



OUR TOP TEACHERS

University of Auckland staff have scooped four of the 12 National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards for 2011 with Professor Mike Walker (Science) also named the Prime Minister's Supreme Awardee.

Mike, who teaches in the School of Biological Sciences, won a sustained excellence in teaching award in the Kaupapa Māori category. Rena Heap (Education), Dr Ross McDonald (Business and Economics), and Professor Robin Kearns, (Science) were all winners in the general category.

"On three occasions University of Auckland academics have won two of the awards but this is the first time the University has taken four awards," says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor John Morrow.

"This year's results, recognising outstanding contributions to teaching in three faculties, provide pleasing confirmation of the University's ongoing encouragement of innovative teaching and of the extent to which members of the academic staff have risen to this challenge."

This is only the second time a University staff member has also won the Supreme Award. In

2004 Dr Gary Bold (Physics) was the winner.

Mike Walker is renowned as an outstanding teacher, researcher and quiet champion of equity initiatives. Shortly after his appointment to the School of Biological Sciences as a Research Fellow in 1990, he formed the Tuākana Programme, which is now established in every faculty in the University.

"Professor Walker's pioneering work to reverse patterns of under-achievement among Māori and Pacific Island students has transformed the lives of thousands of students," says Senior Māori Development Manager, Ngahiwi Apanui from Ako Aotearoa - The National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. "He is a rare educator, whose impact goes beyond the University campus - benefiting whānau and the community at large."

Rena Heap, a member of the Faculty of Education's School of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education since 2004, has continually improved her teaching practice through research. "As a role model for pedagogical excellence, she transforms her learners to do great things," reads the citation

submitted to Ako. "Her classes epitomise theory-in-action by making science fascinating, relevant, and fun."

Ross McDonald joined the Business School in 1996 and has consistently delivered outstanding teaching in the field of business ethics. "He is a charismatic lecturer who makes his learners think about the world and their place in it," reads the Ako citation. "A master facilitator, he seeks to co-create learning with his learners and build on their experiences. Learners greatly appreciate this interactive approach."

Robin Kearns has taught Geography at the University since 1990. "He is an advocate of interdisciplinary approaches, and his teaching and research reveal a desire to continually expand his knowledge in new subject areas. "Theatresports training helped him to use humour and 'embrace the unexpected'," says the citation. "In supervising, he journeys alongside learners, resulting in a shift from being regarded as an expert, to being viewed as a colleague."

Pictured from left: John Morrow, Rena Heap, Robin Kearns, Ross McDonald, Mike Walker



Last week, I completed the presentation to staff on all campuses of the results from the 2011 Staff Survey, a presentation that will be repeated for the University Council at its meeting on 15 August. The response rate this year was a welcome 61 percent, up appreciably on the 53 percent and 49 percent in the two previous surveys run in 2007 and 2009 respectively. The data allow us to make comparisons within the University over time, and also against a benchmark group comprising over 70 research organisations and universities with over 70,000 employees.

For many of the categories in which staff were surveyed, the proportions of favourable responses were in line with 2009 and thus up on the proportions in 2007. Particularly pleasing was the marked improvement from previous years in positive views about the university's "Image and Reputation". This reflected increasingly positive views about our level of environmental responsibility, and our ability to attract the best and brightest students, both areas into which we have put considerable effort.

The two areas which showed a decline in favourable responses from 2009 were in the categories "Communication" and "Leadership", the former dropping from 2009 to the 2007 levels and the latter dropping to 3 percent below 2009 (and about 7 percent above 2007). It is likely that these changes reflect the impact of the current industrial situation. While 1200 academic staff on individual employment agreements have accepted the offer of a 4 percent salary increase and five weeks annual leave, in return for five policies being transferred out of the employment agreement (but remaining as University policies), the ca 800 academics represented by the Tertiary Education Union have not, and so their employment agreement remains under negotiation. This type of ongoing uncertainty would be a destabilising factor for any institution. I remain hopeful that this matter can be resolved soon.

In the meantime, we will be sharing the results of the Survey with faculties and service divisions. This will allow all staff to consider what further actions we can take to improve our working environment.



A stunner

"Picking up the trifecta — book of the year, people's choice, and nonfiction — was a stunner and now we'll just have to do it again next year!"

That was the response of Auckland University Press Director Dr Sam Elworthy to the publishing house's outstanding wins at this year's New Zealand Post Book Awards.

The Press title, *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music 1918-1964* by

Chris Bourke, won the 2011 People's Choice Award, the General Non-Fiction Award and the 2011 Book of the Year Award.

"Chris Bourke's book captures this country's great songs and stories, it's a work of deep research and engaging narrative, and the Press team just loved turning it into a beautiful piece of publishing," says Sam.

Two other AUP authors received awards: Poia Rewi the Best First Book of Non-Fiction award for *Whaikorero*, and Lynn Jenner the Best First Book Award for Poetry for *Dear Sweet Harry*.

