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news

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Like surfing at Piha



The MOA telescope at Mt John by moonlight. With a diameter of 1.8m it is New Zealand's largest telescope. [Courtesy Takashi Sako, Nagoya University.]

Quarks, a supernova, eager Japanese physicists, chilly planets, gravitational lenses, a telescope in a vineyard, plasma wakefields, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, NASA...

This is the world of Phil Yock, associate professor in the Department of Physics, whose 30-year commitment to astronomy was recognised recently with membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Phil began his career in the 1960s as a nuclear and particle physicist. He did his PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when the idea of quarks was born - the hypothetical constituents of protons and neutrons, the components of atomic nuclei.

After doing postdoctoral fellowships in the USA and Europe Phil returned to New Zealand and proposed a variant of the quark theory that made characteristic predictions at higher energies than those that could be explored with the particle accelerators of the 1970s.

So Phil's interests gradually turned to astrophysics, with encouragement from his wife, who gave him a telescope in the 1980s. It was a

fortuitous gift because, in 1987, a star blew up in the southern sky leading to the first supernova in 400 years that could be seen with the naked eye.

The supernova attracted world-wide interest and Japanese physicists cabled Phil, requesting "a high mountain with electricity and a road" from which to monitor the supernova at short (gamma-ray) wavelengths. Thus began seven years for Japanese and New Zealand staff and students atop a windy and cold ridge in the Black Birch Range in Marlborough. If you are ever on top of that ridge, see if you can spot the lines of rocks in the ground. They point to the supernova.

The hardships endured at Black Birch generated a bond between the Japanese and the New Zealanders, and when a new astronomical technique known as "gravitational microlensing" hit the scientific headlines in 1993 they joined forces in that field.

Gravitational microlensing was originally proposed by Einstein. It utilises the gravitational fields of stars as huge, naturally occurring lenses, but Einstein predicted it would never be used. However, even Einstein could not have predicted

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Key events

Fast forward

This is an annual lecture series hosted by NICAL's School of Architecture and Planning. The ten lectures, to be delivered between July and October, present the recent and current work of leading practitioners in architecture, planning and urban design. The third lecture, on 28 July at 6.30 pm in the Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds Street, will feature Marshall Cook, who has won acclaim particularly through his work on housing. Admission is free, bookings are not required and the lecture is open to the public.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

This year's theme for Māori Language Week is Te Mahi Kai: The language of food, and the annual Te Reo Māori Kuiz Night is to be held on Thursday 29 July from 5.30pm-9.30pm at Epsom Campus (B Block Music Auditorium). All members of the University are invited to attend, whether fluent speakers of te reo or just beginners. Teams of six are encouraged to register at a cost of \$30 per team (or individuals can email to be set up with a team). Email Shelley Catlin at s.catlin@auckland.ac.nz for information or to register.

Arvo Pärt festival

PRISM, The University of Auckland Chamber Choir concert, to be held on 7 August at St Matthew-in-the-City Anglican Church, will be both the highlight and culmination of a two-day festival celebrating Arvo Pärt's works and influence. The festival will also include a concert of Pärt's works performed by School of Music piano students during their lunch-time concert series, and an open composition workshop, with discussion between Dr Eve de Castro-Robinson and Dr Davinia Caddy on *Ring out, wild bells* (see story p7). The Karlheinz Company will pay tribute to Pärt with a programme of works complementing Pärt's haunting *Fratres* which will feature in the concert.

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The 2009 Staff Survey showed that, in most respects, the perceptions staff had of their working environment were more positive than in the first survey in 2007. However, in three categories – Leadership, Image and Reputation and Innovation and Empowerment, responses of our staff, although improved on 2007, were less positive than those of staff in the international universities and research organisations comprising the survey benchmark group.

Further analysis showed that:

- the Leadership result was driven mainly by a lack of understanding of how the objectives of the staff member's faculty or service division fitted with those of the University, and by a lack of awareness of the role of the Senior Management Team (SMT);
- the Image and Reputation score reflected mainly poor perceptions of the University's environmental performance;
- and Innovation and Empowerment scored poorly because of a perception that the University was "over-committed" and resistant to new ideas and innovative solutions.

During follow-up workshops on each campus it became clear that one of the problems was that staff were not aware of the many developments in these areas that were already underway. In particular, there was a view that although a great deal of information was available, it was difficult for staff to find out about matters of interest to them unless that information was delivered to them actively. For example, a high proportion of workshop participants read the Senate Report (which is emailed directly to staff) whereas few read the SMT Report (which was introduced after the first Staff Survey but has to be looked for on the intranet).

To address this issue, I will from 30 July be introducing a new fortnightly VC email to all staff. This will, via a series of links, give staff direct access to items of particular interest or importance, including major new developments, the Senate Report, reports on SMT meetings, opportunities for staff (eg grants and awards), new policies and procedures, events, and an opportunity to ask questions about what is happening in the University. We will also feature new strategic innovations in departments and the wider University, including in environmental matters, with a focus on issues that came out of the Staff Survey.

