognises "outstanding scholarly work on the New Zealand Māori... in the fields of ethnology, social anthropology, archaeology, prehistory or linguistics".

Like pioneer ethnologist Elsdon Best, Judith Binney has worked for many years in close co-operation with the Ngāi Tūhoe of the Urewera. In three groundbreaking books, *Mihaia*, *Nga Morehu – the Survivors* and *Redemption Songs*, she developed scholarly methods for handling oral sources and demonstrated convincingly that discrepancies between multiple versions of the same events are both meaningful and illuminating.

Responding to the award, she delivered an address entitled "Stories without end". First she entranced her audience with stories of nineteenth-century gift exchanges between Tūhoe and representatives of the Crown that featured such exotic items as a rooster and a billy-goat. Then she explored the way these stories have been repeatedly retold, adapted to changing circumstances, in later contexts. Her address will be published in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* later this year.

The Polynesian Society was founded in Wellington in 1892 with the aim of interpreting and preserving the traditional knowledge of the Māori and other indigenous peoples of Oceania

before it was lost. These aims have been widened over the years to include "scholarly studies of the past and present" New Zealand Māori and other Pacific peoples and their cultures.

In addition to the quarterly *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, an international journal now in its 118th year, the society publishes other works, such as a new edition of Apirana Ngata's four-part collection of Māori waiata, produced in association with Auckland University Press (2002-2007).

Since 1980 the Polynesian Society has been based at The University of Auckland, where the Departments of Māori Studies and Anthropology provide support and facilities.



Roberto Segre at the School of Architecture and Planning.

The Hood and Seelye Fellowships aim to promote a stimulating exchange of scholastic expertise between The University of Auckland and other parts of the world.

The advantages of the visits always flow both ways: visitors bring knowledge at the highest levels; but they also take benefits away with them.

In the case of Seelye Fellow, Professor Roberto Segre, hosted last month by NICA School of Architecture and Planning, and the NZCLAS (New Zealand Centre for Latin American Studies) the reciprocal advantages of the visit are especially clear.

Not only is Professor Segre the first historian of architecture to visit New Zealand from Latin America, bringing a lifetime of knowledge at the highest level of expertise, he is also experiencing the architectural environment of this part of the world for the first time, and is keen to pass on his impressions when he returns home.

He has observed a similarity here between Latin American and New Zealand architecture, particularly in the recent experimentation with new materials, novel spaces and combinations of different elements, for example of wood and metals. "Both share a search for what is different." He also notes the increasing use of innovative locally-produced materials.

"There has never been a publication in Brazil featuring New Zealand architecture," he says. "I have seen many interesting buildings here and would like to write an article to be published there."

Says Dr Rosangela Tenorio, senior lecturer in Architecture: "Professor Segre's visit is enormously important for us as architects. Usually we look to Europe for our architectural influences. Latin America is a continent of rich contrasts to which Roberto has applied a deep critical analysis. During this visit he has helped raise our awareness of Latin American traditions and connections with the New Zealand context."

Professor Segre, who was born in Milan and

has been a professor in Brazil, Argentina and Cuba, says his favourite city in Latin America is Buenos Aires, which he places on a level with the great cities of the world.

"I have taught in New York, in Paris, in Buenos Aires – I love all three – for the life of the city, the intensity of the experience, the environment which creates the support for a vibrant urban life."

Professor Segre's interests are strongly focused on architecture as an expression of cultural values and a creator and reflector of aesthetics. He therefore gives his attention not only to the past but also to current cultural trends and the ways these will need to be accommodated in the architectural and urban spaces of the future.

"Over the last 50 years, young people are present in the cities much more, because of changing lifestyles and changing patterns of family responsibilities. To stay healthy, they need room to move. They need places to play sports and games. Old people, who now comprise a higher proportion of the population, also want to be out in the squares and gardens."

Issues of space will also preclude cars as transport for individuals in the future. "Sao Paulo now has 15 million cars. There is simply not enough space to keep accommodating their increase."