AUP team from left: Director Dr Sam Elworthy, Katrina Duncan (Designer), Anna Hodge (Editor), Christine O'Brien (Sales and Marketing), Marian Hector (Operations)

Talking about stats



Where did the statistics on student drunks really come from? Have you thought about how toddlers might use statistics? And remember Alisdair Thompson, former head of the Employers and Manufacturers Association, claim that women take more sick leave than men? Well do they really? What are the stats?

These are some of the topics discussed in an informative and lively blog called Statschat www.statschat.org.nz launched by the University's Department of Statistics earlier this year.

"We're covering all sorts of topics of interest to the general public (so you don't have to be a Statistics major to understand everything here) — the use and misuse of statistics in the media (especially those relating to New Zealand), curated links to sites showing new ways of exploring data and more," says former lecturer in the Statistics Department and now co-director of CensusatSchool, Rachel Cunliffe, who is working as a consultant on the blogging site.

Since it was launched, Statschat has had about 4,500 visitors and has covered topics ranging from Brad Pitt using stats, to the reporting of health risks in the media and visualising migration.

One of the most prolific bloggers so far is Professor of BioStatistics, Thomas Lumley (pictured left) who is also an affiliate professor at the University of Washington. For Thomas regular blogging on the site is a "fun way of making people more aware of statistics and more aware of the University's Statistics Department.

"Statistics is not just a means of calculating something but working out the right numbers and hence meaning of something." For example check out Thomas' blog "Do women take more sick leave" and you'll see that after a survey of the statistical data in countries like the US, UK and Australia he concludes: "Although the data are not as complete as we might like, there is a consistent picture across the world where data is available. On average, women do take more sick days than men, but it's not a big deal. Two or three days a year seems to be a reasonable estimate of the difference, and there's no way that explains any meaningful fraction of a 12 percent difference in pay. It's also worth noting that the pay gap between men and women varies enormously around the world — it's almost twice as large in the UK as in NZ — but the sick-leave differences are much the same."

As well as blogs, Statschat lists key statistics sites like Bad Science and the US blog: stats.org — all designed to inform visitors and make statistic more fun.

Three-minutes and counting



First-year Science PhD student Ankita Umopathy won both first prize and the people's prize at this year's 3 Minute Thesis Competition. Ankita's PhD is on antioxidant strategies to prevent eye disease.

Some 60 masters and postgraduate students from across the University took the chance to give a three-minute elevator pitch on their research. Each was allowed one Power Point slide as a visual aid and then had to clearly present their research to an adjudicator panel of three.

"They have to 'pitch' their thesis to a general audience, conveying the central hypothesis that drives their research, and they have to do so in an engaging way," says Associate Professor Caroline Daley, Dean of Graduate Studies who organised the event. "Given a doctorate is based on 3-4 years of full-time research, distilling a thesis down to three minutes is no mean feat."

"The finalists this year were fantastic. They

came from five faculties, included masters and doctoral students, and showed the diverse, ground-breaking research that our postgraduate students are engaged in."

Topics ranged from research into post-apartheid promises in education in South Africa, to investigating causes of dust in aluminium smelters.

The first runner-up was Engineering student Peng Du with a PhD thesis titled "The cell network that powers gut contractions". International Education student Melanie Drake was the second runner-up with her exploration of education in South Africa today.

Ankita will go to 2011 Trans-Tasman finals in Perth on 29 September.



Helping Japan

A group of students from the School of Asian Studies, together with several undergraduate and postgraduate students from other faculties, have raised \$10,000 for the Red Cross Japan Earthquake appeal.

"It is a fantastic effort," Dr Hilary Chung, Head of the School of Asian Studies told a gathering recently at the University to celebrate the achievement. Special guests included the Consul General of Japan in Auckland, Hachiro Ishida and Auckland Red Cross's Area Manager, Cami Arend and Community and Events Fundraiser, Joanne Bishop-Sime.

Six days after the 11 March tragedy combining the magnitude 9 earthquake and massive tsunami that hit Japan's Tohoku region, about 50 mainly Asian Studies students, many

majoring in Japanese, gathered to discuss possible fundraising activities.

"They came up with five projects," said Hilary. "These included folding and selling some three thousand origami cranes, holding a Tanabata style campaign for writing wishes on paper slips and tying them to bamboo branches, doing a sausage sizzle, performing a haka and recording it for internet broadcast with English and Japanese subtitles, and conducting a DVD screening of Miyazaki Hayao's animated feature *Princess Monokoe*."

The students, under the name Auckland University Students for Japan Relief (AUSJR), also opened an exchange and communications site on Facebook (currently boasting 145 members).

Highlighted events

Sustainability seminar

Visiting Fulbright specialist Wayne Feiden will lead an interactive seminar on sustainability at the School of Architecture and Planning on 18 August.

The Director of Planning at Development in Northampton, Massachusetts, is in residence at the University for six weeks, teaching on the BPlan and MPlanPrac programmes on issues that include defining, implementing and measuring sustainability. He is particularly interested in comparative analyses between US and NZ sustainability practices from the perspective of working alongside local government.

