



FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS

Photo: Iain MacDonald

Photo: Dr Debbie Hay with technician Richard Bailey

A biologist from the School of Biological Sciences and chemists from the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre are tracking down an important hormone implicated in cancer growth thanks to the University's biopharma "thematic research initiative (TRI)".

Set up last year to more effectively link and develop existing research capability across the University, the TRI's pipeline development funding rounds enable early-stage projects to drive forward over a relatively short time frame.

Dr Debbie Hay, a Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, was an inaugural recipient of a biopharma TRI grant of \$75,000 last year which she has used to develop her research into adrenomedullin, a key hormone that promotes the growth and development of

blood and lymphatic vessels which in turn feed tumour growth.

"We're looking for a compound that will block the AM1 receptor that is activated by this hormone," explains Debbie. "No one has ever generated one of these molecules before and so that's what the purpose of this grant is: to produce a drug that blocks the actions of this hormone at its cell surface target - the AM1 receptor."

As a result of the pipeline funding, Debbie has been able to start working directly with chemists in the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and employ a research technician to screen compounds against the AM1 receptor target. She hopes the project will eventually lead to an important new cancer therapy.

The chemists (Associate Professor Mike Hay and Dr Jack Flanagan) are working specifically to redesign blockers of a closely related receptor to AM1. This strategic approach puts the project on the fast track to success.

"Seeing new collaborations across the University develop between researchers working in different disciplines is very exciting," says Biopharma Manager, Dr Diana Gash. "So far, ten projects have been funded by our biopharma 'pipeline development' fund and they are all progressing well as are the new relationships with UniServices which grow as the projects progress. We're aiming to support at least as many projects this year."

Applications for the next funding round for 2011 close on 2 July. Contact Dr Diana Gash d.gash@auckland.ac.nz



During April and May I attended, together with PVC (International) Chris Tremewan and other staff of the University, the annual Presidents' meetings of all three of the networks of international research universities to which we belong. This provided an interesting opportunity to reflect on how we can best get value from the relationships that these networks enable.

The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is unusual in having a strong geopolitical focus. This allows its 42 members to concentrate on issues relevant to the countries which border the Pacific, and it has the potential to become the leading provider of research in that region. I am confident that focus, and the benefits of the network, will increase as Chris Tremewan takes on the role of Secretary-General of APRU, commencing in early June.

Universitas 21 does not have a regional identity but rather comprises 24 research-intensive universities from around the world. It, too, is adopting a more strategic focus, in this case a focus on developments in research-informed teaching and learning, in development of early career staff, and in student mobility (currently about 3,000 students study annually in a country other than their own under U21 auspices).

The network we have most recently joined, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), has as its core activity four global research challenges – Globalisation of Higher Education and Research, Understanding Cultures, Adapting to Climate Change and Public Health (Non Communicable Diseases). The Climate Change theme already has a number of staff across the 16 member universities working on over a dozen sub-projects.

The purpose of our being members of these networks is, of course, to provide opportunities for our staff to build new collaborations and secure additional research funding and for our students to secure additional exchange opportunities. I encourage staff to explore how these networks might help them develop new academic collaborations. Further details of these opportunities can be obtained by contacting our WUN coordinator, Robyn Hill or Matthew O'Meagher in the International Office for APRU and Universitas 21 activities.



Takutai moana

For beginner photographer Josie McClutchie, it was a dream come true.

The audio-visual production manager at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga has just returned from New York City, where one of her photographs was selected for an indigenous photo exhibition at the tenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the United Nations.

The theme of the exhibition was "The right to water and indigenous peoples". Although most of the photos focused on issues of access to fresh water, Josie (Ngāti Porou, Rongomaiwahine, Rongowhakaata) wanted to highlight indigenous concerns about the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill, which at the time of her submission had just passed its second reading in Parliament.

Josie submitted a photo she had just taken at Auckland's Ōkahu Bay during an experimental session she had set up to practise her photography skills.

She recalls her subject, seven-year-old Denzel Hakopa Timu (a descendant of Ngati Whatua

and the grandson of a Māori Studies colleague, Mere Gilman), had loads of patience as she sought to capture the perfect image. As Denzel played in the surf, Josie snapped around 100 shots. The result was the photo, "Takutai Moana" (Foreshore and Seabed).

"My father is a fisherman who for many years supplied kaimoana (seafood) to our tribe, Ngati Porou, particularly to the kaumatua of the district and for community hui such as tangihanga - so I have a personal relationship with the sea," says Josie.

