



## HARNESSING “OFF THE WALL IDEAS”

When you ask electrical engineers Grant Covic (left) and John Boys what's behind their incredible success in pioneering wireless technology – now set to become the gold standard worldwide for electric vehicles – their answer is simple: “Off the wall ideas,” laughs Professor Boys.

“We've always had an unbreakable rule here [John and Grant co-lead the University's Power Electronics Group]. There are no stupid ideas ... there are just ideas that haven't found their right form or right time. If you're going to do something radically new you've got to be prepared to step right out of your comfort zone and try things,” says John

“You've got to dream and look at least 10 years out to what might be possible in order to say ahead of the competition” adds Grant.

And dream these two have! Back in 1988, John ignored doubters in the scientific world and became the first engineer to successfully make power jump across large air gaps, from one object to another, by intersecting two magnetic fields. Several years later Japanese specialist materials handling company Daifuku bought

the first licence to use the Inductive Power Transfer (IPT) Technology John and his University team had developed, in assembly plants all over Japan. Soon after, semi-conductor factories around the world began using IPT to produce integrated circuits and flat panel displays.

Then in 1992 Associate Professor Grant Covic completed his PhD on AC (alternating current) motor control and began working with John on electric bus charging systems. The two teamed up, along with Associate Professor Udaya Madawala, to expand the applications of IPT and more recently to develop IPT charging systems for the world's burgeoning electric car industry. Now they, and the University's commercial arm UniServices, are at the centre of a deal unprecedented in any New Zealand university's history: Qualcomm, a leading US research and development company specialising in wireless communications, has acquired exclusive rights in and to wireless electric vehicle charging technology developed by the University for UniServices. It is a multi-million dollar deal that is of significant commercial value to the University, and to John and Grant personally. It

also includes on-going royalties and a commitment on Qualcomm's part to cooperate with the University in order to further build on our IPT expertise.

“This is recognition that what we've been doing in our lab has a value on a commercial scale and globally,” says John. “A New Zealand company couldn't take this technology and run with it the way Qualcomm will be able to. It means the technology can keep growing and be unified in the sense that it covers all aspects of the power transfer system – so it won't be a dog's breakfast with everyone trying to do their own thing.” However, there will be real opportunities for local companies to contribute to the international electric vehicle market and so benefit from this deal.

Initially the Auckland Power Electronics group used IPT to create wireless charging pads so electric cars could charge up while parked. Now they are developing the technology so that electric cars will be able to charge on the move, driving over pads as they move – even out on the open road. “That's the holy grail,” says Grant, “and that's what our

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The Draft Auckland Plan and associated Economic Development Strategy and City Centre Masterplan, which have recently been open for consultation, provide at once some exciting ideas for how Auckland might develop but a disturbing lack of understanding of the key role of the University of Auckland.

On the positive side are proposals to enhance east-west linkages through the Learning Quarter (which includes our University and AUT) via the "linear park continuation" which would better connect Albert Park to The Strand, and to the Domain. The integrity of the Learning Quarter and safety of its inhabitants are threatened by the bifurcation created by Symonds Street and the Grafton Gully transit corridors. Slowing traffic and better connecting the City and Grafton campuses are measures that could help improve the environment for the tens of thousands of staff and students who work in the two universities. Indeed, a long term plan to remove the Symonds Street division of the City Campus would be one of the single most important developments that could improve the Learning Quarter. Likewise, proposals to enhance city rail links and pedestrian/cycle links would do much to enhance the Learning Quarter environment.

However, these issues aside, the plans are disappointing in failing to recognise the universities as very significant contributors to the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Auckland. A globally competitive research-intensive University that is the peer of the great public universities of the world is, we would argue, a key component of any great city. Such a university needs to be part of an integrated and high quality network of differentiated tertiary education providers to ensure that Auckland is able to deliver the full aspirations of both the city and its people. Yet the plans give little recognition to the role of tertiary institutions as the gateway to higher education, as major employers, as the providers of quality public infrastructure, as contributors to export education or as engines of innovation. As we have pointed out, these omissions will need to be rectified, in deed as well as in thought, if Auckland is to make the best of its tertiary institutions as it strives to be "the world's most liveable city".

lab is working on now."