"Sustainability: What does it mean and how will we assess it?" is on 18 August from 4-5pm in the Design Theatre, NICAI Conference Centre, Building 423, 22 Symonds Street.

Policy debate

The University of Auckland Society hosts a debate on tertiary education policy from National and Labour Party perspectives with Louise Upston (National) and David Shearer (Labour)

Louise is the Member of Parliament for Taupo. She is a member of the Education and Science Select Committee, Co-chair of the national Education Caucus Committee and is the Caucus Lead on the National Party Education Policy Advisory Group.

David Shearer is Labour's tertiary education and research and development spokesperson and is a graduate of The University of Auckland. The tertiary education policy debate will start at 7pm, Monday 29 August, Engineering Lecture Theatre 439 (20 Symonds Street). Cash bar and canapes afterwards. RSVP Tuesday 23 August www.society.auckland.ac.nz, email: society@auckland.ac.nz

EC President talks

European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso will receive an honorary doctorate from the University on 8 September and give a public talk on campus the same day.

Mr Barroso is one of the longest-serving global leaders, having headed the European Commission (the European Union's executive branch) since 2004. He is also a member of the G8 and played a pivotal role in launching the G20 meetings. His public lecture (10.15-10.55am, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, 12 Grafton Road) will focus on the role of the EU in global affairs and its closer relation with the Pacific region, in particular in addressing common challenges such as support to democracy, the fight against climate change, and promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

To attend the lecture register online at: www.auckland.ac.nz/barroso

Invasional meltdown



Rat research by University scientist Dr James Russell has laid to rest fears that some invasive plants and animals on islands help each other create a destructive “invasional meltdown” – a finding with important implications for New Zealand conservation.

James Russell, funded by the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and French scientist Lise Ruffino made the finding in a two-year study of introduced black rats (*Rattus rattus*) on the Mediterranean island of Bagaud. By trapping, tagging and releasing rats, they wanted to see if the rodents and their food source, an introduced

succulent iceplant (*Caprobrotus spp*) helped each other spread.

“We were worried that invasive species might interact in what is called ‘invasional meltdown’ – helping one another,” says James from the Department of Statistics and School of Biological Sciences. “So the invasive rats may eat an invasive iceplant, each benefiting one another as the rat gets food and seeds get dispersed.”

Begaud Island has a colony of yellow-legged seagulls (*Larus michahellis*), with the birds breeding at one time of the year and the iceplant fruiting at another. “We wanted to know if rats ‘track’ these resources by moving from

one habitat to another between seasons, finding the best food – left-over fish, dead chicks, insects and the like – and dispersing seeds more widely.”

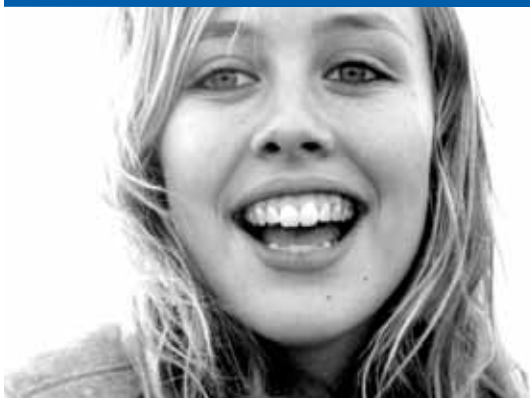
Using a sophisticated animal survival and movement statistical model that James terms “elegantly complex”, the scientists found that rats weren’t roaming to find food. This, he says, “is encouraging news – it tells us that invasive species aren’t each other’s friends. It’s most likely the rats still got enough food where they were and that aggression between rats kept them in their usual habitats.”

Black rats, iceplants and seagulls are common on New Zealand islands, says James, and it’s likely the same patterns would replicate here. “On New Zealand islands we see similar multiple invasions by interacting species, and it’s not always clear how they help and hinder one another.”

The research also tracked rainfall on the island, and found that the more rainfall, the better the survival of invasive plants and animals. “This is not encouraging news,” says James. “With increasing climate change and more intense rainfall, the invasive species will do better.”

The research, titled “The influence of spatio-temporal resource fluctuations on insular rat population dynamics”, has just been published in the Royal Society’s flagship biological research journal, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

From the inside



Feeling like you’ve been “kicked out of home and into the Matrix?” as Law student Laura (pictured above) does. Or how about the experience of being woken up by pots and pans at 5am to be taught O’Rorke chants, as Health and Science student Arahia did during Orientation Week.

Welcome to the world of The Inside Word

Student Blog, a Schools Partnership initiative to give high school students an idea about what university life is like.

Julian Rosser manages the blogs and selected the six bloggers by advertising on The University of Auckland website. Capturing the essence of what it is like to become a University of Auckland student are Therese, Logan, Hammond, Laura, Courtney and Arahia. The freshers collectively offer an insightful view into the world of the undergraduate on campus.