I hope that this innovation will help overcome the challenges we clearly have of communicating effectively in a large organisation.



Working wonders on YouTube



One of the robots created by Bruce MacDonald and his team.

A YouTube channel created to spread the word about some of the University's most exciting research has already proved to be very successful, with nearly 7.500 video views recorded since its launch on 15 April.

Among the most popular of the 11 videos initially launched in the "Research works wonders" campaign are those featuring interviews with Professor John Boys, Associate Professor Grant Covic and Dr Patrick Hu, all from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. All are specialising in inductive (wireless) power transfer, which can be applied in highly innovative ways to address world-wide challenges, for example in transport and health. Another research project attracting many visits is Professor of Education Stuart McNaughton's study of raising literacy

levels in multicultural decile 1 primary schools.

Now the University is building on this successful exposure with eight new videos launched on YouTube. These include interviews with:

- Professor Winston Byblow from the Brain Research Centre and Faculty of Science on "Improving recovery after strokes"
- Associate Professor Simon Malpas (Physiology and Auckland Bioengineering Institute) on "The role of the brain in cardio-vascular disease"
- Associate Professor Martyn Nash, Associate Professor Poul Nielsen, and Dr Vijay Rajagopal (from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and the Department of Engineering Science) on "Biomechanics for breast cancer imaging"
- Dr Deborah Sloboda (Liggins Institute and National Research Centre for Growth and Development) on "Effects of an inadequate maternal diet on offspring reproduction"
- Associate Professor Bruce MacDonald (Electrical and Computer Engineering) on "Robots to help care for older people"
- Professor Klaus Bosselmann (Law) on "Earth democracy", focusing on what is needed for responsible decision-making based on sustainability ethics
- Dr Marjorie van Roon (Architecture and Planning) on "Low impact urban design and development"
- Professor Viviane Robinson from the Faculty of Education on "Identifying and explaining the impact of educational leadership on student achievement and wellbeing".

For more news on our YouTube research presence, see future issues of *University News* and keep an eye on the staff intranet.

To view the interviews with some of our remarkable researchers, see www.youtube.com/users/researchworkswonders

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the advent of telescopes equipped with electronic cameras and their ability to monitor millions of stars and find his lensing process in action.

The Japan/New Zealand team became known as Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics (MOA) and they set out to use Einstein's lenses to find planets orbiting stars in the Milky Way. Up till that time (1993), no such planets had been discovered despite strenuous efforts by astronomers using conventional means over many years. The University of Auckland, Canterbury, Massey, Nagoya and Victoria Universities joined forces in MOA, together with a string of brilliant students, "mainly from The University of Auckland", says Phil Yock.

Initially a smallish 60-centimetre telescope at the Mt John Observatory in Canterbury was used, but later a 1.8-metre telescope was built there. This is the world's largest telescope dedicated to gravitational microlensing. It was funded by Japan but designed by a former student of The University of Auckland.

The tally of planets found by MOA now stands at over a dozen, including one that is only twice the size of Earth. The eventual aim is to find a habitable "Earth-twin". NASA's recently launched

space telescope named Kepler may prove to be the race winner. It was designed to find warm planets whereas most planets found by MOA are at a chilly -200°C. The eventual aim of the astronomical community is to find information on all types of planets orbiting all types of stars in the Galaxy.

The latest research telescope to be added to the armada of telescopes in New Zealand is located in a vineyard in sunny Marlborough. This was supplied by Spain in 2009 and it works hand in hand with NASA to observe "gamma ray bursts". These are immense cosmic explosions, the most powerful of which occurred just a few hundred million years after the big bang. The University is supporting this research as well.

And what happened to Phil's theory of quarks that required larger accelerators to test? He is waiting patiently for news from the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN laboratory in Switzerland. If it fails to live up to expectations he is hoping its energy might be increased using a new "plasma wakefield" technique in which particles ride electromagnetic waves rather like surfers at Piha. Phil believes these electromagnetic waves offer extraordinary possibilities, like Einstein's lenses.



Charlotte Šunde and Larry Murphy

Professor Larry Murphy, Acting Director of one of the University's three Thematic Research Initiatives (TRI), seems to embody what the TRIs represent.

Larry, a Professor of Property in the Business School, has a background in geography and economics and has spent time on the academic staff of no fewer than four of the University's faculties: Arts; Science; Architecture, Property and Planning (before the creation of the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries); and, of course, Business and Economics.

He has been a recipient of a prestigious Marsden Fund grant for a study of "Extraordinary Auckland" with researchers from the School of Environment.

His task, he says, is to launch the TRI – Transforming Auckland: Institutional, technological and cultural innovations for sustainable cities – "to make sure it kicks off well" before the appointment of a permanent director. For this task his diverse experience and multiple networks are of great value.

The aim of the University's three TRIs, announced by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon at the Celebrating Research Excellence event held in May, is to support "internal development of research capability, across the faculties and large scale research institutes that addresses interdisciplinary issues and questions of major socioeconomic importance".

