

Speakers shine at DAA Dinner



From left to right are Brian Boyd, Sir Douglas Graham, Toa Fraser, Dame Lynley Dodd, the Hon Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, John Taylor, Andrew Grant and Stuart McCutcheon.

This year's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was, as always, a grand occasion, marked not only by the outstanding qualities of its award winners but also by the wit and sparkle of its speakers.

Honoured as Distinguished Alumni of The University of Auckland were:

- Richard Chandler, one of New Zealand's most successful entrepreneurs and investors, founder and chair of Singapore-based multi million-dollar private investment group Orient Global, and a significant international philanthropist;
- Lynley Dodd, one of New Zealand's best-known authors, whose career in children's literature spans more than 30 years and as many books, with her popular animal adventures winning many awards – including New Zealand Picture Book of the Year – and selling over six million copies worldwide;
- The Rt Hon Sir Douglas Graham, a former politician whose distinguished parliamentary career saw him oversee some of the most significant legislation in New Zealand's history;
- The Hon Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, who has had a long and distinguished career in Samoan politics commencing in 1981, and is currently serving his third term as Prime Minister as well as holding the portfolios of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Police and Minister of Telecommunications;

- Professor Ngaire Woods, one of the world's leading experts on global economic governance, a specialist in international relations who has advised the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and is a professor of international political economy at Oxford University;

• Toa Fraser, Young Alumnus of the Year, an exceptional young filmmaker and scriptwriter who has directed two feature films, written five plays and been nominated for 16 national and international awards – ten of which he has won. Guest speaker at the dinner, Andrew Grant, managing director and general manager of McKinsey and Company, Greater China, spoke of the present economic crisis, taking a positive stance on gains to be had from it.

"A crisis is not about what we are but who we are," he said. Since this is "best shaped in adversity", we have an opportunity as a nation to build on our strengths – of courage to be first and punch above our weight, of willingness to "muck in" and help others, and of resilience, adaptability and the resolve that is required to see things through.

The crisis, he said, can also give us the impetus to overcome our weaknesses: a tendency to smug complacency and to "winging it" with the attitude that "near enough is good enough"; a habit of using the language of "world-class" to cover

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Key events

Allan Wilson lecture

Hear Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith present the latest archaeological and genetic data for tracing human population movements across the Pacific. She will focus on her most recent research in Papua New Guinea and South America, and the implications of recent findings for understanding this most fascinating chapter in human history. This lecture is the second of three in the 2009 Allan Wilson Lecture Series. It will take place at 6.30pm on 27 March in Lecture Theatre B4 in the Owen G Glenn Building. Refreshments will be served in the foyer from half an hour before the lecture starts.

End of life decisions

Professor Hans van Delden, 2009 ASB Visiting Professor, will conduct an ethical discussion about the way societies try to discriminate between permissible and impermissible end of life decisions by physicians, and how moral constructs are used to distribute responsibility for the death of a patient between physicians and the disease. Hans van Delden is Professor of Medical Ethics at Utrecht University and a practising physician working in a nursing home in the Netherlands. He is a member of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee, and Advisory Bioethics Committee, and has published widely on medical decisions made at the end-of-life. His talk, entitled "Moral responsibility for death", will take place from 12.30-1.30pm on 1 April at the Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes Street. The Department of Psychological Medicine is hosting Professor van Delden during his visit to New Zealand.

Einstein's universe

The Royal Society of New Zealand and the Physics Department invite you to discover how CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) and the Large Hadron Collider can guide us on a journey to the heart of matter, with music by Bach, Mozart and Kreisler. The event, with Professor Brian Foster and Jack Liebeck, will take place on 1 April at 7pm in the Auditorium at the Auckland Museum, Domain Drive.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

In May 2009, The University of Auckland will participate in a whole-of-institution Academic Audit. This is the fifth audit of the University carried out by the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit.

The chief function of the Audit Unit is to "support New Zealand universities in their continuing achievement of standards of excellence in their academic responsibilities in research and teaching". The University sees audit as an important part of its quality assurance system and its programme of continuous improvement. The academic audit provides further external commentary on how we are progressing towards achieving the goals we have set in our Charter and Strategic Plan and helps us to make quality enhancements.

The University's Strategic Plan sets aspirational targets in several areas. To further the achievement of these objectives, and to allow us to track our progress, it is essential that the University's quality assurance systems and the Plan are well-aligned. This is an ongoing process, and the audit self-review portfolio prepared by the Academic Audit Steering Group demonstrates the progress we have made and identifies a number of enhancements that are planned.

The visit of the audit panel, under the Chair of Professor Robert Hannah of the University of Otago, 18-21 May, is an important event for the University. A number of staff and students will be invited to meet the panel and discuss with its members how they experience and contribute to the University's academic activities. These discussions will be part of the evidence used by the panel in determining its findings and making its recommendations.

The audit is not solely concerned with University procedures and systems for quality. The audit panel will be interested in the teaching and learning experience of students and the activities of staff at the "chalk-face" that contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of academic quality.

The University's preparation for the audit visit and the recommendations made by the auditors will assist us to bring into focus some of the areas we wish to concentrate on over the next five years. I am grateful for the considerable work that many people have put into preparing for the audit, and look forward to the contributions that many will make to the visit of the audit panel.



Fast talking at Fale Pasifika



Michele Leggott (left) with Selina Tusitala Marsh at the Fale Pasifika.

The University's Fale Pasifika was a hub of Pacific music, poetry, food and festivities recently, as around 100 people of all ages gathered to celebrate the launch of *Fast Talking PI*, the inaugural poetry and CD collection by Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh.

Selina, the University's first Pacific Islander to graduate with a PhD in English, lectures on New Zealand and Pasifika literature in the Department of English.