“The blogs have run for over a year now and awareness along with web traffic is growing. We had four bloggers in 2010, six this year and we hope to increase it in 2012,” says Julian.

No doubt the web traffic is due to the popularity of social media and the accessibility potential students have to the blogging undergraduates’ wealth of knowledge. Medical student Logan laments at how having all his

exams in one week means he has more holiday time to miss being at University; he uses his downtime to study ahead and learns that Biochemistry isn’t boring at all, “covering topics like lipid digestion, nitrogen metabolism and antibiotics, which is relevant to medicine, isn’t it?” he cheerfully adds.

As a result, high school students’ response to Logan’s blog range from questions about how much study is needed to attain good grades to whether healthsci or biomed is the better option to take at Year 13 in order to be accepted into Med School. And, Logan’s answers are all there on the page for everyone to see.

If you need to know where to go to lunch and how to work the washing machines in the halls of residence, The Inside Word Student Blog provides an interesting insight into student life. “I’ve personally learnt a lot about the student experience from reading them,” says Julian.

Parliament's next top model

Either National or Labour would have won a clear majority while the Greens, with the third largest party vote in 2008, would have few or no seats in Parliament if recent elections were run under some of the voting systems in this year's referendum.

These scenarios, and others, can be tested using an election simulator created by researchers at The Centre for Mathematical Social Science to help voters understand the consequences of their referendum vote.

"The simulator can be used by anyone who plans to take part in the voting system referendum," says Dr Mark Wilson from the Department of Computer Science, who created the simulator with colleague Dr Geoff Pritchard from the Department of Statistics.

"A lot of descriptive information about the upcoming referendum has been made available to voters, explaining, for instance, that coalition governments are more or less likely under particular voting systems. But as scientists interested in collective decision-making, we wanted to know more precisely what the voting systems would mean in terms of seats in Parliament and we think that voters should have

this information too.

"Some of the voting systems, such as Single Transferable Vote (STV), are quite complicated and it's essentially impossible for people to figure out for themselves what Parliament would look like from a particular distribution of the party vote.

"The simulator allows anyone, from researchers to members of the public, to test their hypotheses. For example, it has been argued that the Supplementary Member (SM) system is very similar to First Past the Post (FPP), and with the simulator you can certainly see that it usually delivers a comparable number of seats in Parliament."

The simulator calculates the distribution of seats in Parliament based on the party vote. Users can either enter their own estimation of the level of support for each party or use pre-programmed results from each of the elections since MMP was introduced in 1996. The number of electorate seats won by minor parties can also be adjusted.

The simulator can be accessed at cmss.auckland.ac.nz/2011-referendum-simulator online.

Releasing the angel



A new CD by School of Music Senior Lecturer Eve de Castro-Robinson reflects the last two decades of the composer's life and work.

Releasing the Angel is a compilation of works performed by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO), conducted by Kenneth Young, and features distinguished international musicians. Dr de Castro-Robinson says the title piece comes from a phrase by Michelangelo: "First it was stone, then I released an angel." She says those words gave her not only an inspirational title for a work, but also a powerful metaphor.

"I have seen the Michelangelo Slaves and marvelled at sinewy, warm limbs emerging from cold, seemingly unyielding blocks. The stone is the symphony orchestra, from which every

composer must coax and cajole a convincing sound sculpture. The angel is the cello of David Chickering and the work is dedicated to this fine musician," she writes in the album notes.

The CD includes "Peregrinations", a composition Eve began in 1987 while earning her Doctor of Music at The University of Auckland (she graduated in 1991). She revised the piece in 1990 when it was first recorded by the NZSO; the latest version features University of Auckland Doctor of Music alumna Tzenka Dianova, a world-renowned piano specialist who flew from Canada to perform on the album.

The album also features "Len Dances", a 2002 commission by the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. "It is a thrill to hear all these large-scale works together, performed by these wonderful musicians," says Eve, who spent three days recording with the NZSO.

The cover image of *Releasing the Angel* is a detail from the artwork "Birds" by Elam School of Fine Arts graduate Peter Madden. Eve de Castro-Robinson says she chose the image because it "reflects the music's colour, vitality and often high-spiritedness, with a nod to the use of birdsong in my composition".

Releasing the Angel (Atoll ACD 141) is available from Marbecks www.marbecks.co.nz/detail/index.lsd?catalogID=696673

European Union FP7 Cooperation Funding Details are now available of topics for 2012 FP7 Cooperation Funding. This is for collaborative research groups of EU partners to address EU-related topics, but non-EU institutions can receive funding as part of a collaborative group where their contribution is unique and essential to meet the research outcomes.

Further details are available on the intranet at [Research>Find Funding Opportunities>International Funding>European Union FP7](#). If you would like to discuss EU funding please contact David Saunders, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext.84886.