"In the 1980s and 1990s there was a privatisation of public space," says Professor Segre. "Now there is a move to reclaim the centre of cities as public space."

The message he would like to leave behind about Latin American architecture is that even in a continent we think of as having limited resources, there is immense creativity in its architectural approach to sustainability and in creating living and cultural spaces that will continue to serve people's needs for a satisfying life as we move into the future.

Attention staff

Please help to create an inclusive learning environment for students with impairments.

The University of Auckland's EO Office is asking for the participation of all general and academic staff in completing anonymous online surveys between now and Friday 14 August.

We are committed to providing all of our students, including those with impairments, with the best possible opportunities for educational success. We know all staff – general and academic – have the potential to support students with impairments.

Please help us and go to www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/survey/eo

The questionnaire is anonymous, will only take about 15 minutes and any questions not applicable to you can be skipped.

Thank you for your assistance in making this project a success.

Trudie McNaughton

Pro Vice-Chancellor (EO)

Any enquiries contact Vicki Watson ext 84923, or v.watson@auckland.ac.nz

Foreshore and seabed Review – all this expense to say what was evident

Despite international United Nations bodies finding the Foreshore Seabed legislation as discriminatory to Māori and despite the hiko on Parliament (May 2004), in reflection of the overwhelming majority of submissions made to the Select Committee opposing the Foreshore and Seabed Bill, the Foreshore and Seabed Act was enacted vesting title of the foreshore and seabed in the Crown.

This Bill was the catalyst for establishing the Māori Party. In my opinion there is no doubt that this current review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act would not have arisen if the Māori Party had not advocated for a review. This is provided for in the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the National Government and the Māori Party.

A panel was established comprising former Chief Judge of the Māori Land and High Court Justice, Eddie Durie, historian and academic Associate Professor Richard Boast, and cultural and Māori language expert Hana O'Reagan.

After national hui and feedback the panel provided responses to the four areas within its terms of reference.

Confirming the legal views espoused in the Ngati Apa decision, that native or aboriginal title existed unless it was evident that this title had been clearly and plainly extinguished, the panel offered a raft of options to respond to the Ngati Apa case. This included negotiating with Māori a nationwide settlement and substituting a special statute.

The panel also noted that the Foreshore and Seabed Act was discriminatory, failed to enhance mana whenua, and advanced the general public interest at the considerable expense of Māori interests.

After reviewing various models, the panel provided various realistic options available, favouring a "mixed" model, to recognise and provide for customary and public interests in the coastal marine area. These options require a repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act and the enactment of new legislation.

Given the initial reaction to this legislation from Māori, the courts and International bodies and the public, although it is hardly surprising that the panel has reached this decision, it is encouraging.

This will provide a test case as to whether a "compromise" can be met over a space that all New Zealanders perceive as their own, a test case that perhaps should have been made in 2004.

Valmaine Toki (Law)

Notable feat in creative writing



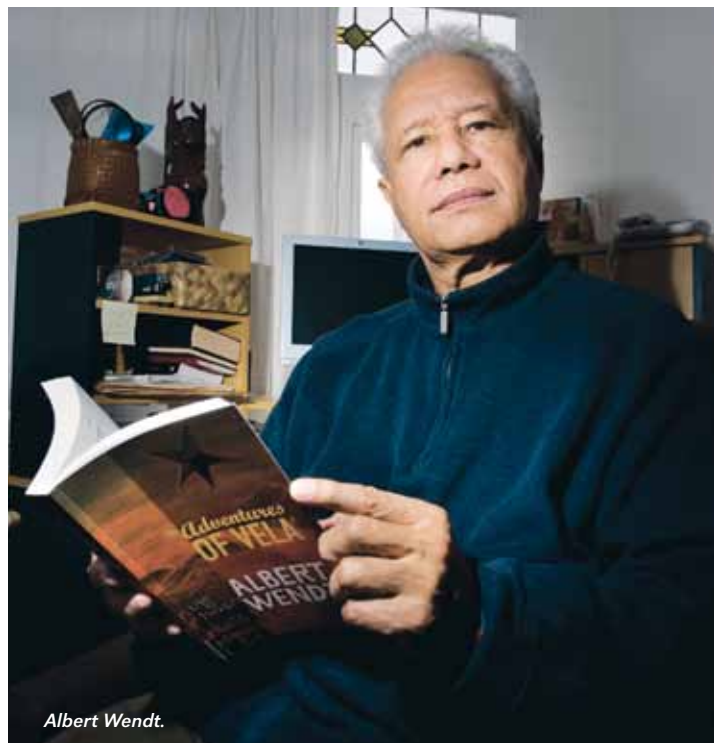
Murray Edmond.