Since the development of IPT, the Power Electronics Lab has produced more than 100 scientific papers on the technology, graduates from the lab are finding employment all over the world and there are already five New Zealand companies producing products for world markets based on the University technology. "If this deal brings more commercial people to the door of the University - then bring it on," says John. "Fantastic! I think it shows that innovative ideas can make money as well as scientific capital and prestige for the University."

"As academics we've always had a foot in the commercial world," says Grant, "Particularly in Engineering, commercial companies bring realism to research and excite students who feel connected to the real world."

Asked what the deal means financially and personally, both men laugh again. "It means I can pay off my mortgage," says John. "And I

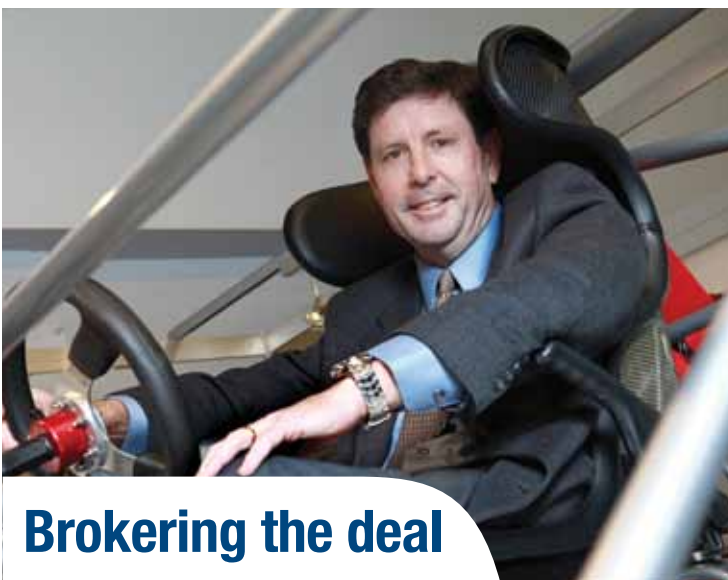
might be able to play a bit more golf."

Grant who has three young boys says he will be looking forward to spending more quality time with his family. "My wife has been very supportive and so finding a larger house that will allow more space for the boys to run around is a priority," he says.

In the meantime "it's business as usual" at the Power Electronics Lab. Grant is working three days a week within the Electrical Engineering Department and two days in UniServices-related research, while John is funded by UniServices to work full time on research - but the two men keep in close contact.

"We trust each other," says John. "We walk into each other's rooms and bounce ideas off one another. Grant's better at the detail. Between us we generate a lot of ideas, some almost completely stupid, and then see if they can be made to work."

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## Brokering the deal

**While the Power Electronics Group have been developing the University's IPT capability in their lab on the City Campus, up the road our commercial company, UniServices, has played a vital role in developing opportunities for the technology.**

"We have a long history of licensing this technology into a variety of applications, such as manufacturing automobiles and integrated circuits," says Director, Dr Peter Lee (above). "When our existing licensees didn't want to develop the technology for charging electric transportation, UniServices provided John and Grant with approximately \$1 million to develop the first electric vehicle with an inductive charging pad."

In 2009 UniServices displayed a prototype car based upon John and Grant's technology at the International Electric Vehicle Show in Norway. "We were the only electric vehicle there being charged inductively. Arup, a global and innovative engineering company with a particular interest in electric transportation, expressed interest and we formed a joint

venture, HalolPT, to further the technology.

The following year HalolPT demonstrated a retrofitted Citroen powered by IPT at the 2010 International Vehicle Show in China. By that time there were other companies demonstrating IPT charging. "HalolPT still had 'the best in class' technology but we knew we had to pivot our business plan in order to retain our leadership. We needed the support of a large

multi-national with the proven ability to establish a global standards for technology.

And that's why, Peter explains, HalolPT began looking for a suitable company to invest in HalolPT and consolidate the technology.

"We had several offers on the table but Qualcomm which had achieved world-class standards with mobile phone technology proved to be the most suitable."