European Union FP7 Roadshow

Carole Glynn, Director of FRENZ (the EU-funded organisation to support EU-NZ research cooperation), will be giving a presentation to deliver an update on NZ participation in FP7. These roadshow sessions are intended as an opportunity to highlight the new calls for proposals in the Cooperation programme themes and the Marie Curie Mobility Schemes. COST research networks – with participation funded by the RSNZ – will also be mentioned as opportunities to forge stronger collaborations for the future. Further, the initial developments of the new programme for Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020 - will also be outlined. There will also be a discussion about University needs in relation to FP7 involvement.

Wednesday 24 August, 12-2pm Level 3 meeting room, Research Office, 76 Symonds Street. Register interest at: www.frenz.org.nz/Events/Roadshows.aspx

Research Essentials

All sessions are in Case Room 2 (260-057) Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building:

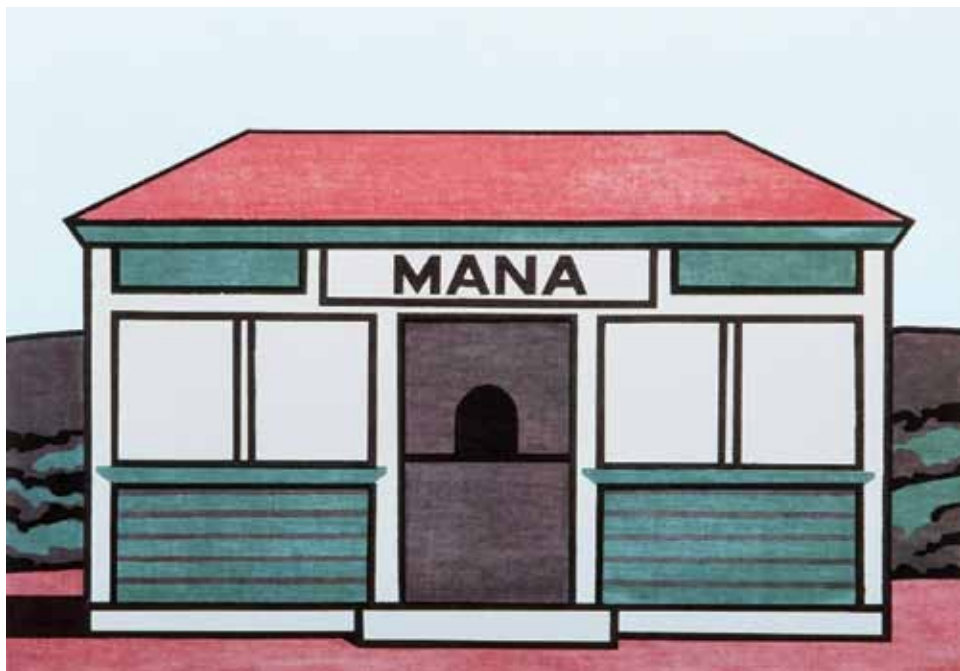
10 August, 12-1pm Research for the public good

17 August, 12-1pm Evaluating research and the performance of researchers

Further information is available on the staff intranet. For any queries, please contact Mariana Suarez (ext 81764). Please note that there is no need to register for these sessions.

HRC grants

Congratulations to Associate Professor Denis Loiselle (ABI) and Professor Suzanne Purdy (Science) and their project teams who were among the recent researchers to receive HRC grants. Denis's project "Energetics of the diabetic heart" won \$1,009,179 while Suzanne received \$149,986 for "SPICCATO: Stroke and Parkinson's community choir engagement and therapeutic outcomes".



Dame Robin White's portrayals of New Zealand and the Pacific are instantly recognisable. Although the word is often overused, these are iconic images, especially because her subject matter is usually anything but. Rather than grand buildings and sweeping landscapes, she prefers quiet unassuming structures like the Maketu Fish'n Chip Shop or the Portobello Pub; simple architecture that is ubiquitous. But they're always specific settings that bring a personal response to a place, usually including a local occupant, such as the painting of Sam Hunt at Bottle Creek that hangs in the General Library, or the more autobiographical *This is me at Kaitangata*. They remind us that these are social places used by people and bring a human scale to the landscape. *Mana Railway Station* continues in this vein and perhaps pays homage to the famous painting of Cass railway station by Rita Angus, an artist whose clarity of depiction was an important influence on White.

White graduated in 1967 from Elam School of Fine Arts, where she found the teaching of Colin

McCahon inspirational. After studying at Teachers' Training College, she took a teaching position at Mana College in Porirua, moving from Auckland with her boyfriend Sam Hunt, who she'd met that year at the University Arts Festival. During her tenure she taught and encouraged Geoffrey Crombie, who went on to enrol at Elam and later became a member of Split Enz under the name Noel Crombie. They lived in adjacent cottages at Bottle Creek on Paremata Harbour and she soon became a full-time artist. She then moved to the Otago Peninsula in 1972, and into Dunedin in 1980.