Lisa Samuels (left) with Selina Tusitala-Mash.



Michele Leggott holding the book and CD.



Albert Wendt.

In a remarkable burst of creative endeavour, five current and former academics from the English Department have had volumes of poetry published this year. In addition, a former staff member, C.K Stead, has won a Montana award for his *Collected Poems* of 2008.

“To have books of poetry published by so many English staff members in a single semester is remarkable, and indicates our continuing strength in and commitment to creative writing and New Zealand literature,” says the head of English, Professor Tom Bishop.

All of the books have either appeared on the books pages of *University News* or will appear in forthcoming issues. Already featured have been Associate Professor Lisa Samuels *Tomorrowland*, published by Shearsman, Associate Professor Michele Leggott’s *Mirabile Dictu*, and Dr Selina Tusitala

Marsh’s *Fast Talking PI*, both published by Auckland University Press. Still to come are Associate Professor Murray Edmond’s *The Fruits Of* (with images by Joanna Forsberg), published by Holloway Press, Emeritus Professor Albert Wendt’s *Adventures of Vela*, a novel in poetry published by Huia Publishers, and Lisa Samuels, *Throe*, published by Oystercatcher Press.

From the collection

The large silvery ball of ferns that floats above Civic Square in Wellington is possibly one of New Zealand's most iconic sculptures.

It was produced in 1998 by Neil Dawson, who has created similarly spherical works in Paris for the Centre Georges Pompidou, as well as Manchester, Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur and Hastings. A Christchurch-based artist with an international reputation, he has also had works installed in Osaka, Hong Kong, the Australian National Gallery and the entrance for the Stadium of Australia for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Initially trained as a teacher at the University of Canterbury, Dawson later completed a graduate diploma in sculpture at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1973. His first suspended sculpture, *Echo*, was produced in 1981 for the Christchurch Arts Centre, a line drawing of a building that seems to invert itself as you walk around it, much like an Escher drawing.

Architectural forms, especially stairs into the sky, continue to appear in many of his works, including *Throwback* (1990), the large upturned arch that resides behind the Auckland Art Gallery in Albert Park, forming a giant signature "D" but also a monument to Auckland's architectural history which suffered so much in the 1980s. Along with foliage, feathers are another favourite motif of Dawson's, emphasising the lightness suggested by his suspended works

– there is a large example floating between floors in the Aotea Centre.

Produced two years after the 18-metre *Chalice* that has become a landmark in Cathedral Square, Christchurch, *Chevron* was created for The University of Auckland Art Collection in 2003 as a special commission for the Kate Edger student amenities complex. Both these works anticipate his *Bomber Command Flyby*, 2005, which shoots into the sky like a spotlight.

Chevron, like all of Dawson's works, is solid yet ethereal, produced from steel but appearing weightless, even when fixed to the ground. It is hard but transparent, integrating with the environment and accentuating its height with the exaggerated perspective effects that make many of his works appear to sit in the air as if he was sculpting with sky.