Fast Talking PI (Auckland University Press, 2009) reflects the poet's focus on issues affecting Pacific communities in New Zealand, and indigenous peoples around the world – including the challenges and triumphs of being afakasi (half-caste).

Selina is of Samoan, Tuvalu, English, and French descent; "Tusitala" means writer of tales in Samoan. The book is dedicated to her recently-deceased mother, who Selina hailed at the launch as the original fast talking PI: "The ultimate fast talker/the supreme high-heel walker/the extreme bargain-stalker/matchless second-hand hawker/inimitable champagne corker/our own Avondale 'New Yorker'/Lina Tusitala Crosbie".

Selina also acknowledged the many people who helped make the collection possible – including her family and extended aiga from the islands (Samoa,

Tonga and Waiheke) and around Auckland; and her Faculty of Arts colleagues, in particular "honorary PI" Associate Professor and poet Michele Leggott, who launched the book.

Selina paid special thanks to Faculty of Arts Digital Media Specialist Tim Page. She described how, upon hearing Selina read *Fast Talking PI* publicly for the first time in 2006, Tim "went back to his home studio and tinkered, thus giving birth to *Fast Talking PI*, the spoken word version, and a few others which you'll find on the back of the CD".

Acclaimed writer and Professor of English Witi Ihimaera has praised Selina as "the sassy hip-hop streetwise Samoan siren of South Pacific poetry and poetics. No, correct that: her poetry and poetics are world class. Her aesthetics and indigenous politics are meld-marvellous and her ideas will blow you away".

Accompanied by Tim on guitar and ukulele, Selina performed three poems, including the title poem. Before she began, however, Selina reminded the cheering audience of the message of *Fast Talking PI*: "that if you can name your identity, you can claim your destiny, and be who and how you were meant to be".

Video and audio files of Selina Tusitala Marsh reading her poems and the text of some of her poems are available on www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz

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mediocrity; and a "meanness of spirit" that can sometimes have us "facing the agents of change with expectations of failure".

The appropriate response to the crisis, he says, is a thoughtful reflection on who we are and who we want to be.

Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd, who introduced the Distinguished Alumni, also began with a reference to the crisis, from which "we lost a lot and learned a lot – that banks are something you slide down, stocks derive their names from stock cars, shares are for clipping with – hedges, margins".

Brian's witty and sometimes irreverent introductions to the Distinguished Alumni not only kept the guests in a mood of amusement but also inspired some of the awardees to reply in kind.

However, on a more serious note and without exception, all of the Distinguished Alumni present paid tribute to the The University of Auckland and to the quality of education they received here.

Richard Chandler was unable to attend, and Professor Ngaire Woods spoke on a video connection from London, where Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, presented her award at a separate ceremony the following week.

Green roof flourishing



The School of Engineering's green roof is proving an ideal solution to preventing stormwater runoff.

The roof, on top of the engineering tower on Symonds Street, was planted two years ago as part of an Auckland Regional Council-funded study. Green roofs, using plants to intercept water, are tipped as a

solution to reducing the stormwater runoff that pollutes our waterways and can lead to flooding.

Dr Elizabeth Fassman from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering says emerging results show the roof is soaking up about 75 percent of rainfall. A snapshot recording between 5 September and 5 October 2008 recorded 101mm of rain, seven storms, and only 25mm runoff.

"We're really pleased with the performance and fully believe it is a viable stormwater control technology - with the added factor of multiple environmental benefits from a single technology," she says.

Elizabeth Fassman, postgraduate students and Landcare Research are involved in the project. They have been trialling a mix of hardy native and foreign sedums and different lightweight mediums on the roof.

The *sedum mexicanum* and the native New Zealand iceplant have emerged as early flourishers. Pumice, zeolite and composted pine bark have emerged as favoured substrates, or planting mediums. Soils are not used because they are too heavy.

"During the first summer growth spurt the iceplants sprang up, then pulled back. A year later the sedums pushed through. In winter, the tussocks take over."

The researchers have also isolated plants in greenhouses to measure how much water they intercept on their own, to establish the role of the plants in the overall system.

Last summer the roofs of four garden sheds at Tamaki were also planted with a mix of natives and more common ornamental varieties like chives and daisies.

Elizabeth is due to present a "how to" guide to green roofs to the Auckland Regional Council in July.

Academic audit

An independent, external academic audit panel will visit the University for four days in May.

The audit is a whole-of-institution audit, carried out by the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU), and will concentrate on eight major topics as they relate to the University's academic activities: teaching and learning; the research environment; Te Tiriti o Waitangi; academic and staff support; institutional quality assurance; management and administrative support; community engagement; and external academic collaborations and partnerships.

Professor Robert Hannah of the University of Otago will chair the audit panel. The other members of the panel are Professor Sheelagh Matear, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Lincoln University; Professor Kevin McConkey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Newcastle; Dr Grant Sinclair, a company director working in the logistics, primary production and service sector; and Ms Ceillhe Sperath, Chair of Te Hotu Manawa Māori, and consultant for the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation.

The audit panel will use the University's self-review portfolio and interviews with staff and students to examine the University's commitments, its strengths and progress in achieving goals and objectives, and how we monitor and propose to enhance quality.

During the site visit the audit panel will meet with academic and general staff, students and external stakeholders. The University will conduct briefings of groups and individuals who will be asked to meet with the audit panel. These briefings will be held in the week leading up to the audit panel's visit, which will take place 18-21 May.

The University's self-review portfolio was submitted to the NZUAAU in February. The portfolio remains confidential until after the site visit, but will be made available to those meeting the audit panel.

After the site visit the audit panel will consider its findings and recommendations and will prepare a report. The final report will be made public in late 2009.