Having become involved in the Baha'i faith in 1971, in 1982 she moved with her husband and son, both named Michael, to become part of a Baha'i community in Kiribati. Her experience of island life had an immediate impact on her work, which has since incorporated traditional techniques, including the production of a Fijian masi (barkcloth) in collaboration with Lautoka artists Bale Jione and Leba Toki, which was exhibited at the Sixth Asia-Pacific Triennial in

Brisbane in 2009. She returned to New Zealand to live in Masterton in 1999 and was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2003.

In July, White spoke at the opening of the current Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition *Collateral: Printmaking as social commentary*, curated by Professor of Art History, Elizabeth Rankin to look at the various ways printmaking has been used as a political medium. The four artists featured are American Daniel Heyman, South African Diane Victor, with Christchurch residents Michael Reed and Sandra Thomson. In her speech, White recalled that, while living in Dunedin, she visited Canterbury and encountered Thomson making multi-coloured block prints, a technique she quickly adopted and put to use in her *Beginner's Guide to Gilbertese* (1983) series, which seem monochromatic but uses four different blocks to produce a range of tones from dark to light.

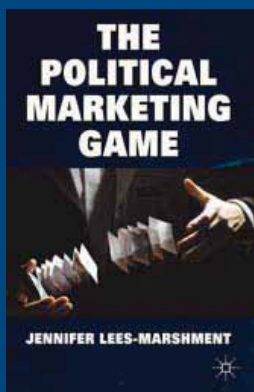
White also noted the way printmaking sits at one remove from the artist's hand so it can convey a message without their ego getting in the way. It is a partnership between the artist and the medium in which the medium dictates the requirements that need to be accommodated by the artist. Unlike handwriting, for example, there is a personal detachment that allows a message to be conveyed relatively unmediated by the presence of the artist.

As part of *Collateral's* weekly event programme, on Saturday 13th August at 1pm, a multi-disciplinary panel of researchers from across the University will respond to issues raised by *Collateral*, including themes of political violence and human rights. More details are available from www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

Andrew Clifford

Robin White (b.1946), *Mana Railway Station*, 1970
Screenprint, 301 x 425mm
The University of Auckland Art Collection

Books



The Political Marketing Game by Dr Jennifer Lees-Marsment (Political Studies), published by Palgrave Macmillan, identifies what works in political marketing. It shows that politicians can choose to play the game to achieve change, not just win votes, because authenticity, values and vision are as much a part of a winning strategy as market-savvy pragmatism. Using 100 interviews with practitioners including advisers to former world leaders Tony Blair, George W Bush, Stephen Harper, Helen Clark and Kevin Rudd, as well as academic literature, this book

presents tools to navigate the complex and unpredictable electoral market. It shows that the democratic impact of political marketing depends on how the game is played.

While politicians need to listen, varying responsiveness to public demand is more successful than abandoning their beliefs. Elites need to work in partnership with the public, as voters want politicians who say "yes we can" not "yes I can," using deliberative market analysis so that politics can evolve in the 21st century and become a partnership democracy.

What's on

THURSDAY 11 AUGUST

Webquests for inquiry-based learning

1-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St.

This two-part session introduces webquests as a tool to facilitate inquiry learning and supports participants to structure and generate (using a template) a webquest based on their teaching subject or area of interest. Enrol at www.cod.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

2011 Vice-Chancellor's Lecture series

Good food, good health: Myths, molecules and 5% magic.

Simon Gault, NZ Master Chef; Eugene Hamilton, Executive Chef, Euro restaurant; Dr Bryony James, Senior Lecturer in Chemical and Materials Engineering, UoA. 7pm Large Chemistry Lecture Theatre, 23 Symonds St. Tickets essential. Phone 308 2383.

Department of Anthropology seminar

Catherine Balleriaux: *'They are all brothers and children of God': Seventeenth-century missionary anthropology in the new world.* 4pm Room 59, History Department. Queries to a.harris@auckland.ac.nz

NZ Asia Institute/Consulate-General of Japan seminar and panel discussion

4pm Presentation Rm 204, ClockTower Bldg, 22 Princes St. Prof Yorizumi Watanabe, Keio University, Japan: *Japan's economic diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific.*

Following by a panel discussion: *Japan after 11 March.*

Panellists: Meishi Sonobe, Corey Wallace, Prof Yorizumi Watanabe, Prof Hugh Whittaker.

Visit www.nzai.auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Allan Cameron, UoA: *Instrumental visions: Electronica, music video and the environmental interface.* 4.15pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St.

FRIDAY 12 AUGUST

Annual Cartwright Report anniversary seminar

Co-hosted by Women's Health Action and UoA Public Policy Group: *Who's counting the costs? Welfare reform, women, and health.* 1-3pm Case Rm 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Registration required. Please email info@womenshealth.org.nz

School of Biological Sciences Research seminar

Prof David Penman: *Census of Marine Life: Lessons learned from a decade of collaborative science.* 1pm Mac 1 Seminar Rm 106-112, Biology Bldg.