A remarkable piece of engineering, *Chevron* transforms flat sheet materials into complex three-dimensional geometry, in this case a triangular stainless steel beam bent to form a chevron shape with a dissolving lattice at the top. As Dawson described the work in his preliminary design report, the sculpture "will be angled from vertical by 20 degrees and will bend back 40 degrees upon itself at 'knee' point at a height of approximately five metres.... The upper section will be perforated, with the density of perforations increasing with height."

Precision-cut by laser, the hexagonal lattice forms of the upper



PHOTO: SAM HARTNETT

Neil Dawson (b.1948), *Chevron*, 2003, stainless steel. The University of Auckland Art Collection.

section progressively open up, helping the cantilevered structure balance. This also makes the work seemingly evaporate into the sky, an effect that is particularly dramatic when its flame-like lighting is

accentuated on an autumn evening.

The University also owns a small wall-piece, *Skywalls*, purchased in 1987 which resides in the School of Music.

Andrew Clifford

Winter Week gets bigger and better

A record enrolment for this year's Winter Week on Campus was a very positive start to the Centre for Continuing Education's semester two programme.

Over 240 keen adult learners, from as far away as Wellington, who relish the opportunity to access the expertise of University lecturers in their chosen field, spent the week of 6-10 July on campus. They attended lectures in such diverse topics as "Ancient Greek mythology and the encoding of culture" (Professor Anne Mackay, Classics and Ancient History), "Antarctica: The frozen continent" (Associate Professor Clive Evans, Biological Sciences), "America and the rest of us: The Obama effect" (Associate Professor Steve Hoadley, Political Studies) and "Europe transformed: Pre-modern to the present" (Lindsay Diggelmann, History). Afternoon sessions entitled "Celebrating Darwin" and "Medical matters" were presented by academic staff from the Faculties of Science, Arts, and Medical and Health Sciences.

Continuing Education programme managers, Libby Passau and Jo Davies, enjoy designing a new programme of lectures each year and say the quality of

presentations this year was extremely high. "Ground-breaking research was outlined, previously accepted knowledge and opinions were challenged, and current directions of politics, medicine, and the environment were reassessed. Both participants and lecturers enjoy the Winter Week experience."

To quote one participant: "It is a privilege to have hugely complex material presented by people so steeped in their topic that it is easy to grasp, and relevant to life experience".

For others the best aspect of Winter Week is that it offers a fascinating window into some of the world-class research being done at the University.

Lindsay Diggelmann (History) enjoys teaching for CCE at Winter Week and says: "The adult students are really keen to learn. They ask intelligent questions and are a very responsive audience."

Some were so inspired by Lindsay Diggelmann's lecture series that they enrolled as non-credit students through CCE for the "Body and blood: Religious cultures and conflicts" C50-1650: CCE course which Lindsay co-teaches in semester two.

What's on

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

Department of History postgraduate student workshop

Dr Tim Rowse, University of Western Australia: *'Inside'/'Outside': Writing indigenous history*. 2-4pm Rm 43, 7 Wynyard St. Please register for this event to receive readings and for catering purposes to j.frost@auckland.ac.nz
Dept of Philosophy research seminar
Prof Mohan Matthen, University of Toronto: *Memory and justification*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts II.

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

Māori and the city workshop

This workshop will bring together a growing number of Māori researchers interested in both historical and contemporary issues related to Māori and the city such as urban Māori communities; Tangata Whenua spaces in the city; working, playing, and praying in the city; city-inspired Māori art, waiata, and architecture; and comparative indigenous experiences. To register your interest or for more information contact Aroha Harris, a.harris@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST

Fourth Winter Lecture

Dr Aroha Harris, Dept of History, UoA: *Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century: This is not a renaissance*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Queries to Bill Williams, ext 87698 or wrs.williams@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

School of Music research seminar

David Nalden: *'But the violin is so unnatural!': Causes and avoidance of performance-related pain and injury*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Bioengineering research seminar

David Nickerson, Research Scientist, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *A Physiome standards-based model publication paradigm*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