... in brief

Staff Survey 2009

The countdown to the 2009 Staff Survey is underway. The online survey will run from 27 April to 15 May providing all permanent and fixed term staff with an opportunity to share their views of the University, and to have their say about what they consider we are doing well and what needs improvement. The survey results will be examined again by Towers Perrin ISR (TP-ISR) and the University level and Faculty/Service Division level results will be communicated to staff in July/August. Further details of the survey process will be available on the intranet over the coming weeks as well as in *University News*, so watch this space.

Vaughan Jones in Italy

Piergiorgio Odifreddi, a mathematician and something of a media star in Italy, invited some of the world's greatest scientific minds to take part in a "Festival della Matematica" (Festival of Mathematics) in Rome from 19 to 21 March. This was the third such event he has organised, on behalf of the Mayor of Rome. Among invitees were five Nobel Prize winners (in Chemistry, Economics and Physics) plus other "beautiful minds", including John Nash, Edward Witten, Ian Stewart, Eugenio Calabi, and our own Vaughan Jones (Distinguished Alumni Professor of The University of Auckland and Co-Director of the NZ Institute of Mathematics and its Applications). Vaughan was invited to give an expository lecture to "a large crowd of interested people, both professionals and amateurs". An interview with him appeared in the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* on 18 March.

Alumni to intern at Venice

Two graduates in Art History have been selected to participate in a prestigious internship programme at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Italy. Winsome Wild graduated with a Masters in Art History (first class honours) in 2006. Sophie Keyse recently completed her Masters in Art History. As interns, Winsome and Sophie will assist in the daily operation of the museum: guarding the artworks, helping staff in the offices (administration, public affairs, press, library, publications, registrar, research, and retail operations). They also act as docents (guides) and may be involved with projects such as the preparation of catalogues, the installation of exhibitions or conservation campaigns. Each will also present a talk to museum staff.

Town meets gown

More than 100 people turned out for the recent inaugural Auckland Public Policy seminar, co-hosted by The University of Auckland and two national organisations.

The University's Master of Public Policy programme, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research, and the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development teamed up to hold a series of lunchtime lectures focusing on policy and development issues.

In the first seminar, Dr Arthur Grimes of Motu presented research on the role of infrastructure in developing New Zealand's economy. Dr Grimes noted that many people talk about the country having an "infrastructure deficit". However, little effort has been made to systematically measure the impact of infrastructural spending.

The formal seminar was followed by lively debate about how to measure the social and economic impacts of infrastructural spending and how to make better spending decisions.

Associate Professor Michael Mintrom, coordinator of the Auckland Master of Public Policy degree, was pleased with the seminar.

"Members of the audience expressed delight at the discussion of pressing public policy issues. They also said it was great to see the University playing a leadership role in promoting policy dialogue in Auckland. The seminar series is part of a broader effort to reorient public policy discussion in New Zealand. Auckland issues and voices need more limelight."

The seminar organisers are now seeking sponsorship to ensure the long-term viability of the series. For more information contact m.mintrom@auckland.ac.nz

Renowned judge lecturing

A world-renowned jurist, Judge Christopher Weeramantry, is giving a free public lecture at the University on 16 April.

His topic is "Rights and responsibilities: A global cultural perspective" and his lecture, at 6pm in Lecture Theatre 401-439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds Street, will open an international conference on property rights and sustainability.

Judge Weeramantry served as a Judge on the International Court of Justice including a term as its Vice-President. While on the court, he presided over prominent cases, including the Lockerbie bombing case and the advisory opinion on the legality of nuclear weapons.

He has written highly regarded opinions in the areas of the environment, human rights and peace. Previously he was a Justice on the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

For more information about the lecture and the conference, hosted by the NZ Centre for Environmental Law (NZCEL) and the Faculty of Law, visit www.nzcel-conf.auckland.ac.nz or contact Jane Kilgour at k.j.kilgour@paradise.net.nz

'Brothers' meet in Auckland



From left to right are President Chen Qiang (Qinghai), Associate Professor Chris Tremewan (Auckland), Professor Lei Yalin (China University of Geosciences) and Professor Cen Zhangzhi (Tsinghua).

Three brothers met at The University of Auckland last month.

The meeting was exciting for all and the outcomes highly productive.

The "Three Brothers" is the name given to an initiative conceived by the Chinese Government to raise the skills and expertise of the less-developed universities in central and western China and address the growing inequities of wealth in a time of rapid economic development.

Through this project a number of the top universities in the east of China are each "adopting" and supporting one or more of the less developed Chinese universities through direct assistance and through trilateral collaborations in which selected foreign universities are invited to participate.

Seeing the exciting potential of the projects both for New Zealand and for China, The University of Auckland agreed in 2006 to collaborate in a Three Brothers relationship with the highly prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, and with Qinghai University, located on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau - an area rich in minerals and the source of three major Chinese river systems (the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong Rivers).

Several visits have been made to Tsinghua and Qinghai Universities, one led by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and three led by Associate Professor Chris Tremewan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International). Senior professors and researchers from the three universities have identified three areas of rich potential for collaboration: highland ecology, including hydrology and electric power and engineering; chemical engineering and advanced materials; and high altitude medicine/traditional Tibetan medicine.

Last month's programme brought together researchers from the three universities in a series of workshops which allowed for detailed discussion of each of the research streams, and of opportunities for obtaining external research funding.

In addition to the senior delegations led by Professor Cen Zhangzhi, Chair of the University Council of Tsinghua, and Professor Chen Qiang, President of Qinghai University, the group was joined by Professor Huang He Qing from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and by a delegation from the China University of Geosciences, led by Professor Lei Yalin, Vice-President (International).

"The discussion was extremely valuable," said Professor Wei Gao (Chemical and Materials

Engineering), who chaired the meetings on advanced materials. He explains that "China wants to develop the north-western area where there are plenty of resources and a rich natural environment, but not enough people with the technological expertise to exploit the advantages.