They are intended to be "collaborative in nature and address both the capability gaps within the University and the opportunity to better meet the needs of our external communities".

Therefore the TRI, Transforming Auckland – hosted by NICA and championed by the Dean, Professor Jenny Dixon – is bringing together researchers from across the faculties who share an interest in urban sustainability, and is working to enhance connections outside the University with organisations such as the new Auckland Council, and with other cities in New Zealand and internationally.

Its steering group included members from Science, Engineering, Business, Population Health, Arts, Law, and the James Henare Māori Research Centre – with each of NICA's schools and programmes represented.

"Culture is a key component of urban spaces," says Charlotte Šunde, the TRI's Research Development Manager, who has been involved with Transforming Auckland right from its inception and played a strong role in drawing up the business plan. "Cities are incubation centres for cultural change, with creative arts and industries a key factor. They are also centres of economic transformation and social innovation within distinct environmental contexts. Recognising the diverse dimensions underpinning sustainable cities research, and the increasingly complex challenges facing cities, will be paramount in the TRI's research."

As a student in resource and environmental planning at Massey University, she developed a broad interest in sustainable development, culminating in "a very interdisciplinary PhD thesis ranging from philosophy and anthropology on one axis to ecological theory and complex systems thinking on the other".

A subsequent postdoctoral fellowship, spent in Paris at the University of Versailles, enhanced her awareness of major changes confronting cities internationally and confirmed her perception that northern hemisphere cities have come through a trajectory different from ours.

Charlotte is convinced that the TRI needs to engage not only through our communities but also internationally, and that we have the capability and the opportunity to "produce a different model which can be inserted into global scholarship.

"We will look to connect with the Super City as it emerges, and to take a role in the types of research that will help promote sustainable futures within the Super City structure. The University can offer a huge pool of talent, broad and deep, and the community has the opportunity to tap our expertise in the best ways possible."

Larry adds that the TRI aims to build connections with funding agencies, local government, property interests and transport agencies, as well as the Ministries of Social Development, and the Environment. He would like "to bring in the broadest spectrum of people possible, to get them interested and connected". He would also like to connect with community groups, and especially with Māori.

Larry and Charlotte are now working on the announcement of an internal round of funding for urban sustainability research. They are engaging in information sessions with associate deans (research), heads of departments, and interested researchers.

The ultimate opportunity offered by the TRI, they emphasise, is to support significant research in a unique urban context, and to bring the University's understanding of urban change into engagement with the stakeholders who drive change for cities.

Researchers interested in the TRI are encouraged to contact Larry Murphy or Charlotte Šunde directly or to talk with their faculty's associate dean (research).

Art moves judges

Emeritus Professor Roger Horrocks, founder and former head of the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies, has been announced winner of the Van Gogh Prize at the Amsterdam Film Festival.

Last year Roger Horrocks wrote a book with accompanying CD entitled *Art That Moves: The work of Len Lye*, published by Auckland University Press. The CD contained a docu-drama about Lye's early years that has now won the Van Gogh Prize. Judges said the quality of the work "was simply astounding. Judging from among this exceptionally high calibre of filmmaking talent proved to be extremely difficult as there were so many unique, well-made and worthy projects."

Volcanic contributions

Associate Professor Ian Smith (School of Environment) has been elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of Australia in recognition of his leading contributions in the petrology of volcanic materials.

To be elected a Fellow, a geologist must have at least ten years' professional experience and have made a significant contribution to geology or related fields. There are currently fewer than 80 Fellows.

Ian studies the magma that erupts from volcanoes to better understand how volcanoes behave and the hazards they present. While his research addresses fundamental geological questions, it also has an important bearing on how we plan for the next eruptions.

Currently he is investigating why magmas are produced in the Auckland volcanic field and how they come to the surface. He is also studying a sister volcanic field in Korea that has a longer history and can help geologists understand how the Auckland field may evolve.

Prize for physical education professor

Richard Tinning, Professor of Physical Education in the Faculty of Education, is the first southern hemisphere winner of the prestigious International Olympic Committee President's Prize, which he will share with co-winner Professor Wolf-Deitrich Brettschneider from the University of Paderborn, Germany.

Richard is the first southern hemisphere recipient of the award.

The US\$10,000 prize has been given only ten times since it was established in 1978 under the sponsorship of former IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch. It will be presented to Richard by the International Association of Physical Education in Higher Education (AIESEP) at a gala reception at the AIESEP Congress in La Coruna, Spain in October 2010.

APRU presidents gather



The University photographers captured some of the moments at the Annual Presidents Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, held at The University of Auckland from 30 June to 2 July.

Staff Survey brings action at Grafton



Avette Kelly

Already the Staff Survey, carried out last year, has inspired positive changes around the University.

For instance, in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, one tangible outcome is a self-help tool for recruitment of staff.

"Because our faculty is very large, our findings tended to mirror those for the wider University," says Avette Kelly, Human Resources Manager for the faculty and the Liggins Institute.