"With this picture, I wanted to create the context for a broader discussion about Māori customary title and access to the foreshore and seabed and how uncertain that access has recently become for many Māori coastal communities with the passing of the new Marine and Coastal Bill. I also wanted to highlight that Māori have had an inseparable connection with the moana (ocean) since time immemorial, one that has fostered an enduring responsibility of guardianship, protection and care."

Amber Older

Logging on newbies

New employees can now log onto their computers from their very first work day, thanks to Communications Manager Gabriella Davila.

Since the early days of the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) in 2004, a number of initiatives instigated by staff using CIP have led to the improvement of systems and processes throughout The University of Auckland. Most recently, Gabriella suggested a way for getting new employees logged on quickly. Until recently, new employees often had to wait at least a day or two before they were given access to their computers.

"We had to wait for the employee to physically be in the building before we could actually start the process," says Gabriella. "I thought there must be a more efficient way of doing this."

Gabriella sent a proposal to the CIP department via their online suggestion form on the staff intranet, to enable authorisation to

occur concurrently with the signing of an employment contract. CIP then found the "owners" for that particular problem and worked closely with Alan Ward in Human Resources and Janene Markwick in ITS to try and, "come up with a solution that is in the best interests of everybody".

The process has taken a few months to execute, and the culmination of teamwork has ensured new members of staff are able to log on and start sending and receiving emails and also access other parts of the University that they might need to from "the get go". Therefore, staff can be efficient and supported from day one and Gabriella is happy with the procedure that is very easy to take in hand, declaring: "I was very, very impressed and it is really great to see the collaborative process between ITS and HR and the creative solutions that they came up with. I think it will make a big difference to employees".

Kate Pitcher

University joins forces with NIWA



The University of Auckland and NIWA have joined forces to establish a Joint Graduate School in Coastal and Marine Science. The school will offer postgraduate degrees in coastal and marine science co-supervised by researchers at the University and NIWA.

“One of the aims is to increase the number of students educated in coastal and marine science, for employment in academia and industry,” says Dean of Science Professor Grant Guilford, who has championed the establishment of joint graduate schools by the University and Crown Research Institutes. “Combining the complementary strengths of the University in coastal science and marine

ecology, and NIWA in oceanography and modelling, will broaden the range of research topics available to students as well as encouraging further scientific collaboration between the two institutions.”

“The Joint Graduate Schools, of which we now have a number, have been a very important initiative for the University,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon. “Not only do they bring the University and Crown Research Institutes closer together, they increase the number of students participating in joint supervisory arrangements and are therefore win-win situations for those of us who value graduate students working in our organisations.

“Worldwide we are not producing enough scientists and we need to grow the talent at home,” says NIWA CEO John Morgan. “Our local talent, particularly in the area of marine sciences and freshwater sciences, is internationally recognised and often world-leading, and that speaks volumes for our education system. As an employer of marine science staff, the establishment of the Joint Graduate School is a very exciting development.

“It is also an opportunity, at a time when there’s a lot of pressure on resources, to say that coastal and marine science is an area that counts. The marine environment is a resource that we know relatively little about, and investing in capability now is going to ensure that in future we have the skills and knowledge to make the most of this country’s prospects for economic growth.”

Pauline Curtis

Win a Nikon D7000

In its first Christmas Card Photo Competition, External Relations is hoping keen photographers can capture one, two, or all three themes in their work – campus moments, learning landscape, and holidays. The contest is open to University alumni, students and staff.

Winning photos will be selected on their suitability for use on a Christmas card, composition, and how they capture the chosen theme(s), emphasising the University and the holidays. Please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/photo-competition for full contest terms and conditions.

First-place prize – Nikon Camera



The D7000 is a high-quality mid-class D-SLR with the latest in camera technologies and functions.