"Currently less than five percent of Qinghai's academic staff have PhDs. Their goal is to raise this to 30 percent within five years. We believe The University of Auckland can help them achieve this and at the same time can gain from the wealth of materials in the region in which Qinghai University is located and from the chance to develop long-term relationships in this potentially productive region."

He is particularly pleased that the workshops have allowed Professors Zhang Zhengjun, the Head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and Tian Minbo from Tsinghua University to extend their knowledge of research at Auckland and to deepen their appreciation of what the University has to offer. It is now likely, he says, that Professor Zhang will come to Auckland as a Distinguished Visiting Professor, and that funding will be available for a research project they are planning to undertake together. Professor Zhang also invited Wei Gao and other materials researchers to visit Tsinghua, to give seminars and further develop collaborations of the Three Brothers. They decided the next workshop will take place at Qinghai University in mid-2009.

Associate Professor Louise Nicholson (Anatomy with Radiology), who chaired the sessions on high altitude and traditional medicines, said these areas offer promise of exciting collaboration involving the use of Auckland technology and expertise to analyse the structures and ascertain the active ingredients of compounds that have been used as traditional medicines for hundreds or thousands of years.

Among possibilities were visits from researchers who would bring compounds to analyse, participation by Qinghai students in Auckland's summer studentship programmes, and participation by nurses from Qinghai in some of Auckland's postgraduate programmes.

In addition, Auckland fifth-year medical students could choose to undertake their electives in Qinghai, where the local expertise in high altitude medicine could help them extend their experience of respiratory conditions.

Professor Gary Brierley (Geography, Geology and Environmental Science), who chaired the highland ecology stream, says the Three Brothers project and the proposed research collaborations with Qinghai "offer a unique chance to provide a model for the world on how to manage large-scale environmental projects".

The highland ecology group has now developed a collaborative programme of research in Sanjiangyuan. The first phase includes four themes: interpretation of geological controls on river diversity and evolution in this tectonically uplifting region; analysis of landslide activity in response to incision along rivers; climate change; and ecohydrological applications. Various researchers from the Faculties of Science and Engineering will visit Beijing and Qinghai in late August this year to

Property rights and sustainability

further promote this research collaboration. Subsequent research will relate human impacts upon highland ecosystems in this region to the inherent natural variability in behaviour and evolution of the region. Funding for the first phase of this research is about to be submitted to the Chinese Ministry of Science and technology.

“Sanjiangyuan [the region in which Qinghai University is located] could be a world-leading protection and restoration project. It offers opportunities to develop new ways of thinking on these issues.”

Visit from Vice-Minister



Ted Baker welcomes the delegation to the Maurice Wilkins Centre.

Last month The University of Auckland hosted Dr Cao Jianlin, Vice-Minister of China’s Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), who was in New Zealand also to attend a bilateral meeting between MOST and MORST (New Zealand’s Ministry of Research, Science and Technology).

Dr Cao’s visit, with senior management and colleagues from MOST, and with Mr Cao Jinghua from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, followed and complemented the “Three Brothers” workshops in Auckland.

While in Auckland Dr Cao and his delegation had discussions with Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, with senior Auckland researchers from the Three Brothers project, and with representatives from the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, including its director, Distinguished Professor Ted Baker.

The guests were then taken on a tour of the Maurice Wilkins Centre (which Dr Cao had requested), accompanied by Professors Ted Baker, Garth Cooper and Rod Dunbar. This included a presentation by Ted Baker, and by some of the researchers in the centre, followed by questions and discussion.

The Auckland researchers were pleased at the level of lively engagement shown by the visitors.

“They showed a very high level of interest,” said Garth Cooper, “in the technology of the proteomics laboratory, and of the research we have been conducting there. They were particularly interested in the fact that our research group has achieved registration of new compounds as therapeutics by the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] in the

As human pressure on ecological systems grows, tensions between individual entitlements and collective responsibilities are forcefully felt, both in New Zealand and globally.

Current discussions about climate change, water management, soils and the protection of marine ecosystems all demonstrate that there are crucial decisions to be made regarding ecological integrity, human security and economic prosperity.

In the New Zealand context, perceived conflicts between individual entitlements and collective responsibilities are evident both in the context of privately owned resources (eg, land) and common resources (eg, water). In the case of private land, for example, requirements to avoid certain land uses, curb pollution or protect biodiversity can be met with claims that property rights are being violated and compensation is required. We are currently seeing this argument made in favour of removal to tree protection rules in district plans.

To what extent are these claims legitimate? To what extent do they reflect an historic understanding of property rights that gave land-owners the freedom to exploit the land and no responsibilities to protect the ecosystems of which it is a part? In the instance of water management, should water permits be treated as property rights to support investment in irrigation and hydro development? Or should they be treated as a special privilege, subject to responsibilities to protect ecological systems, non-commercial values and the collective interests of all New Zealanders?

In New Zealand, our ability to resolve such issues is often constrained by a reluctance to openly debate the extent to which property rights can and should evolve in response to changing ecological, social and economic contexts. In part, this reluctance reflects fears of economic disadvantage relative to public benefit, and concern to preserve dominant forms of economic growth and wealth creation. However, it also reflects uncertainty about the degree to which conventional legal theory can change to embrace a growing awareness that human prosperity depends upon healthy and resilient ecosystems and respect of collective well-being.

United States. This is something they have aspired to in China but have not yet achieved.”

Researchers at the Maurice Wilkins Centre (with collaborators) have had two drugs registered by the FDA, with four still in process of development towards this.

Chris Tremewan said the visit had allowed Vice-Minister Cao and his delegation to become more familiar with the research at The University of Auckland, and with the high level of expertise its staff could offer to the Three Brothers project and to other collaborative enterprises.