"Areas the survey showed as needing improvement were innovation and empowerment around processes, and getting things done quickly. These have therefore been the main focus of our attention."

Already produced is a "toolkit" for heads of department, heads of school and others involved in recruitment, so that all the information they need

"is pulled together instead of dispersed" and is easy to access on the faculty intranet.

The kit includes a guide for making an offer of employment and for informing unsuccessful applicants; it also includes a bank of interview questions, not only covering general competency but also exploring experience in teaching and research, and in academic services such as planning conferences and serving on committees.

"Since many of those being interviewed are clinicians," says Avette, "we have added a bank of questions on clinical skills as well."

To streamline processes, the HR team has also produced a guide to "who should be doing what" in the recruitment process.

"This is useful to all the people who contribute in different ways to the task, and prevents any details from falling through the cracks, as they have occasionally done in the past. Now we give a form to the hiring manager asking: 'When do we want the new person to be in place?' Then we work backwards from there, making sure all the steps are clear."

In another effort aimed at process improvement, the Finance and Planning Director of the faculty has been working with the finance managers in each school to simplify financial processes, reduce layers of approval, and eliminate any unnecessary steps, and the Director of Operations is working with the faculty senior managers' group to identify processes which could be simplified or streamlined to improve operating efficiency.

While these initiatives have been driven - in response to recognised needs - by Avette and other management staff, Professor Iain Martin, Dean of the faculty, would like them over the next few months to take a systematic look at all processes with a view to defining them and making them more efficient, taking account of all the wider repercussions.

"What we are working on now," explains Avette, "is what is 'in our silos'. We are making improvements that work for us, but some may have implications elsewhere - for example, on research or finance functions at a faculty or University level.

"The question is: 'How can we give people a clear, easy-to-follow process?'"

Sometimes, she acknowledges, there are valid reasons for retaining a process that seems complex or cumbersome. "If there are valid reasons, then these need to be made clear."

Anecdotal evidence already suggests that staff are finding the innovations useful - which means the Staff Survey has helped increase job satisfaction for Avette and her team.

"The whole idea is to make things easier for the researchers and teachers - so they can get on with doing their world-class research," says Avette.

She adds that after doing a degree in English literature, she found it "quite a change" to work with scientists. "But I soon realised I loved it," she says with a smile. "They're doing such exciting things."

Repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004

The impending repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 has produced two entirely different frameworks for filling the gap.

A Māori framework produced by several major iwi (the Iwi Leaders Group (ILG)), promotes hapu and iwi as the primary institutions through which Māori relationships and any entitlements vis-a-vis the foreshore and seabed are to be exercised. For this group, an enduring settlement must be built on recognition of hapu and iwi mana, and includes the ability to control activities within the area in concert with the Crown and the right to manage the resource and to develop it commercially.

Quantification of hapu and iwi mana into protected group activities (commercial or otherwise) of a property kind, is secondary. Notably, tikanga Māori (Māori law) requires that all potential entitlements are held within a normative framework that recognises two fundamental ethical duties: first, a kaitiakitanga duty is owed by hapu and iwi to Papatuanuku (earthmother) not to damage irreparably her other living systems; second, a whakapapa (genealogical) duty is owed to future generations not to deprive them of what they might need to survive. The focus appears to be on recognising hapu and iwi mana within a tikanga Māori framework that controls licensed activities and provides for legitimate Māori property-type claims under the Treaty of Waitangi.

Under the Crown model, existing political and legal institutional frameworks of power remain largely unchanged. The Crown in Parliament remains the highest political power in Aotearoa New Zealand, on which Māori are reliant for recognition of their territorial mana. The existing western-based property rights system will be adjusted to allow for assimilation of Māori groups (as a new kind of private owner) into the regime. Some rights of private owners will accrue to Māori but fee simple title will not be granted. Furthermore, any accommodation will occur within an existing liberal rights property framework that views the environment primarily as an exploitable chattel. The basic comparison highlights the difficulties of trying to merge two very different systems into a solution that provides "justice", a fundamental legal principle that demands Māori be treated fairly, under any new Foreshore and Seabed legislation.

Retiring judge lecturing

Justice David Baragwanath is speaking at the Law School soon to mark his retirement from the New Zealand judiciary.

"Can we globalise the law?" is the theme of his lecture on 4 August (12noon Algie Lecture Theatre, 9 Eden Crescent), the day after he steps down from office. Staff and students from the wider University as well as from the Law School are welcome to attend.

The judge will be asking to what extent the

The impending legislation will impact on the constitutional status (ie governance ability) as well as the legal status of hapu and iwi within Aotearoa New Zealand. The Treaty of Waitangi is the source of legitimacy for both. How the courts interpret legislation in the future will test Māori acceptance of existing institutional frameworks' ability to deliver justice for them. A consideration that gives added impetus to Māori claims is the recognition of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the New Zealand government in 2010. It sets an internationally recognised baseline for government interactions with Māori and includes a template of specific governance and property rights that goes beyond what seems to be on offer in the anticipated legislation.