Research forum

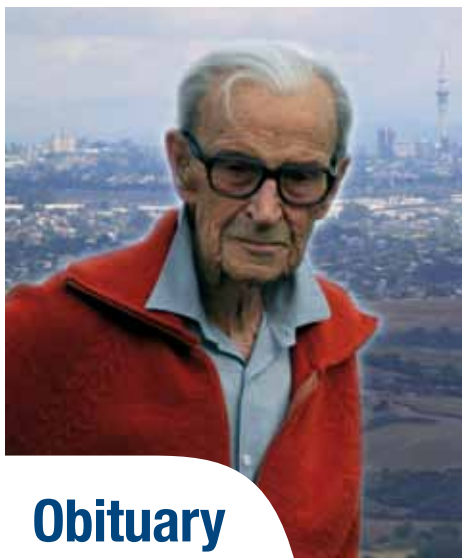
The eight recipients of the International Research Team Development Awards (IRTDAs), a University initiative, will host an Annual Forum on Thursday, 30 June, 2.15pm–5pm, Room 439, Engineering Building, 20 Symonds Street. The forum is aimed at sharing with the wider research community the knowledge, experience, and insights gained. There will be a keynote lecture from Professor Ian Reid of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, who will talk about how best to develop and advance research and careers based on his own experience. Robyn Hill of the Strategic Development Unit will provide an overview of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and its associated opportunities for staff at the University. This is a free event, and at the end of the forum, drinks will be served to facilitate networking and further discussions. If interested, please RSVP to researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz before 20 June.

Whanau Resilience

This seminar on 24 June 2-3pm at Waipapa Marae with Dr Te Kani Kingi and Jordan Waiti explores Māori concepts of resilience. It draws from an existing research project and is based on reviews of literature, targeted case studies, presentations and interviews with key informants. It presents a framework for considering the cultural aspects of resilience and how these might be nurtured and promoted within and throughout whānau. Te Kani Kingi is Director of Te Mata o te Tau, The Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship at Massey University in Wellington. His specialist interests are in mental health research, psychometrics and Māori health. Jordan Waiti is a PhD candidate with Te Pūmanawa Hauora, a Māori health research unit at Massey University in Wellington. He has a longstanding interest in Māori research, especially physical education and health.

Elam library exhibition

Elam School of Fine Arts and the Fine Arts Library have collaborated to create a documentation of Associate Professor Michael Parekowhai’s past and current work to coincide with the opening of the 54th La Biennale di Venezia in Italy. The University of Auckland Art Collection’s *Kapa Haka* and *Passchendaele* are on show, *Patriot: Ten Guitars*, Michael’s 1999 performance work can be viewed on the Video Wall. The library hosts a glass case of ephemera from installations and publications, accompanied by a wall chronology of exhibitions and installations. Check out the giant hand-painted wall map of Venice in the Library foyer for venue locations of New Zealand’s past and current exhibition pavilions alongside images of the 2011 Venice Biennale installation. On show at the Elam School of Fine Arts, Fine Arts Library foyer and Main Building B431, from 9 June until 31 July, 9am-5pm.



Obituary

Emeritus Professor Kenneth Brailey Cumberland CBE, FRSNZ, DSc, MA(Hons)

1 October 1913-17 April 2011

Kenneth Cumberland, who died at the age of 97, was an academic who became a world leader in geography, a nationally and internationally known writer and speaker on New Zealand's agriculture and economic future, a civic leader in Auckland, a farmer and a family man. His contribution to New Zealand has been immense.

Born in Bradford, Yorkshire, Kenneth completed his bachelors degree at Nottingham University College. He then became a junior lecturer in the department of geography at University College, London in 1936, teaching a full timetable as well as studying for his masters.

Early in 1938 Kenneth was summoned to the office of his head of department, shown a letter from George Jobberns, then establishing geography as a degree subject at Canterbury University College in New Zealand and urgently seeking a lecturer to assist him. Kenneth accepted the position.

At Canterbury, Kenneth worked with Jobberns to establish and teach a full geography course.

Together they persuaded the University of New Zealand to accept geography as an official subject at all levels. In later years, Kenneth said he considered this his most important achievement because at that time few universities anywhere in the world taught geography at all levels for both arts and science degrees.

Kenneth found when he came to New Zealand that there were limited resources about New Zealand itself available here for students of geography, so he wrote the first school atlas and persuaded Whitcombe and Tombs to publish it.

On 30 November 1940, Kenneth married his Yorkshire sweetheart Marjorie Denham in Wanganui.

For their honeymoon they took a camping trip – actually a geography field trip studying erosion! – around the central North Island in a borrowed V-8 Chevrolet coupe.

The field notes from this trip became the basis for Kenneth's first book, *Soil Erosion in New Zealand*, published in 1944, which earned him a doctorate in science, and received considerable acclaim in New Zealand and beyond.

In January 1946 Kenneth took up the position as Senior Lecturer in Geography at the Auckland University College, where he had been appointed to establish a geography department.