For UniServices the Qualcomm deal is the biggest in its history and one of the largest technology deals in New Zealand's history. To get there required as much creativity and agility by the UniServices team, led by Will Charles, General Manager of Technology Development, and Peter, as the researchers had demonstrated in the laboratory. "It is an example that just as creating new technology is a creative process, the business side is also very creative," says Peter.

The challenge now is to look at how the IPT technology can be extended to other applications where wires are a nuisance. "That's our next big discussion".



## Donors honoured

Twenty-six donors were welcomed into the Chancellor's Circle recognition societies at the prestigious Chancellor's Dinner on Thursday 3 November at the Fale Pasifika.

A total of 165 guests, including 46 of the University's most generous donors, attended the seventh annual recognition dinner, where it was announced that the "Leading the Way" fundraising campaign total has now reached an outstanding \$167 million.

On the night, two of the University's donors were inducted into the elite Sir Maurice O'Rorke Society, which recognises individuals and organisations who have given over \$5 million to

the University. Cancer Society of New Zealand President Clive Cleland (pictured left with Chancellor Roger France) and National Heart Foundation Chairman Mike Tomlinson (pictured right) each accepted on behalf of their organisation a framed certificate, which was presented to acknowledge their generous support of the University over the years. Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon acknowledged the financial commitment that guests had made to the University and invited donors to be part of determining the University's strategy for the period to 2020. "As some of our strongest supporters – those who have already invested heavily in the University – we want to ensure that your views are heard as we plan how to take The University of Auckland to even greater levels of achievement."

In his opening address, University Chancellor Roger France stressed the importance of private donations to ensure the University remains competitive and among the best universities in the world.

"We all know that money is vital to establish and nourish the virtuous circle that characterises great universities in the 21st century," Mr France said.

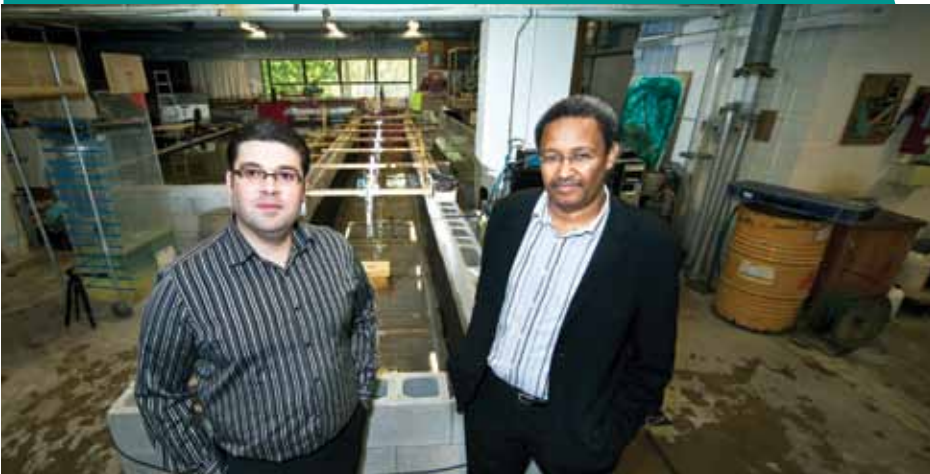
"It enables them to attract and retain the best faculty staff, who in turn attract the best and brightest students, who in turn go on to become

successful and hopefully supportive alumni." To complement the tradition of giving at the University, a new tradition of donor acknowledgement was launched at the dinner in the form of a Chancellor's Circle Book of Recognition. The book is a living history of philanthropy at the University and will serve as a permanent record of the names of the founding members and yearly inductees into the Chancellor's Circle.

Guest speaker Dr Peter Lee, Chief Executive Officer Uniservices, gave the audience an interesting insight into some of the University's successful research commercialisation projects. A piano performance from Bachelor of Music (Honours) student Somi Kim added to a programme that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Testing for tsunami damage



### Are our buildings safe if a tsunami hits?

That's the question Associate Professor Asaad Shamseldin (right) from the Faculty of Engineering is trying to answer. His long term goal is to develop a national facility at the University to inform decision makers about what they need to do to design buildings that are resilient to tsunamis. His tsunami research is inspired by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated fourteen countries in South East Asia. "The Boxing Day tsunami happened in the past but we have since seen a number of Tsunami events".