The anticipated legislation is based around the following principles:

No-one will "own" the foreshore and seabed. The government will regulate its use for the benefit of all New Zealanders, under local and general legislation and using existing agencies such as the Department of Conservation. The regulatory power of government will be balanced by recognition that Māori hapu and iwi hold "mana tuku iho" in the foreshore and seabed. If this occurs, establishing and maintaining a formal relationship between Māori hapu and iwi and local government agencies will become an important feature of local government, and tikanga Māori will become part of local decision-making. This will require greater recognition of Māori concepts and principles than currently exists under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Likewise, adherence to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, under Part 2 of the RMA, will gain greater traction once Māori become an integral part of local government decision-making.

Māori will be able to have their customary title ascertained in court. The test for recognition under the current Act requires uninterrupted occupation and use since 1840. In the past, Māori have been prevented from exercising and developing their occupation and use rights by legislation that unilaterally appropriated foreshore and seabed control into government and private, non-Māori, hands. Justice requires that the "reasonableness" standard that underpins all of the common law be applied by the judiciary to ensure that Māori are

not unduly penalised for oppressive actions that are not of their own making and by which they (temporarily) lost access to and control of important hapu and iwi resources.

Existing public access to the beach for recreation purposes will remain. "Justice" in our small country bounded on all sides by the sea requires open access. How we treat the marine environment and our relationship to it is another matter.

"Kaitiakitanga" as a normative principle of resource management could see new ethics relating to the use of the beach emerging which highlight personal enjoyment but prevent excessive fishing, shellfood gathering, extreme recreational activities that damage the environment, and unrestrained extraction activities that alter it, in excess of what is currently permitted under the RMA. This ties in with the Crown (and hapu and iwi) regulatory principle.

Existing rights of private owners remain. This retains privilege to an exclusive group of existing private owners while maintaining the rhetoric of "open access" to all. It is problematic because most "private titles" that encroach on to the foreshore area are actually government-owned, ie held by local government agencies, or land where the sea has encroached on private holdings. However, lack of clarity will re-invigorate Māori claims that their collective rights are at least equal to any existing local and central government ownership rights.

Viewing matters from a broader global context of global warming and over-population, we need to transform the mechanisms by which we relate to each other and our environment. Māori relationships to natural resources in Aotearoa New Zealand are increasingly being promoted as the avenue by which that transformation should take place. Wholesale acceptance of ideas that require rethinking of existing institutional frameworks of power, however, takes time or a major catastrophe to achieve. Thus, the imminent review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 will probably lead to an outcome that is better than existing legislation provides but far short of hapu and iwi aspirations for the nation and themselves.

Dr Nin Tomas, Faculty of Law

distinctiveness of New Zealand can and should be reflected in differences from other countries' domestic law. He will also discuss how far the identity of laws in a globalised world can be maximised to facilitate cross-border handling of disputes.

Justice Baragwanath is a University of Auckland LLB graduate who went on to become a Rhodes Scholar. He was appointed a judge of the High Court in 1995, was President of the New Zealand

Law Commission from 1996 to 2001, and has been a judge of the Court of Appeal since 2008.

He will be a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge, the University of Manitoba and Queen Mary, University of London, before taking up an international position in 2011.

Jones medal established

A new medal has been established by the Royal Society of New Zealand to recognise lifetime achievement in the mathematical sciences in New Zealand. Named the Jones Medal after Professor Sir Vaughan Jones of the New Zealand Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, this medal is to be awarded every two years.

Curbing cancer

Living in an environment rich physical, mental and social stimulation – a setting that causes mild stress – has been shown to curb cancer growth, according to a new study led by Professor Matthew During (Centre for Brain Research).

The animal study, published as the cover story in the highly influential biology journal *Cell*, outlines how this effect comes about and therapeutic relevance of the findings.

The researchers discovered that an enriched environment activates a nervous-system pathway called the hypothalamic-sympathoneural-adipocyte (HSA) axis, which tells fat cells to stop releasing a hormone called leptin into the bloodstream. Leptin normally helps restrain appetite; this study discovered that it also accelerates cancer growth.

Fetal transfusion recipients sought

A life-saving blood transfusion technique to treat babies with anaemia while still in the womb was pioneered in New Zealand nearly 50 years ago.

Now researchers are looking for people who survived as a result of the treatment to understand how anaemia before birth may have affected the development of their hearts.

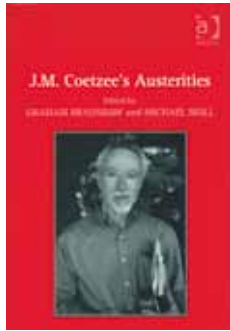
The team would like to make contact with New Zealanders over 18 years of age who received blood transfusions before birth for the treatment of fetal anaemia, to invite them to take part in a study comparing their health and heart function with that of a brother or sister unaffected by the disease.