As well as initiating the new geography department, teaching and appointing staff, Kenneth continued to write resources for the many teachers of geography who were adult students in his courses, and in 1947, began to explore the geography of the Pacific Islands. In 1948 he proposed to the University Council the establishment of a School of Pacific Area Research in physical and social sciences. Kenneth's ongoing work in the Pacific, with a number of his staff, and the publications which resulted, were a major achievement. So was his founding of the New Zealand Geographical Society and its journal, *Geographer*.

From 1952 onwards, he became active in another sphere of influence – local body politics.

He joined a discussion group initiated by Robbie, later Sir Dove-Meyer Robinson, concerned with the continued dumping of raw sewage into the Waitemata Harbour. Eventually the group set up the United Independents Party and in 1953 won sufficient seats on the Auckland City Council to shape a new drainage system which treated sewage before disposal into the Manukau.

However, when Kenneth's wife Marjorie had a cerebral haemorrhage in 1962 (and died in 1963) he decided not to stand for the City Council again. In 1961 he had been elected a Vice-President of the International Geographical Union, so he spent periods as a visiting professor at a number of American and German universities, and presenting papers at international conferences.

He also became involved in farming, with a special interest in agroforestry and multi-level farming in general and began to challenge New Zealand's conventional dependence on dairying and sheep farming, and to advocate multiple land uses and newer crops such as timber trees and subtropical fruit.

In 1973 Kenneth became the first geographer to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and in 1978 he retired from The University of Auckland to begin the most well-known journey of his life, the making of the *Landmarks* series for Television New Zealand. Half the adult population in 1981 watched one or more of the ten episodes.

In the 1980s Kenneth was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his services to education and communication. And he began to write his memoirs (*Milestones and Landmarks*, to be published this year).

Kenneth is survived by his son Garth, now a forestry consultant, and his daughter Tanya, now a grower of organic vegetables and fruit, especially subtropicals. His middle child, Sheevaun, died in 2002.

Charmaine Pountney CNZM, MA(Hons), DipEd, DipTchg

Catering to 'digital natives'

Employers who block workplace access to Facebook and other digital communications are "cutting off the air supply" to a new wave of young workers who are wired differently to their elders and will need careful management in the future, says Professor Michael Myers from the Business School.

Michael, who is head of the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, says employer reaction to the upcoming wave of young "digital native" employees is to try and "control" them by blocking access to communication tools during work.

"The difficulty is that 'digital natives' – those

generally aged mid-20s and below who have been born into a world where the use of information and communications technology is pervasive and ubiquitous – see this control as essentially cutting off their air supply.

"It is vitally important that companies figure out how to manage this new generation of workers, and cater for a wave of employees which our new research project is hoping to confirm are simply wired differently to older generations."

Michael is leading an international research project looking at those born into the digital age. He says "digital natives" are distinctly different to previous generations, and exist in a world

where digital technology is interwoven into the very fabric of everyday life.

"These young workers continually carry mobile phones, laptop computers and personal digital assistants everywhere they go." He says more information is needed on how "digital natives" are using technology in their professional and personal lives at the office and home, how new forms of technology can be designed and implemented for them, and what impacts and governance issues will arise in the future.

The study involves Weatherfield School of Management in the United States, Queen's School of Business in Canada and the Fox School of Business and Management in the US.



Starring role

When the curtain opened recently at the Civic each night for the North Shore Theatre's acclaimed production of *Miss Saigon*, one of the University's general staff members appeared on stage in a starring role.

International Relations officer, O'neal Mendoza played Thuy, an officer in the North Vietnamese Army who is betrothed by arranged marriage to Kim – a Vietnamese girl who has fallen in love with an American GI.

Thuy is an interesting character, full of extreme emotions, someone who shouldn't be judged too quickly," says 27-year-old O'neal. "He is loyal to his country, upholds patriarchal tradition and honours his family, yet he is the one being betrayed, scorned and killed."

Born in the Philippines, O'neal won an Asian Development Bank Scholarship to undertake postgraduate study at The University of Auckland. He completed his Masters in Development Studies, specialising in public health, law and governance, in 2009 while working part-time at the International Relations Office. He is now full-time at the office working with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) to foster relationships with overseas universities, liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and show delegations around campus.

"I see myself as a diplomat for the University – it's the perfect job for me," he says.