Asaad, along with Professor Bruce Melville and PhD candidate Reza Shafiei (left), are investigating tsunami induced forces and the impact of floating debris on buildings. The research is a four stage process; stage one is the construction of a model to show a typical New Zealand residential dwelling and its installation in a flume. Stage two is where water is released simulating the effect of an actual tsunami wave and measurements of the force induced by the wave along with applied pressure distributions are made. Stage three is about quantifying the impact of the floating debris on buildings, while stage four will involve upscaling the experimental

results to full structural scale so they can be used for design purposes.

New Zealand has a long coastline that makes us vulnerable to tsunami damage. There is a lot of uncertainty about magnitude of impact or forces. Once that is determined, the above research can be applied in N.Z for the design of structures and infrastructure in general. Another aspect of the research is to look at low impact design or green proofing, to look at "how we can re-engineer the landscape to mitigate some of the likely effects of a tsunami".

The current research on tsunami's interaction with infrastructure is a joint research initiative between the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at The University of Auckland and Dr Gegar Prasetya from Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) Limited. There are also plans to have a joint workshop with Japan to learn from their experience "how we can work together to advance our research". Japan has a specialised laboratory for tsunami research, and Asaad and his colleagues are working on a much smaller scale but it is the first such lab in New Zealand.

## Research fellow scoops top photo



University Research Fellow Dr Mazdak Radjainia has won the first prize in the Wildlife category of *New Zealand Geographic* magazine's Photographer of the Year competition 2011.

Mazdak is a research fellow at the School of Biological Sciences' electron microscopy group.

He studied Biochemistry at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany. After he had received a PhD from The University of Auckland in 2010 he continued working here.

The winning photograph depicts a humpback whale mother assisting her new born baby to stay and breathe at the surface. It was taken in Niue, which is on the migratory path of humpback whales that

leave their feeding grounds in Antarctica towards the tropics where they go for calving and mating.

"We were on a spearfishing mission when we spotted the cow and calf. The curious and playful calf greeted us but experiences from previous years had taught me that for good encounters it is best to ignore it," Mazdak

explains.

"In fact, we made a point to avoid the calf and made a tactical retreat. Seeing that we had no obvious interest in the baby probably helped the mother to relax, trust us and allow us to get very close."

Mazdak, who is a hobby photographer, started underwater photography in order to motivate his friends to come snorkelling or spearfishing with him.

"I needed photographic evidence as proof of my accounts of encounters with iconic wildlife which are usually met with doubts. Once I had an underwater camera, I learnt that hunting fish with a camera can be as much fun as with a gun."

Key to winning the NZ Geographic award was his new underwater camera Panasonic GF2 that he won earlier this year in the *New Zealand Herald's* "Life through a lens" competition.

"In another Australia-wide competition, the Underwater Festival 2011, I won a 10-day cruise on a luxury boat in the Maldives, which will hopefully keep the vicious circle going," Mazdak jokes.

## Climate change in ancient Egypt?



Professor Simon Holdaway, Head of Anthropology, has won a Marsden grant to study climate change and the origins of agriculture in ancient Egypt.

Climate change isn't a phenomenon that only challenges humanity today. More than 6,000 years ago global climate change may have benefited the introduction of domesticated plants to Egypt.

Nile agriculture, the basis for Pharaonic civilisation, relied on domesticated plants from southwest Asia. These plants were introduced late into Egypt at the end of the Neolithic colonisation of the Mediterranean. Simon's project will explore an environmental explanation for this time lag suggesting an opportunistic use of global climate change rather than just cultural mechanisms.

"My research deals with how people have involved themselves with changing climates in the past. People tend to think of climate change as a recent phenomenon but, in fact, if we look at Archaeology, we can look at how people have reacted to shifts in the environment, and how the environment has reacted with people, over the long haul. My research in different parts of the world really looks at that involvement," says Simon.

At the centre of Simon's work stands the Fayum Basin in northern Egypt. This area provides the earliest evidence of cereal agriculture in Egypt dated around 4700-3800 BC. prior to the age of Pharaohs and Nile-based agriculture.