A larger, but related, question is how these changes can be negotiated in a fair and democratic manner.

On 16-18 April, the NZ Centre for Environmental Law (NZCEL) and Faculty of Law will host an international conference on the topic “Property rights and sustainability”. This conference marks the tenth anniversary of NZCEL, an internationally recognised centre for research on sustainability policy, governance and law. The aim of this conference is to create a forum for debate about how property rights can evolve to better meet the objectives of sustainability.

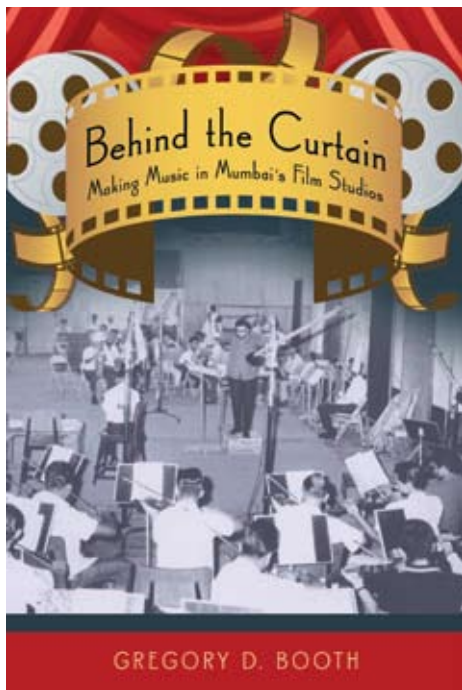
The conference speakers will address both how sustainability objectives can be met in a manner that is “fair and just” and what our sources are for pushing the boundaries of legal theory. The second of these tasks requires, in the words of the ecologist Aldo Leopold, the unleashing of an intellectual (and emotional) process that requires us to “quit thinking about decent land-use as solely an economic problem. Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

The conference is being held at a particularly opportune time. Proposed reforms of the Resource Management Act 1991 and changes to energy policy are creating a political context in which New Zealanders are being asked to prioritise economic growth over environmental protection as a response to the global economic crisis and infrastructure needs.

This framing of the issues overlooks the view that long-term economic and social prosperity will be eroded by compromising environmental objectives. While changes to the RMA and energy policy will be of immediate relevance, broader issues concerning water management, housing affordability, urban intensification, soil protection and coastal management all demand our attention.

Lifting our sights to a another level, recognition of Maori rangatiratanga over natural resources may provide New Zealand with a unique opportunity to search for balance between conventional rights-based approaches and acknowledgement of responsibilities for the long-term benefit of all. As Pita Sharples recently commented in relation to water management: “Rangatiratanga is asserted through the collective exercise of responsibilities - to protect, to conserve, to augment and to enhance over time for the security of future generations.”

Prue Taylor
School of Architecture and Planning
Deputy Director, NZCEL



Behind the Curtain

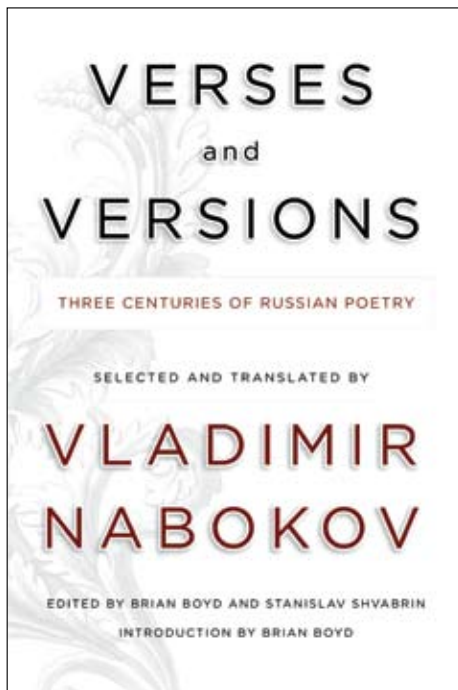
Associate Professor Greg Booth (Anthropology) has written a compelling account of the Bollywood film music industry from the perspective of the musicians who both experienced and shaped its history.

Entitled *Behind the Curtain: Making Music in Mumbai's Film Studios* and published by Oxford University Press, it offers a rare insiders' look at the process of musical production from the late 1940s to the mid 1990s, before the advent of digital recording technologies.

Beginning in the 1930s men and a handful of women came from India's many communities – Marathi, Parsi, Goan, North Indian and many others – to Mumbai to work in an industry that constituted, in the words of some, “the original fusion music”. They worked as composers, arrangers, assistants and studio performers in one of the most distinctive popular music and popular film cultures on the planet. Today the songs played by Mumbai's studio musicians are known throughout India and the Indian diaspora under the popular name “Bollywood” – but the musicians remain, in their own words, “behind the curtain”.

Greg Booth explains who these unknown musicians were and how they came to join the music film industry. On the basis of a fascinating set of first-hand accounts from the musicians themselves, he reveals how the day-to-day circumstances of technology and finance shaped both the songs and the careers of their creators and the performers. He also unfolds the technological, cultural and industrial developments that led to the enormous studio orchestras of the 1960s to 1990s as well as the factors that ultimately led to their demise.

The book features a companion website with video interviews with the musicians.



Verses and Versions

Vladimir Nabokov has been called “God’s own novelist” and “the last of the great novelists”.

Salman Rushdie rated him the most important writer ever to cross the boundary between one language and another.

Born in Russia in 1899, Nabokov was fluent in English, Russian and French by the time he was six. As a boy of 12 he translated an American Western novel into the traditional metre of classical French verse, the alexandrine. In his middle years he considered translating Joyce’s *Ulysses* into Russian and Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina* into English. His exacting 1964 translation of the masterpiece of Russian verse, Alexander Pushkin’s *Eugene Onegin*, caused the greatest controversy about translation in the twentieth century, with Anthony Burgess, Robert Lowell, Edmund Wilson and George Steiner among those who joined the fray.