O'neal started singing seriously in the Philippines when he was offered a place as a baritone/tenor with the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus in 2000. For the next few years he travelled around the world with the chorus juggling singing with studies for a BA and teaching himself more about the art of singing by watching YouTube vocal clips and reading books. When he came to New Zealand contacts at the University put him in touch with the local music scene and in 2008 he was invited to join the New Zealand Opera Company's Chapman Chorus as a tenor. Thuy in *Miss Saigon* was O'neal's first big role in New Zealand. He says he's enjoyed it immensely and loved the contrast it provided to a working day at the University.

"Music is a great stress reliever. Once you step on stage and go into a song you're in a different world. People say it must be hard to have a full-time job as well but singing helps me do my job."

Tess Redgrave

Sliding on



"Read all about it [1958]" is one of the 3400 slides explored in Film, Television and Media Studies staff member Julie Benjamin's PhD work "Transparencies: New Zealand from 1953 to 1974 through the slide photography of Gladys Cunningham".

An exhibition of Gladys Cunningham's 35mm slides runs from 3–26 June, Lopdell House Gallery, 418 Titirangi Road, Titirangi.

Lottery Health

Funding for research projects and PhD scholarships to improve the health status of New Zealanders via:

- research into the cause, prevention and treatment of disorders
- research that will lead to advances in health and bio-medical science
- the development, maintenance and retention of a highly skilled workforce

Research Office closing date Wednesday 29 June 2011. Contact: mandy.brown@auckland.ac.nz. See www.dia.govt.nz

Google Faculty Research Awards Program

To "improve information access". Projects should be up to a year and between USD 10-15,000. Stated areas of interest include health and education innovation. Contact: d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz Research Office deadlines 18 January and 18 July each year. research.google.com

Rutherford Foundation post-doctoral fellowships

To fund outstanding recent PhD graduates (within two years of conferment) to undertake two years' postdoctoral research in NZ. The closing date for applications to the Research Office is 23 June. Contact c.tews@auckland.ac.nz. www.royalsociety.org.nz

Women in Science Entrepreneurship Award

To encourage the involvement of women in science and engineering entrepreneurship—offered by Pacific Channel and the Association for Women in the Sciences (AWIS). Worth over \$50,000 incubation time at Pacific Channel. Research Office deadline is 23 June. Contact researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz. www.pacificchannel.com

New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre GRASS Award

To facilitate collaboration between senior scientists in New Zealand and Global Research Alliance member countries through the provision of funds for travel and living costs for up to six months. researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz. See www.nzagrc.org.nz/

EU Marie Curie Fellowships Workshop

This will be running at the University on 29 June 2011. The first hour (10-11am) will be an introduction to the fellowships and eligibility for those deciding whether to apply. The remainder of the workshop (11am–3pm) will be a detailed "how to" for those who are interested in applying. Places are limited, please contact David Saunders, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84886.



Every year, thousands of tourists flock in summer to Nepal, a landlocked country in Southern India between China and India.

Their aim is to hike around the spectacular mountain scenery before the beginning of the monsoon season of July and August, and with their cameras they bag the classic images of mountain passes and trails. In the last four years, Korean-born photographer Jae Hoon Lee has travelled amongst the constant stream of visitors, paying patient attention to what lies at his feet. The result is a composite image of tracks collected together to encircle the experience as others might use the native rhododendron flowers to make lei. His harvest of shots gets blended together digitally to make epic panoramas of place which do not describe a specific location but provide instead a sense of how overwhelming it is. Avoiding the clichés of travel photography, Jae Hoon Lee ignores landmarks in favour of the documentation of substrate.

In this instance, he blends a range of views collected during an hour on the Annapurna

circuit in the western hills of Nepal using the computer programme Photoshop. The effect is to magnify the homogeneity of the trail, with the repetition of barely discernible features such as a single rectangular rock the only indication that the same image has been duplicated several times and then knitted into one seamless whole. The resultant fictional country looks barren and inhospitable, relentlessly stony and prone to slips, and is completely uninhabited. But the artist offers a route through this precipitous scree to his viewers, albeit a daunting and difficult path. Those veterans of Nepalese treks will recognise the shifts of scale and steepness brought on by altitude, and also the hairpin bends to be negotiated by the zigzag technique of walking taught by Sherpa guides to the parties of tourists who dog their steps. Concentrating on placing one dusty boot in front of another while heaving to get enough oxygen into the lungs, the landscape often see-saws in front of a trekker's eyes, the stones threatening to skid away into a rockslide with any misplaced step. The artist has successfully re-created the

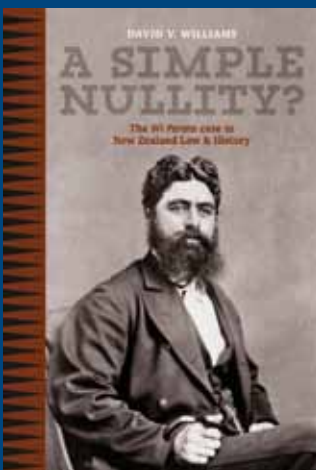
perilous and precipitous nature of a Nepalese trek by being there for us, recording the experience as it is lived rather than just seen.