"The Egyptian research deals with people who were just developing agriculture, adapting to fluctuating desert environments in the mid-Holocene period but continuing to pursue a mobile lifestyle."

A brief period of sustained winter rains at this time correlates with the occurrence of a relatively short period of intense Neolithic habitation in the Fayum. This time correlation suggests that people knew about domesticated plants and animals but were unable to adopt them until they found an environment where they would flourish. With the absence of the winter rains the occupation of the Fayum also ceased. Simon's research tests whether these winter rains permitted the use of a southwest Asian Neolithic

package of domesticates.

"If so, this places a new perspective on Pharaonic, Nile-based irrigation agriculture suggesting it developed as a result of a climate change-induced failure of a previous system, well after agriculture was established in Egypt."

"This result is important at a time when the human response to climate change is increasingly seen as something related only to the present. It demonstrates how climate changes must be understood not as single causes but from a framework of human environmental interrelationships that have a long history."

Simon specialises in Australian, New Zealand and Palaeolithic archaeology. He has a long term interest in the study of stone artefacts in general with a particular interest in Australia.

He was asked to participate in the Egyptian project with colleagues from UCLA (USA) and Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen (The Netherlands) because of his experience in Australia.

"The project fits well with my Australian research both because it offers me the chance to apply the methodology I have developed there and because theoretically the results of my Australian research illustrate how mobile people adapted to variable past environments."

The Marsden Fund study, titled 'The agricultural foundations of Predynastic Egypt: climate change and opportunism in the Fayum' has received \$670,000 for three years.



Research Unit, who will teach the course.

“It will be of great interest to students, given the recent levels of interest in Islam within both academic and public domains and the diversity of competing perspectives that often surround this religious tradition.”

Islam and the Contemporary World will

provide an introduction to Islam as a living tradition within a global context, while paying particular attention to Muslim presence and experience in New Zealand and Australia.

The course will also give a historical survey of Islam, including developments in Muslim theology, philosophy, and the interpretation of its sacred text, the Qur'an. There will also be a focus on contemporary themes relating to Islam, with core questions asked such as: is Islam compatible with democracy? What is the position of women in Islam? Is Islamic law practicable? How should the Qur'an be interpreted?

Dr Ali will teach Islam and the Contemporary World along with Clare Wilde from the Department of Sociology, who has also been involved in the course's design and content.

## Islamic studies on offer

A growing interest in Islamic religion and its role in the contemporary world has resulted in the University adding a course in Islam to the Bachelor of Theology degree.

The School of Theology will offer the new course in Islam from 2012, broadening its offerings to students interested in faith and religion. Theology at the University has traditionally focused on exploring the beliefs and practices that have developed within Christianity.

“The study of Islamic cultures and societies is an important component of any internationally recognised university given their contribution to world civilization, historical prominence, and involvement in contemporary global politics,” says Dr Zain Ali, Head of the Islamic Studies

### Research Office move

The Research Office has moved. We can now be found on the 10th floor of 49 Symonds St. We are still unpacking boxes and generally settling in to the new space but we look forward to welcoming visitors to our new office. Our first point of contact continues to be via the Research Office Helpdesk on ext 87956 or by email at [researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz)

### Calling all researchers! Marsden Road Shows at Auckland campuses

Are you:

- Looking for funding (up to \$1m) for 'blue skies' research?
- Ready to carry out a 3-year research project?
- Able to commit to 0.2 FTE ?
- Experienced in previous, internally funded (ie FRDF) research?

If this sounds like you, and you are an emerging or an experienced researcher, this is an opportunity to find out more about the Marsden Fund 2012 round. Dr Peter Gilbert from the Royal Society of New Zealand will be presenting the details at two Road Shows at the University of Auckland. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions, each event should only take about 90 minutes, and there is no need to book. Contact Chris Tews ([c.tews@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.tews@auckland.ac.nz)) at the Research Office if you need further details.