For more than 20 years before his death in 1977 Nabokov planned to collect a volume of his verse translations, especially from Russian into English, but other projects intervened.

In *Verses and Versions: Three Centuries of Russian Poetry* (Harcourt), Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd (English) has fulfilled Nabokov’s plan – although, at almost 500 pages, he omits Nabokov’s translations before 1923 and translations into Russian and French from English, French, Russian and German.

He worked with the help of Stanislav Shvabrin (Princeton), one of his former students in the famous Nabokov 101 class in the Nabokov Museum (the Nabokov family’s elegant home and his own birthplace) in St Petersburg.

The volume includes Brian Boyd’s introduction and notes, Nabokov’s essays and poems on translation, and his versions of Russian verse. These range from Lomonosov and Derzhavin in the eighteenth century, through the Golden Age of Pushkin and his contemporaries in the early nineteenth century, to poets like Lermontov,

Tyutchev and Fet later in the century, and to twentieth-century masters like Blok, Mandelstam, Hodasevich and Okudzhava, both in Nabokov’s translation and in the original Russian.

For those who cannot read Cyrillic or do not know the stresses in the Russian words, a University of Auckland website supplies the Cyrillic original and a stress-marked transliteration.

Reviewers have hailed the book as “essential,” “superb,” “wonderful,” “an unqualified success,” “a veritable treasure.” The *San Francisco Chronicle* calls it “gloriously rich and astutely chosen. . . . Nabokov. . . wrote riveting essays about poets and poems he loved. Editors Brian Boyd and Stanislav Shvabrin were wise to include them. . . . Boyd’s excellent introduction scrupulously showcases the intentions of Nabokov. . . . for the project that became this volume. Boyd calls it ‘a master class in the possibilities and problems of literary translation,’ and repeatedly displays the accuracy of this declaration. . . . For those who are interested in even greater detail, a link, www.nabokovversesandversions.ac.nz, . . . serves as a study aid workable in the classroom or at home.”

Brian Boyd and Stanislav Shvabrin are now co-editing a second and third volume of Nabokov’s lectures on Russian literature, especially poetry and drama.

New associate professors

Jadranka Travas-Sejdic (Chemistry)



I am a polymer scientist with a background in physical chemistry and polymer engineering. After obtaining a PhD degree in Chemistry at The University of Auckland in 1999 I worked in industrial R&D environments, and returned to the University in 2002.

Billy Apple (b.1935), From the University of Auckland Art Collection, 2008

*Acrylic on canvas, 762 x 533mm
(1072 x 812mm framed)*

The University of Auckland Art Collection

For artist Billy Apple® (born Barrie Bates in Auckland) the mechanics of art, usually kept behind the scenes, have long been a focus for his work. Throughout the 1970s he executed activity and installation works that highlighted the significance of exhibition spaces to the work exhibited, cleaning windows, painting walls, adjusting lights. In contrast to the grandiose paintings made prior to the pop art movement, Billy Apple was more interested in everyday things and activities, such as shaving. He was particularly interested in the fact that it is the artist's role in the work that gives it value, just like a brand name. In 1962, while studying at the Royal College of Art in London, he changed his name to Billy Apple, effectively making his own life a work of art, undertaking a re-branding that included bleaching his hair, eyebrows and eyelashes. In 2007 Billy Apple became a registered trademark and then a registered brand in 2008.

The commerce of art has been a strong focus of Billy Apple's work, particularly his transaction works, beginning with *Numbered and Signed*, 1980, which was produced in an edition of 25 as a fundraiser for The University of Auckland – the Art Collection holds the original drawing for this work. An early precursor to the transaction works is *For Sale*, 1961, simply bearing the text "For Sale" in red and produced by Bates while he was still studying at the Royal College, with the assistance of his close associate, David Hockney. *Art for Sale*, his first transaction exhibition, took place at Peter Webb Galleries, Auckland, in 1981 and included



the canvas *Sold* and 10 works on paper – in keeping with the work's self-evident declaration, Webb was not allowed to open the exhibition until all works were sold. More enigmatic works followed, such as *POA*, *NFS* and *IOU*, all in 1987.

Commissioned for the Gellert Family Collection, the *From the Collection* series started with a 1980 page work in *Art New Zealand* magazine (#17, p.5) that declared a private owner's involvement with the artist. The first painted work was designed by the artist in New York in 1987 and produced in 1988, the last acquisition for the Bank of New Zealand art collection. This increasingly iconic series belongs to a growing list of corporate, private and public entities, with a new subgroup now

established for university collections. In these works the relationship between artist and collector is negotiated and declared with the work incorporating aspects of the buyer's branding, such as logos or colouring, while adhering to the artist's established fonts and compositional formats. As Wystan Curnow has written, it is like a portrait of the owner, which is the result of a transaction between artist and owner. In fact, it is the owner's name, rather than the artist's signature, that completes the work. For Fay Richwhite, the artist produced the work on a portion of yacht KZ-7's sail.

From the University of Auckland Art Collection, like all of the artist's transaction works, is the result of a direct relationship between the artist and the buyer, and represents that relationship in the work. The work has been designed to integrate with The University of Auckland's corporate identity using Pantone colours from the University's style guide. Even the black frame is part of the colour scheme and is designed to scale with the painting and spacer as integral parts of the work, as is the potential for it to be hung on a Mid Blue (PMS 313) wall to complete the corporate look. As Christina Barton has remarked of a comparable work in the Victoria University Art Collection, the work is a painting made for the University Collection that is a sign for its own content and context, and also serves the dual purpose of being an advertisement or frontispiece for that collection. She says: "It is both the conscience of the collection and its effect."