His compositional technique draws on the vertical perspective of Chinese scroll painting, which influenced the Tibetan thangka images frequently seen in Nepal. In these pictures (designed to be rolled up for travel between monasteries) mountains are stacked up to the surface to enact the Daoist idea of the landscape as a living body. Jae Hoon Lee evokes a sense of movement which is both contemporary and ancient through taking us on a journey which is not a trajectory from a point of origin to a distant place of arrival but instead a slow meditation on the relationship between the human and the natural worlds, examined with endlessly increasing detail.

Linda Tyler

Jae Hoon Lee, Trekking, 2010, digital photograph

Books



A Simple Nullity? The Wi Parata Case in New Zealand Law and History written by Law Professor David V. Williams and published by Auckland University Press takes a fresh look at the 1877 New Zealand Supreme Court case, *Wi Parata v Bishop of Wellington*, that centred on the ownership and use of the Whitireia Block, near Porirua. Ngati Toa had given this land to the Anglican Church for a college that was never built.

In the course of refusing to inquire into the ownership of the block, the judges dismissed the relevance of the Treaty of Waitangi: "So far indeed as that instrument purported to cede the

sovereignty – a matter with which we are not directly concerned – it must be regarded as a simple nullity."

The factual background to the *Wi Parata* case, David argues, tells us much about nineteenth-century Māori acting as they thought best for their people and about debates in Pakeha jurisprudence over the recognition or rejection of customary Māori rights. Behind the apparent dismissal of the Treaty as a "simple nullity" lay deep arguments about the place of Māori and Pakeha in Aotearoa New Zealand. Those arguments are as relevant now as they were then.

What's on

THURSDAY 16 JUNE

Master of Creative Writing 2012 information session

12-1pm 8th Floor Seminar Rm, Short St. Information for students who are interested in applying. Deadline for applications is 1 October 2011. All welcome.

Cafe Physics seminar

Prof Roger Davies: *Uses of Earth satellites: From weather to climate physics*. 4.30-6pm SCI SPACE, Bldg 303, 38 Princes St. Gold coin donation appreciated. RSVP to Graham Foster, g.foster@auckland.ac.nz

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences public lecture

Prof Cheryl B. McNeil, Inaugural Downtown Rotary visiting scholar: *An early intervention approach for reducing child maltreatment and managing disruptive behaviours in preschool children*. 6-7pm Robb Lecture Theatre. Queries to Dr Karolina Stasiak, k.stasiak@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

Webquests for inquiry-based learning

1-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth Floor, 76 Symonds St.

In this two-part session (1.5 hours each), participants will be introduced to webquests as an online teaching tool, making use of current and valid web resources. The second part (being supported to structure and generate a template) is optional. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Student jazz performance concert

Postgraduate recitals. 6.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. School of Music postgraduate students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work. Free.

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Artists Marie Shannon and Deborah Smith respond to photographer Mari Mahr's Two Walking series, particularly depictions of intimacy, which also occur in their own work. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz
Songwriter of the year 2011: Schools competition grand final
6.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. Featuring emerging bands and solo artists selected from secondary schools across the North Island. Free. Visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/songwriter

MONDAY 20 JUNE

Orientation to doctoral education policy and process at UoA

9.30-11.30am Rm 420, Level 4, Kate Edger Information Commons, 9 Symonds St.

A two-hour introduction to the policy and process environment governing the supervision and the examination of doctoral students at UoA.

Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Consortium for Health in Ageing seminar

Palliative care for older people in hospital: Time to turn the spotlight onto a neglected issue. 12.30-1.30pm Lecture Theatre 733-201, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

Queries to t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz

Austria in the South Pacific symposium

3-7pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2 Bldg, 18 Symonds St.

An international interdisciplinary symposium examining aspects of Austria's connections with the South Pacific. Free.