Dates:

Tuesday 22 November 2011 City Campus: 10.30 am (for 1 hour) Old Government House (102-G36 Lecture Theatre)

Tuesday 29 November 2011 Tamaki Campus: 1.30 pm (for 1 hour) School of Population Health (731- 201 Lecture Theatre)

### HRC update

Hilary Lapsley, has been appointed as the new HRC Fund Specialist. Hilary commenced in her new role on Monday November 7th. The Research Office had received 27 registrations for Programme Extension, Programme, Feasibility Study and Emerging researcher funding by the deadline of 31 October.

## Tanzanian contribution



Academic Exchange Programme (DAAD) to establish the Tanzanian-German Postgraduate Centre in Law as a centre of excellence for all the nations of eastern Africa.

David's links with Tanzania go back to the early 1970s. “A sense of idealism, born of student activism in the 1960s, plus a recognition that I had benefited from being a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, led me to seek my first academic job in a newly independent African country,” he says.

David had two teaching stints at Dar es Salaam, as a lecturer from 1972 to 1974, and as a senior lecturer from 1978 to 1980. taking courses in Criminology and Penology, Legal Method and Jurisprudence.

He completed a PhD there on “The use of law in the process of colonisation: An historical and comparative study with particular reference to Tanzania (Mainland) and New Zealand.” His degree was conferred by the University Chancellor, Julius K. Nyerere, in 1985.

In November 2010 he taught a graduate course on Colonial Legal History where the standard of debate was “one of the best, perhaps the best teaching and learning experience in my career”. It comprised 18 students — nine men and nine women — from five East African nations (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania) doing LLM or PhD degrees.

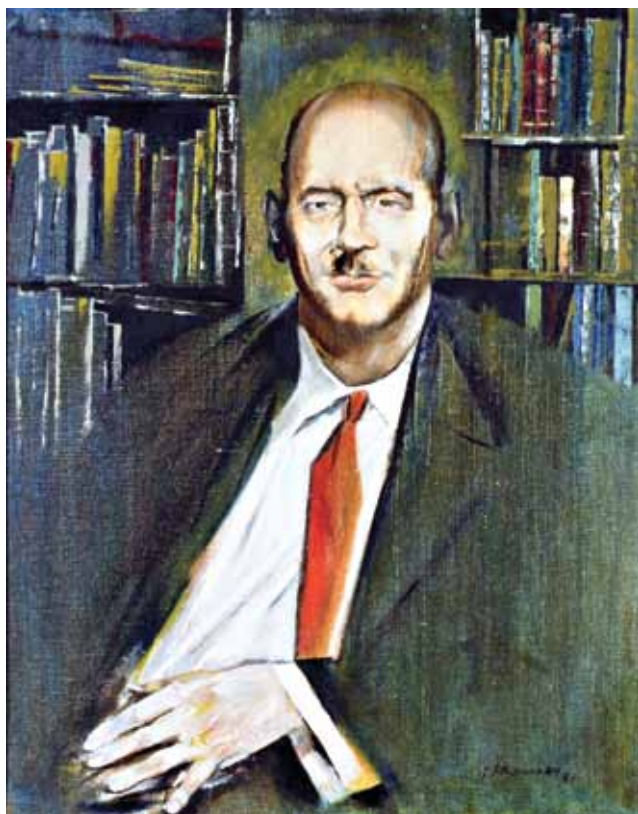
Professor of Law David Williams joined a select group at a recent commemoration at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

He was a special guest at the golden jubilee of the Law Faculty where he twice served as a member of staff and is currently an external examiner.

David and other former Dar es Salaam law teachers were invited to contribute to a programme of colloquia and symposia, and to attend celebration ceremonies. “We were honoured as the ‘pioneer teachers’.”

He was one of five scholars who addressed a colloquium on “Fifty years of pioneering scholarship and legal education in East Africa”.

The University of Dar es Salaam is ranked towards the top of African universities. The Law Faculty in particular has a premier position in Africa, being recently chosen by the German



Painted the year after Douglas Robb was knighted for services to medicine, this work shows the maverick medico at ease in his study, surrounded by his precious book collection. Light falls on his facial features and creates a kind of halo effect behind his head.