School of Asian Studies seminar

Bonnie S McDougall, Emeritus Professor in Chinese, University of Otago: *State sponsorship or gift exchange: Two models of translation transactions in modern China*. 6.30pm Rm OGG5, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST

NZ Governance Centre: Small and medium enterprises and family business conference

Until 14 August. There will be an academic workshop today for participants followed by the conference tomorrow. Keynote speakers include: Prof Joe McCahery, University of Amsterdam; Prof John Farrar, UoA; Prof Jean Jacques du Plessis, Deakin University. Queries to nzgovernance@auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Political Studies seminar

Assoc-Prof Raymond Miller, UoA and political organiser Matt McCarten: *Big challenges for a small nation: Setting the 2010 agenda: The future of electoral politics in NZ*. 12.30-2pm OGH. Chaired

by Jennifer Curtin, Dept of Political Studies.

Visit www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/mpp

Inaugural Lecture 2009

Prof Rod Gover, Dept of Mathematics, UoA: *Geometry and the shape of the future*. 7-8pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

University of Auckland interfaculty rugby tournament

UoA Rugby Football Club, Colin Maiden Park, 85 Merton Rd, Glen Innes. Match day one: Commerce v Law and Medicine v Engineering
Bye: Property.
Queries to Tim Brightwell, phone 027 223 5345 or email interfacultyrugby2009@gmail.com

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST

Essential skills for managers

8.30am-4.30pm Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Two-day course designed for UoA managers/team leaders to explore key management concepts. Part two on Tuesday 25 August. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HRIMP). For queries phone ext 89630.

Fifth Winter Lecture

Dr Bronwyn Dalley, Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage: *Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century: Some old stuff: Engaging a public past and present for the future*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Queries to Bill Williams, ext 87698 or wrs.williams@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

School of Music research seminar

John Coulter: *Creative practice as research*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) Roadshow

1.30pm Rm 730-207, Tamaki Campus. The presentation will include information on opportunities for HRC funding. Queries to Denise Greenwood, ext 83562 or d.greenwood@auckland.ac.nz
Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Yanxin Zhang, Dept of Sport and Exercise Science: *A review of three-dimensional motion analysis techniques*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

School of Asian Studies seminar

Bonnie S McDougall, Emeritus Professor in Chinese, University of Otago: *Marginal benefits: Post-colonialism, multi-culturalism and identity in Hong Kong fiction and poetry*. 6.30pm Rm OGG5, Level 0, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST

2009 Philosophy lecture series

Prof Tim Mulgan, Professor in Moral and Political Philosophy, University of St Andrews: *Ethics for a broken world*. 6.30pm Rm OGG5, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

Doctoral morning tea

10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. This is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues. This event is supported by the PGSA, Graduate

Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA.

Confucius Institute free movie

Kekexili. 6.30-8pm Lecture Theatre 3.402, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to confuciusinstitute@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

City/University. Apartment, Brooklyn Building, Emily Place near Law School. Generous one bedroom, separate living, kitchen, bathroom. North-facing corner, whiteware. No carpark. \$280 pw. Email ka.palmer@auckland.ac.nz or sarah@seragraphics.co.nz or phone 64 9 521 0486.

Kohimarama: Sunny three-bdrm house, two and a half bthrms, study, hobby room, laundry, dble internal garaging and off street, alarm, underfloor heating in lounge and HRV system, private outdoor area, modern décor, desirable quiet neighbourhood, very close to Kohimarama Primary School, shops and waterfront. \$690 pw. Available after 31 July for long-term rental. No smokers or pets. Phone Bill on (027) 596 6596.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Do you wish to rent your home for a year? A professional couple (approaching retirement) have sold and are looking to rent for a year from early October. We will take good care of your home. We have a small, well behaved cat. References available. Remuera, Parnell areas. Minimum three bdrms. Phone (021) 297 5426.