Queries to j.bade@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 23 JUNE

Research Essentials seminar series

Prof Ralph Cooney, Science and Gary Putt, UniServices: *Working with end-users of research: The importance of applied and translational research*. 1pm Case Rm 2 (260-057) Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Queries to m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 24 JUNE

Documenting your teaching for promotion, continuation and APRs

10am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St.

Develop strategies for writing a teaching profile that fully represents your strength as a teacher. Please bring along a draft teaching profile, recent APRs and any other relevant material. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Documenting your research for promotion, continuation and APRs

1-3pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St.

Develop strategies for writing a research profile that fully represents your strengths as a researcher. Please bring along a draft research profile, recent APRs and any other relevant material.

Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Horizons of Insight seminar

Dr Te Kani Kingi and Jordan Waiti:

Whānau resilience: A case study.

2-3pm Wharenui, Waipapa Marae, 20 Wynyard St.

Queries phone 923 4220 or email info@maramatanga.ac.nz

Visit www.maramatanga.ac.nz

SATURDAY 25 JUNE

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. To conclude our exhibition, Wystan Curnow, Hamish Keith and Colin Percy will share their experiences of working, living and visiting with expatriate

artist Graham Percy. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 27 JUNE

Exhibition opening: State of the Arts

6-8pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. An exciting exhibition of painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and object. Organised by the the Star Art Group, the exhibition will showcase contemporary NZ artists whose works have a special relevance to the Jewish Community.

Exhibiting artists are Marti Friedlander, Stephen Robinson, Ann Robinson, Simon Woolf, Helen Schamroth, Miriam Harris, Paul Nathan, Linda Holloway, Juliette Milne, Yehuda Bacon, Keren Cook, John Fields, and Anna Nathan.

Monies raised from this event will be applied to the commission and making of a public sculpture utilising cobblestones from the Warsaw Ghetto, 'a contribution to the city of Auckland by the Jewish Community, in remembrance of the Holocaust'.

Tickets for the preview are \$30. This includes wine and food catered by the Grey's Ave Deli. Contact diannefisher@xtra.co.nz or 522 5085.

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

CourseBuilder: creating online courses

9-11am IT Literacy Training Suite, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. CourseBuilder

is an online tool for developing educational websites created by the UoA's Centre for Academic Development. CourseBuilder enables you to edit, compose, import text, insert media, develop activities (eg case studies, reflections and quizzes), monitor student responses and much more.

Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals
Flatmate wanted. Double room (including Queen bed) + own bthrm in a modern, sunny, fully furnished three-bdrm townhouse. Off street parking, centrally located in Remuera and very close to shops, transport, motorway access, supermarkets, parks. Would suit a mature, independent person who wants to share with one other. \$210 pw + expenses. Contact Shelley on (021) 443 478 or shelley.rosenberg@xtra.co.nz
Freemans Bay: Doing renovations? Have people visiting from overseas? Need a few months accommodation? A cosy bungalow is available for rent fully furnished, from early July to the end of October. Just 52 steps from Ponsonby

Rd, the house is sunny and warm with two living areas, two dble bdrms, central heating and a sheltered courtyard area. Stunning views of the Skytower and an easy walk or short bus ride to the central city. \$550 pw. Phone Trudi on (021) 135 5092 or 376 0419.

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Two-bdrm, fully furnished house, suitable for 1-2 adults, available August, September and October. Leafy part of Mt Albert, close to transport. Reduced rent in return for TLC of house and garden. Please contact diana.nicholson@hotmail.com or phone 846-2266 for more information.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Outstanding tenant seeks long-term rental.

University employee/mother with toddler and house-trained cat seeking long-term rental in inner-Auckland suburb (Point Chev, Westmere, Grey Lynn, Mt Eden preferred). Two-three bedrooms, non-smoking, child-friendly home with enclosed outdoor area and off-street parking. If you are looking for a responsible, reliable tenant who will take excellent care of your property, please email amberwrite@hotmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Children's hearing tests. Hearing tests for children aged from 6 months up to 5 years old are available every Monday during semester time at The University of Auckland Clinics at the Tāmaki Innovation Campus. All children will be tested by final-year Master of Audiology students, under the supervision of an experienced audiologist. The cost is only \$20. To make an appointment please call The University of Auckland Clinics on 923 9909 or email clinics@auckland.ac.nz For more information about all our services please visit www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz

Creative and meticulous writer and editor invites freelance assignments. Strong track record in university publications, online writing and book and magazines. Email judy.wilford@judewilford@gmail.com

For sale: Late 1970s Polar Guillotine (possibly model 50). Significant damage to safety barrier light arm. No accessories, manual, spare blades or spare parts. Unknown working condition. For tender as is, where is. Buyer responsible for immediate uplifting. Please contact Kim Ellis on k.ellis@auckland.ac.nz or phone 923 7903 for further information. Tender closes 5pm on Friday 24 June.