Most mothers and babies would have received treatment at National Women's Hospital in Auckland, although some transfusions were given in Wellington and Christchurch. The research would involve siblings travelling to The University of Auckland at the expense of the research team to have an MRI scan and blood tests, standard procedures that take half a day.

Anyone who thinks that they and their brother or sister may be eligible for the study is invited to contact paediatrician Dr Alexandra Wallace on 0800 500 194 or email fetalanaemiastudy@auckland.ac.nz

Dr Wallace is conducting the research as part of her doctoral thesis, supervised by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Jane Harding and Dr Stuart Dalziel.

J.M. Coetzee's Austerities



Representing a wide range of political and theoretical perspectives, this volume, edited by Emeritus Professor Michael Neill (English) with Professor Graham Bradshaw from the University of Queensland and

published by Ashgate, examines J.M. Coetzee's novels from *Dusklands* to *Diary of a Bad Year*.

The choice of essays reflects three goals: aligning the South African dimension of Coetzee's writing with his "late modernist" aesthetic; exploring the relationship between Coetzee's novels and his essays on linguistics; and paying particular attention to the more recent fictional experiments.

These objectives are realised in essays focusing on, among other matters, the function of names and etymology in Coetzee's fiction, the vexed relationship between art and politics in apartheid South Africa, the importance of film in Coetzee's

literary sensibility, Coetzee's reworkings of Defoe, the paradoxes inherent in confessional narratives, ethics and the controversial politics of reading *Disgrace*, intertextuality and the fictional self-consciousness of *Slow Man*.

Through its pronounced emphasis on the novelist's later work, the collection points towards a narrato-political and linguistic reassessment of the Coetzee canon.

Michael Neill is one of the contributors to the collection, with "The Language of the Heart": Confession, metaphor and grace in J.M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron*.

Michael is the author of *Issues of Death* (1997) and *Putting History to the Question* (2000) and has edited *Antony and Cleopatra* (1994) and *Othello* (2006) for the Oxford Shakespeare. Among his many published essays are articles on post-colonial fiction from a number of regions, including South Africa.

Says Rita Barnard, from the University of Pennsylvania, USA, of *J.M. Coetzee's Austerities*: "The standard of scholarship is consistently high and the essays often elegant and inventive as they offer new strategies for reading one of the major authors of our day."

The Renegado



"*The Renegado* is one of the most entertaining plays of its period," says Emeritus Professor Michael Neill (English), editor of the new edition of this play by Philip Massinger, published in the Arden Early Modern Drama series.

The play takes its inspiration from a number of works by Cervantes, based on his experiences as a captive in Algiers, and looks forward to such better-known oriental extravaganzas as Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*.

Even as it indulges in romantic fantasy, *The Renegado* engages with contentious issues of

national and international politics, offering a provocative response to the sectarian feuds dividing England in the 1620s while exploiting wider European fears of the expansionist Muslim empire of the Ottomans.

The conflict with Turkey, which centred on competition for control of Eastern commerce, was typically interpreted as an extension of the long war between Christendom and Islam.

Thus, *The Renegado*, through its treatment of commercial confrontation and religious conversion, offers important insights into early modern constructions of the Islamic world, and emerges as a play with unexpected resonances for our own time.

This edition provides a clear and authoritative text, detailed on-page commentary notes, a comprehensive, illustrated introduction to the play's historical, cultural and performance contexts, and a bibliography of references and further reading.

Eyes right

If that computer screen and newspaper are getting harder to read, maybe it's time you took advantage of the free, top-quality eye examinations provided to staff by The University of Auckland Clinics at Tāmaki and Grafton.

The University supports staff wellness by paying for an eye test for employees who use computer screens for a significant part of their work. You will receive a really thorough eye test provided by fourth-year Bachelor of Optometry students, working under the supervision of registered optometrists from the academic staff at the Department of Optometry and Vision Science.

If the tests show that you need glasses, the

University also reimburses the cost of frames and lenses (up to a total of \$235). The clinic has a large range of frames and lenses to choose from.

The University of Auckland Clinics provide a range of services to the public and to University staff which support the clinical teaching of a number of academic programmes, and you being a part of these really supports our teaching and research missions.

Please see our website www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz or call on ext 89909. Just complete the form and staff in the clinic look forward to seeing and helping you.



Julian Dashper's *Untitled (Four Squares: for Richard and Donald, both born 1928)* 2008, 3 panels of framed plexiglass

The absent fourth square alluded to in Julian Dashper's teasingly titled work speaks of the sense of loss suggested by the work's subtitle; it is dedicated to Dashper's father, Richard Dashper, and his "other" father, American minimalist painter Donald Judd.

Both were born in the same year and both suffered from pancreatic cancer - Judd dying in 1994, and Richard in 2009. The mysterious title also suggests the playful minimalism that is characteristic of Dashper's work; *Four Square* references the iconic New Zealand grocery chain,

its logo colours having inspired the Pretty Minimal collection from which this work was purchased for The University of Auckland Art Collection in 2008.