Lunchtime concert

Featuring School of Music strings and voice students. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

NZ Institute of International Affairs Auckland Branch seminar

Prof Yorizumi Watanabe, Keio University: *Japan's external economic policies in the aftermath of the great east earthquake and tsunami: Opportunities and challenges for the Japanese economy.* 6-7.30pm Rm 325, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to nzia@auckland.ac.nz

Ferguson Lecture

Mike Riddell: *Forbidden flesh: Subversion and encounter - Losing my religion.* 7.30pm St David's Presbyterian Church, Kyber Pass Rd.

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

Faculty of Education Doctoral Symposium

9am-3.30pm Faculty of Education Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom.

Hear doctoral candidates present papers. Keynote speaker: Assoc-Prof Mavis Haigh: *Presenting and publishing as you go.* Free. Register at doctoralsymposium.eventbrite.com

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

A multi-disciplinary panel of researchers from across the University responds to issues raised by *Collateral: Printmaking as social commentary* including themes of political violence and human rights. Free. All welcome.

TUESDAY 16 AUGUST

2011 Winter Lectures: NZ's Rugby World

Tapua'i Fa'amalua Tipi, Faculty of Education, UoA: *When the sun goes down: Learning to transition from a professional rugby career.* 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Chair/Commentator: Willie Lose, broadcaster and former Tongan rugby representative. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Department of Statistics seminar

Ben Stevenson, UoA: *Predicting daily fishing success: The assessment of lunar and indigenous fishing calendars.* 4-5pm ECE Briefing Rm 303.257.

Bioengineering PhD seminar

Zoar Engleman, ABL: *Arrhythmic substrates in structural heart disease.* 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

School of Environment Careers Expo and Employer Forum

6-8pm OGGB4, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. For contacts and to register visit www.auckland.ac.nz/careerhub

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST

Research Essentials seminar series

Prof Cris Shore, Arts and Dr John Smart, Research Office: *Forming evaluating research and the performance of researchers.* 12noon Case Room 2 (260-057) Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building. Queries to m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz

DALSL seminar

Yan Huang, DALSL, UoA: *Marking of de se attribution and neo-Gricean pragmatics: Logophoric expressions in West African languages and long-distance reflexives in East, South, and*

Southeast Asian languages. 12noon Patrick Hanan Rm 207-501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St.

Faculty of Education Open Evening

4-7.30pm Faculty of Education Epsom Campus, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Register at <http://openevening2011.eventbrite.com>

Fermata - time out to talk music seminar

Param Vir, UK/India: *Broken strings: Anatomy of an opera.* 5.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Fast Forward Lecture Series 2011

Penny Pirrit, Regional and Local Planning, Auckland Council: *Implementing the vision.* 6.30-7.30pm Lecture Theatre 439, 20 Symonds St. Queries to events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST

2011 Vice Chancellor's Lecture series

Good food, good health. Prof Sir Peter Gluckman, University Distinguished Professor, Liggins Institute: *The fetus and newborn: critical gourmands.* 7pm OGGB4, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, tickets essential. Phone 308 2383.

FRIDAY 19 AUGUST

Lunchtime concert

Featuring School of Music jazz students. 1pm Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St.

Inaugural lecture

Prof Prasanna Gai, Economics: *Topic tba.* 3-4.30pm Decima Glenn, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. By new professors at UoA.

\$100k Challenge Qualifiers

Ceremony 5.45pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Join us to celebrate the qualifiers of the 2011 Spark \$100k Challenge! Guest Speaker: Prof Stuart McCutcheon, Vice-Chancellor, UoA, Chair of Auckland UniServices Limited.

SATURDAY 20 AUGUST

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Melissa Laing, curator of Print Season 2011 at St Paul St Gallery, AUT University, discusses recent directions in printmaking with Elam School of Fine Arts tutor and artist Louise Menzies.

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST

2011 Winter Lectures: NZ's Rugby World

Chris Laidlaw, Radio NZ National host, author and former All Black: *The future of rugby.* 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

Chair: Prof Stuart McCutcheon, Vice-Chancellor, UoA.

Discussant: Dr Farah Palmer, Massey University and former Black Fern. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Inaugural lecture

Prof Brent Young, Mechanical Engineering: *Virtual and real process engineering worlds: A journey.* 6pm venue tba. By new professors at UoA.

WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST

Dept of Political Studies/Society for Legal and Social Philosophy public lecture

Prof Elizabeth McLeay, Victoria University of Wellington: *Towards the referendum: The virtues and vices of MMP.* 3.30pm FGW Rm, OGH.

Commentary: Dr Stephen Winter, The University of Auckland.