An exhibition of Billy Apple's 1969-1973 New York works is being held at the Adam Art Gallery in Wellington from 28 March. There is also a large retrospective planned for the Witte de Witt, Rotterdam later this year.

Andrew Clifford

Since then my research work has been focused on new materials for polymer electronics, nanotechnology and bioelectronics, including work on plastics that conduct electricity, based upon the discovery that earned the New Zealander Alan MacDiarmid the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2000.

A major Marsden-funded project in my group concerns novel conducting polymer materials that interface with biomolecules at the molecular level for inclusion in rapid and direct low-cost biosensors, in particular gene sensors. Another Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) programme, which brings together researchers from Science, Medicine, and Engineering, focuses on developing conducting polymer-based actuators for application in micro-pumps and miniature robotic devices.

These projects are undertaken in collaboration with colleagues from the Polymer Electronics Research Centre (PERC), a cross-disciplinary University centre which I have directed since its establishment in 2003, with a growing number of national and international linkages.

Outside of work I take every opportunity to enjoy Auckland's beaches and fresh air, which rival the coastal beauty of my family home in Croatia.

Arkadii Slinko (Mathematics)



Arkadii with Simon Marshall, gold medallist at the International Mathematics Olympiad and currently a PhD student in Princeton.

My career as a professional mathematician started in the branch of algebra dealing with algebraic structures that were invented in order to axiomatise quantum mechanics. My PhD was devoted to them.

Further I worked for Sobolev Institute of Mathematics in Novosibirsk (Russia). The highlight of that period was a monograph, *Rings close to associative*, written in 1978 and translated into English

by Academic Press in 1982 but still cited today.

In 1980 I moved to Moscow and started to work in applied economics in the Institute of System Studies. I worked in the laboratory of Mathematical Statistics and our main job was to generate good designs for experiments, mostly search designs. I kept my involvement in research in pure mathematics, studying topological rings and algebras. For the cycle of papers on topological algebra in 1990 I was awarded a DSc degree by Sobolev Institute of Mathematics.

Since 1993 I have been working in New Zealand. My current research interests are in mathematical politics and mathematical economics. My favourite subject to teach is Applied Algebra. The goal of my Stage Three course "Algebra and Applications" is to show the incredible power of algebra and number theory in the real world, especially in relation to information handling.

All my professional life I was involved in organising mathematics olympiads for gifted school students, including international ones. On a number of occasions I was leader of the New Zealand team. I have written several books about Mathematics Olympiad problems.

What's on

FRIDAY 27 MARCH

Allan Wilson Centre 2009 Lecture
Prof Lisa Matisoo-Smith, UoA: *Great moments in human history: The settlement of the Pacific*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre OGG8B, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to s.i.adams@massey.ac.nz

SATURDAY 28 MARCH

Exhibition talk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Nina Nola, English Dept: *Being Dalmatian*. Nina weaves a discussion of Milan Mrkusich's family heritage from the lives and literature of Croatian immigrants.

TUESDAY 31 MARCH

Communiqué '09 lunchtime seminar
Prof Scott Chamberlin, University of Colorado at Boulder: *A garden odyssey*. 12-1pm Exhibition Studio, Level 3, School of Architecture and Planning, Bldg 421, 26 Symonds St. Queries to Kathy Waghorn, ext 89150 or k.waghorn@auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Mathematics seminar
Prof John Butcher, UoA: *Numerical mathematics and mathematical numerics*. 3pm Room MLT3, Science Centre.

Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Richard Clayton, Reader in Computer Science, University of Sheffield: *Mechanisms of ventricular fibrillation: Models and data*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

Final Sir Douglas Robb lecture
Dr Frans B. M. de Waal: *Our inner ape - Culture: A social, political and cultural brain: What primates know about and learn from each other*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

2009 ASB Visiting Professor Public lecture
Prof Hans van Delden: *Medical decisions at the end-of-life: Thirty-five years of experience with euthanasia in the Netherlands*. 7-9pm Rm 260-092, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Ranjeeni Ram, ext 86531.

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar
Assoc-Prof Frank Lichtenberk, UoA: *Start and finish: Some grammatical changes in Taqabaqita*. 12 noon Room 210, Level 2, Fisher Bldg. Queries to tb.tin@auckland.ac.nz

2009 ASB Visiting Professor public lecture

rof Hans van Delden: *Moral responsibility for death*. 12.30-1.30pm MacLaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St.

Psychology forum on animal cognition, language, and mental time travel
4-6pm, HSB 604.

1) Prof Frans de Waal, Alex Taylor and others.

Royal Society of NZ/Faculty of Science lecture
Prof Brian Foster and Jack Liebeck: *Einstein's universe*. 7pm Auditorium, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Domain Drive.

THURSDAY 2 APRIL

Raising the profile of the Employee Assistance Programme
12-12.45pm, Presentation Rm, Level 2, ClockTower, 22 Princes St. An overview of the free services available to staff through the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). For queries or to register phone Bronwyn on ext 89630.

Department of History seminar
Debbie Dunsford, UoA: *The sanctuary of exile: Layered lives in NZ's tuberculosis sanatoria*. 4pm Rm 59, History Dept, 7 Wynyard St. Queries to l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 4 APRIL

Doctoral symposium
9am-6.30pm Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus. Faculty of Education doctoral candidates present both 'recently completed' and 'work in progress' papers. Queries or to register, contact Keitha Shalley, 623 8870 or k.shalley@auckland.ac.nz

Film screening
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Cinema buff Derek Gehring curates a special celluloid screening of experimental, abstract and alchemical cinema in response to Mrkusich's metaphysical paintings.

TUESDAY 7 APRIL

Electrical safety testing training
9am-5pm, Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. For staff with no form of electrical testing qualifications who need to inspect and test electrical equipment at work. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (HRSTE). For queries phone ext 85070.