Legal services. We are a small legal firm conveniently located in Princes Street, City. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs. Or email her on nchristie@rainey.co.nz Rainey Collins Wright Ltd, Lawyers, Level 1, Princes Court, 2 Princes St, PO Box 4283 AK 1140. Visit www.rainey.co.nz

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

TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS

Photo: Michael Hall

Michael Parekowhai is all about surprises.

The Associate Professor at Elam School of Fine Arts is New Zealand's representative at this year's Venice Biennale – often dubbed the Olympics of the art world.

Given such accolades, his response to the hotly sought-after Biennale invitation by Creative New Zealand is surprisingly unassuming: "Art is not an individual pursuit for me - it is a collective consciousness that means I never stand alone; people stand with me."

And of his work that is on display—"a Steinway piano and six tonnes of bronze" – Michael sounds downright modest: "The Dutch have a saying- 'not mother's most beautiful'. Like a mother whose baby isn't the prettiest but who is still loved by her unconditionally...I'm not proud like a puffed-up father; more like a loving mother of not the most beautiful baby."

But just as the artist presents himself in a way that disrupts expectations, his works are also designed to subvert, to challenge, to question - in essence, to surprise. The Venice installation, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer", is no doubt being met with wide eyes when visitors enter the Palazzo Loredan dell'Ambasciatore, a 15th-century Gothic palace and Michael's dedicated exhibition space. The installation comprises a red and gold Steinway concert grand piano intricately carved with Māori designs; two blackened bronze pianos, each with a life-size Spanish fighting bull on top; a life-size sculpture of a staunch security guard; and bronze pot plants.

As Michael explains, the objects themselves are huge and heavy - the opposite of the light,

ephemeral and often transient pieces often associated with modern art. As he envisages it, visitors will be struck not only by the unexpected collection of these massive pieces, but also by the beautiful music, being played live, on the Steinway.

"The works themselves are indeed heavy and impressive. But once the music starts, they just float away. Music fills a space like no object can. It can touch you, penetrate and engage you where your eyes might deceive you. But magic lies in the intangible: listening to an opera singer from New Zealand singing a Māori lament in Italy."

A privileged few have already had this magical experience. In April, a select group of patrons and supporters gathered at Michael's West Auckland workshop for the New Zealand opening of the installation. Supported by his "tuakana" (big brothers), School of Music vocal tutors Te Oti Rakana and Robert Wiremu, with renowned pianist Michael Houston at the Steinway, big pieces of bronze and big operatic voices came together to transport the audience far beyond the industrial environs of Henderson.

"There were three Māori boys in a garage in West Auckland, and for a moment, we were all in Venice. At that moment, I knew the work was a winner, regardless of what happens in Italy. For without establishing a voice here, how can we expect to have a voice over there?" says Michael, who insists the opening in Henderson was as important as anything that happens in Venice.

And suddenly, there it is: a glimpse of the confidence that makes Michael Parekowhai an artist to be reckoned with. He clearly enjoys

challenging traditions, taking people out of their comfort zone, encouraging them to expect the unexpected. But his approach is infused with humour and lightness that help ensure people feel safe as they embark on an unknown journey with him. Indeed, for Michael, the true significance of his installation will only become clear long after the Biennale has finished.

"I see the pianos as empty vessels waiting for history to be created for them. As the work gets shown in different places and as people run their hands across the keys, its value will grow. Its currency will go beyond Venice. Only time will tell the notion of success. I hope that the more people play it, the more valuable it becomes."

Arguably, the essence of Michael Parekowhai - school teacher, practitioner, academic and national representative - lies within his artwork. And, being Michael Parekowhai, that means looking for, and finding it, in a place that may surprise.

"The best view of the Steinway is underneath. If you get under it, you'll find the piano has cast bronze beams, bronze wooden panelling, pedals that work. I hope people will look underneath, and that they will play and touch the piano. When you are sitting at the keyboard, the bull's horns can be seen as a sense of danger, but they also have a halo quality. The bull is dangerous or not, depending on your perspective."

The 54th annual Venice Biennale runs 4 June-27 November. See www.nzatvenice.com

Amber Older