Fast Forward Lecture Series 2011

Kobus Mentz, Urbanism Plus: *Making cities work through methods that engage, inspire and deliver.* 6.30-7.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 439, 20 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 Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Mt Albert mountain. Spacious open-plan, self-contained, studio/living on mountain with view of City. Own entrance. Access to mountain reserve. Suit quiet friendly person. 15-minutes drive or train to CBD. Direct bus to CBD. Direct bus 007 crosstown to Tamaki Campus. Well appointed. Basic furnishing - bed, table, chairs etc. Quality bathroom, shower only. Minimal cooking facilities. \$225 pw includes most expenses. Available immediately. Leave message at (09) 846 9345. Preferred contact by email to j.hand@auckland.ac.nz

One-bedroom apartment in city centre. Close to Britomart, Foodtown, Downtown shopping centre, UoA, Queen St. Stunning views of harbour, Rangitoto, eastern suburbs. Fully furnished including whiteware, DVD, Sky TV. Plenty of parking nearby. Ideal tenants: Professional. No pets or smokers please. \$380 pw. Phone (09) 348 5319 or (021) 932 391 or email prasadm@pool.co.nz

Two-bedroom apartment next to UoA, and near Britomart Transport Centre and downtown Auckland. Fully furnished. Available 4 Sept-29 Oct. Rent negotiable. Email Wardw.friesen@auckland.ac.nz or phone (09) 909 6159 or (021) 2801051.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Project manager with wife and 2 children relocating from Mt Maunganui require 4+ bedroom house for long-term rental. Move in date is flexible but would prefer Sept-Nov. We are very reliable and will treat your house like it was our own. Will consider any central location. Contact Kevin at k.burrows@auckland.ac.nz

Visiting academic seeks accommodation. Academic from the US and his family (2 adults and 2 well-behaved children) require house-sitting or rental accommodation in central Auckland from mid-Dec 2011 until mid-April 2012. Please contact Maree, m.ferens@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

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.emberton@mondotrail.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



Photo: Warren Jones

FACTORING IT IN

“Human Factors starts with consideration of the person” says Dr Kathleen Callaghan, Director of the Human Factors Group (HFG) at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. “If you want a person to work efficiently and safely you need to understand human strengths and weaknesses. You adapt equipment, training, standard operating procedures etc to the human rather than trying to get the human to change”.

Human Factors is a scientific approach to the way people interact with the world around them. The focus is human interaction with the physical and socio-technical environment. Its foundation is the psychophysiology of individual and group performance.

Colleague and Senior Research Fellow, Bridget Mintoft nods in agreement. She talks about how when things go wrong in the workplace, society still tends to point to the last person and says “it’s all your fault” which is not helpful or accurate. “We take a systems view, which says ‘let’s just regard that person as the last link in the chain, and go all the way back and see all of the contributing factors.’ Because you can bet there will be a lot of them.”

“When we look at adverse events,” says Kathleen, “we look at why people did the things they did to try to prevent similar events happening in the future. Behaviour is explicable. People don’t just do things randomly or for no reason. We work with organisations to help them set themselves up to reduce the likelihood that human error, which is inevitable, will end in tragedy”.

The Human Factors Group focuses on

performance excellence – enabling organisations and their staff to work effectively, efficiently and safely. It is a virtual group comprising people from in and outside The University of Auckland. Kathleen and Bridget are based at the School of Medicine and most of the work they do is for business. Clients include Fletcher Building Limited and the newly re-branded Z (Shell) fuel company. When companies come to HFG with an issue, the HFG will “cherry-pick” the people who are best suited to help solve the problem.

“The sort of work we do is multidisciplinary,” says Kathleen, “the people we need to help solve a problem can be wide-ranging – it could be anyone: an engineer or sociologist or someone from the Department of Psychology – and we would like to see more of that, the cross-boundary problem solving. We are also mindful that context and culture are very important aspects of behaviour – so we have other experts around the world that help us when we work with multinationals.”

“We deal with issues such as leadership and organisational change as well as health and safety,” says Bridget. “Because we are from an academic background we know there is a series of steps that you need to go through to make valid, measurable change in a workplace; so the health and safety interventions we suggest are scientifically based. Without ‘science’ companies can spend a huge amount of time and effort on seemingly jolly good ideas that don’t achieve the desired outcomes.”

The HFG collects baseline data and puts in an intervention, then monitors the intervention to make sure it’s working and “tweaks” it if

necessary. “The Human Factors Group helps companies perform better where they need to perform better. There is a myriad of different problems and solutions. Solutions include enhancing investigation of adverse events, mentoring, workplace design, engaging the workforce and formulating smarter strategic objectives,” says Kathleen.

Bridget concludes: “Because most of the time accidents don’t happen to most of us we don’t tend to think much about them, but in the lifetime of a human being or an organisation those costs, human and financial, can really mount up.”

Smart business, cognisant of international best practice, has taken Human Factors on board. Fletcher Building’s CEO Jonathan Ling says: “While we have consistently reduced our injury rates for the last four years, we are also aware that we cannot continue to do this unless we develop new approaches. Basing more of our safety initiatives on human factors offers us that further opportunity.”

Contact: k.callaghan@auckland.ac.nz or br.mintoft@auckland.ac.nz They welcome inquiries and multi-discipline collaborations. www.hfgsmartersafety.org.nz/health/

Kate Pitcher

Photo from left: Bridget Mintoft, Kathleen Callaghan and Hamish Brown, managing director Concordia NZ Limited