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Greek apartment: Study leave or holiday. An Auckland academic's retreat is available to rent any time. 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. Visit the website www.tyrosapartment.com Email t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz

Olympics in Vancouver/summer in Auckland house swap:

Are you an Olympics fan with dreams of attending the Vancouver Winter Games? A lovely family home (three bdrms, two bthrms and a guesthouse-cum-office in the backyard that can sleep more) located with easy access to Olympic venues (UBC ice rink, downtown Vancouver opening ceremonies, Richmond Oval), airport (less than 10 minutes away), Cypress Mountain (30 mins by car) and Whistler Mountain (less than two hours away) is available for house swap from end of January through early March, 2010. The house features mod-cons and is very airy and comfortable. Owner and his daughter are keen athletes/windsurfers so a house that is close to Auckland beaches, great outdoors and urban amenities would be ideal. Contact mbeaudry@direct.ca

PROPERTY FOR SALE

St Ronans – an academic retreat.

30 minutes from Auckland CBD, this three-bdrm, two-bthrm, single-garage with single carport home is a blend of 1920s character with today's modern conveniences. Master bedroom has 180-degree views to Auckland City, the harbour and beyond. The property has a fully detached dble-bdrm studio with its own power and phone connections with views to Auckland City, the harbour and beyond. Part of the original house boasts some Waitakere Ranges heritage as it was the Rendezvous Tea Gardens between 1949 and 1953. Phone Lawrence Stevens on (09) 827-4824. \$529,000.

MISCELLANEOUS

Administrative assistant. Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. We are seeking a positive, enthusiastic and proactive individual to provide administration assistance. This role will support the work of the National Coordinator for the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Committee and the NZ Cochrane office. The successful candidate will ideally have excellent communication skills, the ability to prioritise and work under pressure, and be capable of working autonomously. Applicants would need to have proven administration experience preferably within a tertiary and/or health environment. This is a fixed-term appointment for two years, part-time, 30 hours per week (0.8 FTE). Closing date is 12 August 2009. For further information and to apply please visit www.auckland.ac.nz/opportunities.

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from six months to five years. Please call the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment. Phone 373 8791 (ample free parking).

HRC - supported PhD opportunities in heart, lung and gastrointestinal research at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI)

Several PhD studentships are currently available in the ABI, as part of three major research projects recently awarded funding by the Health Research Council. The research projects will suit students with a keen interest in the quantitative study of the physiology and pathophysiology of the heart, lung or digestive system. Some but not all of these projects will require a strong undergraduate degree in engineering or applied mathematics. These funded studentships include tuition fees of \$5,000 per annum plus a stipend of \$25,000 per annum for three years. Applications are invited from interested students who are eligible to undertake PhD study at The University of Auckland. The cutoff date for applications is 14 September 2009. Students must discuss the projects in person with the project supervisors prior to making an application. For further information on the projects and the application process please contact Dr Merryn Tawhai (Acting Associate Director Postgraduate, ABI), m.tawhai@auckland.ac.nz

I am a postgraduate student looking for a babysitter for my two and a half year-old daughter.

We are looking for a kind-hearted, intelligent person; fluent English and experience with children are essential; studies in child development or related subject are a plus. We live in Parnell. Pay is from \$15 per hour. Phone Irina on (021) 059 5637.

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. All languages, topics, countries. Volunteer or paid services. Administration contact researchcooperative@gmail.com

The Zukerman Experience. A giant of classical music, violinist Pinchas Zukerman makes his NZ debut. Presented by the NZSO and Chamber Music NZ.

Programme of events:

- 1) *Edward Elgar's masterpieces*. 6.30pm, 13 August.
- 2) *A celebration of Brahms*. 6.30pm, 14 August
- 3) *The Beethoven violin concerto*. 3pm, 15 August

Zukerman Chamber Players. 8pm, 15 August. Visit www.nzso.co.nz/concerts/concerts_and_tours/the_zukerman_experience

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. For more information contact Karen on Karen.emberton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

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).