Bioengineering research seminar
Kieran O'Brien, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Understanding and measuring flow in aortic stenosis with MRI*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

Honorary degree ceremony
For Elizabeth Palmer Coffin, Doctor of Literature. 7.30pm Maidment Theatre. All staff and students are welcome to attend. RSVP to ext 85792 or s.scurfield@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful architect-designed eco-home right on the water (in Karaka Bay), just 15 minutes from the University. Four-six months. Four bdrms. No pets, n/s. Price was \$2000 pw. Willing to let go for \$1200 pw. Amazing deal for this unique home! Email leila@paradise.net.nz or phone 575 2221.

Conference and meeting centre with a difference. In these days of cutting back and paring down it is a pleasure to locate a small conference and meeting venue that offers: access by train or car, professional facilities, professional service, privacy, parking, personal service, catering, accommodation, excellent pricing, indoor/outdoor flows. Aachen House Boutique Hotel in Market Rd, Remuera is an historic building which offers luxury accommodation and superb meeting and small conference facilities. You will find at Aachen House a venue that suits all strategic meeting

requirements as well as offering visiting speaker accommodation and facilities at competitive pricing. Contact: Aachen House Boutique Hotel, 39 Market Rd, Remuera, Auckland. Ph (09) 520 2329. www.aachenhouse.co.nz Email info@aachenhouse.co.nz

Flatmate: Parnell, available one fully furnished, large, sunny room. Easy walking distance to University, bus, shops, waterfront. Would suit visiting academic, or mature staff person, or student. For details phone 379 8334, or email dory.m@xtra.co.nz

Fully-furnished family home on North Shore available mid-July to early October. Three bdrms, two living rooms, heat pump, wood burner. Fully-fenced garden, covered deck. Easy walk to supermarket. Busway five-minute walk for commute to University. \$660 pw incl utilities (including Broadband). Phone 479 9973 or (021) 224 3069.

Furnished two-bedroom unit in Kohimarama, two off-street undercover car parks, sunny, private, quiet, with modern kitchen and bthrm/shower only. Minimum three-month contract. \$550 pw incl lawns, gardens, Sky TV, no pets, n/s. Linen and kitchen equipment negotiable. Phone (027) 654 9217.

Long let on Waiheke Island. 10 acres, four bdrms, three bthrms, secluded and surrounded by olive groves. Close to ferries and schools. Garaging with internal access, beautiful swimming pool and boats at water's edge. \$575 pw, three months minimum. Includes maintenance contract. Contact owners on (09) 372 6404.

Orakei - Okahu Bay. Flatmate required, single bdrm. \$150 pw + exps. Has Sky TV, Broadband connection, shared bthrm, sharing with up to three others in modern townhouse. All mod cons in kitchen, fireplace, parking on street only. One block from bus, near Fergis Kayaks. Phone Diana on 528-9313.

Ponsonby. Fully-furnished villa, three-bdrm, central heating etc, on Link Bus route, 30 mins walk to University. Available 13 May-13 Aug. \$300 pw + utilities. Contact (09) 378 6091 or a.poletti@xtra.co.nz

Waiheke Cottage to rent. Little Oneroa, delightful position, extensive sea views from sunny north-facing verandah, quiet location, track to beach and shop, close to bus stop. One dble bdrm, one twin. Furnished, linen provided. Long term rental \$300 pw. Short term \$120 per night, minimum two nights. Phone Dennis on 372 8303.

Waldorf St Martins serviced and furnished apartments. 12 St Martins Lane, Grafton, Auckland offer as from May 2009 a selection of modern, luxurious, serviced and furnished apartments within 800 m of University and Auckland Hospital. Our weekly rates start from \$385 pw for a one-bdrm furnished apartment to \$460 pw for a two-bdrm furnished apartment. Visit www.st-martins-waldorf.co.nz Email st.martins@waldorf.co.nz or phone (09) 337 5400.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Long-term rental or house-sitting needed. Mature University professional wants one-bdrm flat/apartment/cottage with whiteware away from noise. House-sitting an option. Happy to mind cat/dog. Max \$300 pw. Inner city suburbs preferred. Quality tenant. Contact Prue Scott at p.scott@auckland.ac.nz or (021) 869 060.

House-sitter available. Ex-NZ diplomat/trade representative. Available for flexible periods from early May-mid August; then mid November-May 2010. Male, early '50s, n/s. Setting up an international trade business and spending time in NZ and overseas. Renovated houses in Auckland. Handy, fit and healthy. Owned cats and dogs previously, love their company and sensitive to their needs. House sat most recently in St Mary's Bay. References available on request. Please contact alwyn_moores@yahoo.com or phone/text (0275) 500 776.

House-sitter available. University staff member looking for a one- or two-bdrm flat, house or apartment-sitting position in the Grey Lynn, Westmere, Herne Bay, Freemans Bay, Ponsonby area from the beginning of May through winter. Phone 373 7599 ext 84149 or (021) 0251 2451.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

For sale in Freemans Bay: Classic 1960s two-level ex-council apartment in leafy Freemans Park. Two dble bdrms, one carpark, plus secure storage. Central and sunny. Elevated peaceful outlook. Walk to Ponsonby, parks, schools, city, and University. View on TradeMe and by appointment. Phone (021) 063 3604.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

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: 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 828 2298 or (027) 293 2279.

Speight's Podiatry can take care of your feet. Walking around campus, or a runner, and your feet are killing you? We can help. No doctor's referral is required. Podiatrists are the masters of non-surgical treatment for all foot pain. 2nd Floor, 43 High St, Auckland. Phone 306 4006. Student and staff discount (new and existing patients) for general consultation (\$65 instead of \$80 for 2009). www.speightspodiatry.co.nz or email info@speightspodiatry.co.nz