Starting his artistic career as a student at Elam School of Arts in 1978, Dashper quickly realised the isolation felt by many New Zealand artists. He became interested in the fact that the great works of modernism that so inspired him could only ever be understood in this country in miniature and reproduction. Modernism had arrived in New Zealand fully formed, leaving New Zealand painters without an opportunity to engage in the movement

or claim any ownership of it. These themes of geographical isolation and cultural distance remained a part of Dashper's work throughout his career, as he addressed the way in which New Zealand receives and circulates visual information because of its geographical positioning.

Dashper's practice presents itself in various forms, including paintings, photographs of paintings, found objects infused with abstract images, as well as limited edition CD and 12-inch polycarbonate recordings. After his early landscape studies, which made reference to giants like McCahon and Woollaston, Dashper began examining the mechanics of painting and its vocabulary, moving his practice further towards abstraction.

During the 1980s this manifested as a focus on paint effects and colour, with paints often squeezed directly onto the canvas from their tubes. Julian remarked of these abstractions: "...they were all made by holding the tube and squeezing it. So I never touched or embraced the painting. I could have made them wearing three-piece suits. They were like lies in terms of artistic expression or angst." These works place greater weighting on ideas than objects, often using art which is either mechanically created, or is simply a common thing given new meaning in the art context.

Parallels to Marcel Duchamp's "ready-mades" can be seen in Dashper's works, literally presenting found items as they are or slightly manipulated, raising issues about the constitution of art. Dashper's choices of objects illustrate his deep connection with minimalism and his continuing observations of the behaviour of the art world.

Julian Dashper: Professional Practice, an exhibition curated by Ariane Craig-Smith, an MA graduate from the Art History Department at The University of Auckland, opens at Gus Fisher Gallery on Friday 23 July, just one week before the first anniversary of his death from cancer in 2009.

Linda Tyler

Ring out, wild bells

Work by composer Dr Eve de Castro-Robinson *Ring out, wild bells* will have its world premiere at PRISM on Saturday 7 August at St Matthew-in-the-City.

PRISM - The University of Auckland Chamber Choir Concert is the grand culminating event of the Arvo Pärt Festival: A Search for Unity held by the University School of Music's ensembles, the Karlheinz Company and Chamber Choir.

Twentieth-century Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, inspired by Gregorian chants, pioneered a genre sometimes referred to as mystic minimalism in the Soviet Union. His works were at times banned by the Soviet censors and after experiencing a loss of musical faith, he later re-emerged creating his signature technique of composition "tintinnabuli," derived from the Latin "little bells."

Eve de Castro-Robinson from the School of Music has been greatly influenced by Arvo Pärt in her new work, *Ring out, wild bells*, written specifically for this festival.

"I am often concerned with writing a type of music which is close to ritual or meditation. Arvo Pärt of course has these elements in his music, which communicates with a disarming simplicity," says Eve. "I also have long been interested in various bell-types and tintinnabulation.

"In *Ring out, wild bells* I want the voices, including the solo counter-tenor, to become bells themselves, emulating the simple diatonic harmonies beloved of Pärt, and building to a tintinnabulatory climax of change-ringing," she says.

Various sonorities and characters of bells are

evident in Eve's compositions. Her previous work *Other Echoes*, an orchestral fanfare from 1999, employed tubular bells playing a hundred strokes to suggest the years of the following century. *Ring True for piano* (2003) has the pianist ringing a handbell to usher in further sonorities - bell-like tui calls, the mimicking of a childhood brass bell and a deep chord made up of harmonics used to construct bell-metal. At a climactic point the pianist swipes giant bell strokes on a tam-tam placed next to the piano. The central movement of the piece features bell-like ringing of the changes down the keyboard.

PRISM will also feature Pärt's pieces *Berliner Messe*, *Magnificat*, *My heart's in the Highlands*, *The woman with the alabaster box* and *Trivium for organ*.

What's on

FRIDAY 23 JULY

Department of Philosophy seminar

Denis Robinson, UoA (co-author David Braddon-Mitchell): *De re counterfactuals, and similarities of worlds and of counterparts*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

SATURDAY 24 JULY

Exhibition talk and tour

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Exhibition curator Ariane Craig Smith gives a tour of the gallery and discusses her selection of works for Julian Dashper's *Professional Practice*.

Public lecture: Three generations of painting

Jonathan Mane-Wheoki discusses Elam's history of painting with Don Binney, Denys Watkins and guests. 2pm Elam lecture Theatre, 20 Whitaker Place. Queries to elamjubilee@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 27 JULY

Second 2010 Winter Lecture

Colin Peacock, Mediawatch presenter, Radio New Zealand National: *The end(s) of journalism: Watching the watchdogs*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Chair: Dr Brian Edwards. Free. All welcome. For further information please phone 373 7599 ext 87698.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc-Prof Yusheng Feng, Director, Computational Bioengineering and Nanomechanics Lab, University of Texas at San Antonio: *Image-guided laser surgery with real-time predictive control for prostate cancer and in vivo experiments*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Homework: Elam technical staff showcase new work

Opens at 5.30pm projectspace B43 1, Ground floor, 20 Whitaker Place. Until 31 July. Work by Graeme Brett, Lucas Doolan, Greg Dyer, Lee Elliott, Darren Glass, Struan Hamilton, Ellen Porth and Nick Waterson. Curated by Peter Shand. Visit www.projectspaceB431.auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Assoc-Prof Frank Lichtenberk, UoA: *Food for thought: Possessives in Oceanic and other languages*. 12noon Rm 103, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.

School of Asian Studies seminar

Prof Koichi Iwabuchi, School of International Liberal Studies, Waseda University: *East Asian publics and the global governance of media culture*. time tba. Arts 2, Patrick Hanan Rm 501, 18 Symonds St.

Queries to asianstudies@auckland.ac.nz

Fast Forward lecture series

Marshall Cook, Cook Sargisson & Pirie Architects. 6.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, Bldg 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

THURSDAY 29 JULY

Tools for teaching EAL students

9.30am-12.30pm CAD, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Explore tools for addressing teachers' and EAL students' challenges regarding culture, learning and language. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

Master of Public Policy seminar

Kaaren Goodall, Executive Director, Committee on Auckland: *NZ: Realising our potential - New Zealand's economic powerhouse - The Auckland agenda*. 12.30-2pm FGW Rm, OGH.

Commentator: David Wilson, Director, Institute of Public Policy and Programme Leader for Economic Development, AUT.

Department of History film screening

Dance of the instant: The New Dance Group Wellington, 1945-1947. 4pm Rm 59, History Dept.

This 46-minute film - which grew out of research by Marianne Schultz - is told in rich personal detail by director Shirley Horrocks.

Henrietta and Lola Anne Tunbridge Watercolour Scholarship exhibition

Preview and announcement. 5.30pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Exhibition runs until 7 August. A \$10,000 prize is given annually to an Elam student who excels in the exploration of contemporary themes in watercolour.

FRIDAY 30 JULY

Department of Economics seminar

Dr Kuntal Kumar Das, University of Canterbury: *Do sovereign credit ratings affect the composition and maturity of sovereign borrowing?* 3-4.30pm Lecture Theatre 219, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Bilgehan Karabay, ext 87193. 30 July 2010

HĀKARI: A feast of Māori Language music, dance and culture

A concert to celebrate Māori language week. 6-10.30pm Hopetoun Alpha, 19 Beresford Square. Hosted by Ngō Pae o te Māramatanga in conjunction with Ōrotokare: Arts, Story, Motion Trust. Visit www.maramatanga.ac.nz to register. Free. A light meal and soft drinks provided. Attendees may also bring their own refreshments (BYO).

SATURDAY 31 JULY

Walking tour: Microsites and Dashper's Auckland

1pm. A tour of microsites: Auckland City's public art projects in the Learning Quarter, and Julian's favourite modernist landmarks, led by Linda Tyler, Director, Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery. No charge, Email gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz to book.

TUESDAY 3 AUGUST

Third 2010 Winter Lecture

Dr Sue Abel, Department of Māori Studies, and Department of Film, Television and Media Studies UoA:

The end(s) of journalism: A question of balance. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

Chair: Carol Hirschfeld, Head of Programming, Māori Television. All welcome. For further information please phone 373 7599 ext 87698.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Rocco Pitto, orthopaedic surgeon: *Total hip replacement: The past, the present, the future*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST

Excel introduction workshop

9am-12noon CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Dr Carlos-Eduardo Piñeros, Dept of Spanish, School of European Languages and Literatures, UoA: *Distinguishing between subtractive and additive lexical blends*. 12noon Rm 103, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.

School of Law lecture

Justice David Baragwanath. *Can we globalise the law?* 12noon Algie Lecture Theatre, 9 Eden Cres.

Fast Forward lecture series

Momoyo Kajijima, Atelier Bow-Wow, Tokyo. 6.30pm Fisher & Paykel Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST

Department of Psychology seminar

Prof David J Weiss, California State University, Los Angeles: *Evaluating people who evaluate people*. 1pm HSB 604.

Queries to Donna Rose Addis, email d.addis@auckland.ac.nz

National Research Centre for Growth and Development/Liggins Institute lecture

Professor John Mattick: *(R)evolutionary genetics: the central role of regulatory RNA in human development*. 6pm Fale Pasifika, 20-26 Wynyard St. Free. RSVP to info@nrcgd.org.nz or (09) 923 1625.

Inaugural Lectures 2010

By new professors at The University of Auckland.

Prof Simon Holdaway, Anthropology: *Should archaeologists be equipped with time machines?* 6.30pm, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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

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Do you have a child under 2? You can help us find out what infants know! The Early Learning Lab (ELLA) in the Department of Psychology is looking for guardians and their babies to participate in our studies. Contact 373 7599 ext 84236 or earlylearning.nz@gmail.com Our studies were approved by the UoA Human Participants Ethics Committee on 10/03/2010 for 3 years. Ref number 2010/013.

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