If the painter seems to have visualised this medical statesman as the patron saint of the New Zealand health system, it was with good cause – he had been campaigning for better

public health for over 20 years. The son of Scottish immigrants, Robb was born and brought up in Auckland, and successfully campaigned for a medical school to become part of Auckland University College. The economist Brian Easton describes Robb as a “nation builder” and has included this portrait in the current exhibition *The Making of Modern New Zealand* at the New Zealand Portrait Gallery in Wellington.

Already 62 years old when he sat for this portrait, Robb was friendly with the artist, an Irishman who was just a few years younger, and a senior lecturer in sculpture at the Elam School of Fine Arts. John Kavanagh had emigrated from England in 1951, and immediately came to national attention by winning a competition to design a Seal for the Medical Research Council (MRC) of New Zealand. Robb, who was a

member of the MRC from 1950 until 1963, commented that the design was startlingly modern, showing Asclepius struggling with the serpent of disease in angular relief. Kavanagh was one of the most highly qualified sculptors working in New Zealand at that time. A graduate of the Royal College of Art, he had studied sculpture with Henry Moore, worked in Italy and had a work purchased for the collection of the Tate Gallery in London in 1943.

A keen supporter of the visual arts and a close friend of Elam Art History lecturer Rex Fairburn who dedicated his poem “To a friend in the wilderness” to him, Robb was an outstanding surgeon. Fairburn penned a cheeky limerick about him (There once was a surgeon named Robb/ Who would take on the trickiest job/ Put a zip in your foreskin/ Sew on some more skin/ Or screw up your nuts for a bob). Robb operated on Fairburn for the kidney tumour which killed him in 1957. With Fairburn, he had advocated for a professionally run city gallery in Auckland and he endorsed the appointment of Professor Peter Tomory as director in 1956. To coincide with his installation as President at the Annual Conference of the British Medical Association held in Auckland in February of 1961, Robb organised the exhibition *Landmarks in the History of Medicine* at the Auckland Art Gallery, lending some of his own collection to the display of medical books, atlases, prints and apothecaries’ jars. In September 1967, Robb launched his autobiography at the Auckland Art Gallery, arranging for the *Symphonia* of Auckland to play at the event.

Appointed Chancellor of The University of Auckland in June of the year in which this portrait was painted, Robb lived to see the first students admitted into the Auckland Medical School in 1968, and the new building open on 24 March 1970. He died in his sleep on the morning of his 74th birthday, leaving his papers to the University Library.

By Linda Tyler

*John Francis Kavanagh (1903-1985) Portrait of Sir Douglas Robb, 1961, oil on canvas, 745 x 595mm*

## Books

### Special offer from Auckland University Press



2011 has been a year of major achievements at Auckland University Press.

First, the Press topped the list for the number of finalists at the NZ Post Book Awards for the

fourth year in a row and, this year, dominated the results with three wins: Poia Rewi’s *Whaikorero: The World of Maori Oratory*, Lynn Jenner’s *Dear Sweet Harry* and Chris Bourke’s *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music*, which took out the Book of the Year and People’s Choice Awards.

Secondly, the Press committed to leading New Zealand publishing in the ebook revolution. Right now, we are converting 250 of our best titles to ebooks that we will be selling to individuals and libraries both here and around the world. Finally, we never lost our focus on what a university press is here for: discovering the brightest minds and the biggest ideas and taking them to the world.

In 2011, many of those minds and ideas have come from across the disciplines at The University of Auckland: leading art writing in

Peter Simpson’s *Fantastica: The World of Leo Bensemann*, cutting edge literary criticism in Jan Cronin’s *The Frame Function* and Alex Calder’s *The Settler’s Plot*, psychology in Michael Corballis’s witty *Pieces of Mind*, law in David Williams’s *A Simple Nullity?* and Maori studies in Jane McCrae’s *Nga Moteatea: An Introduction*.

To celebrate a great year, we offer all staff a 25 percent discount on those books for orders received by 25 November 2011.

*Fantastica* RRP \$75; UoA \$56.25  
*The Frame Function* RRP \$49.99; UoA \$37.49  
*The Settler’s Plot* RRP \$45; UoA \$33.75  
*Pieces of Mind* RRP \$29.99; UoA \$22.49  
*A Simple Nullity?* RRP \$49.99; UoA \$37.49  
*Nga Moteatea: An Introduction* RRP \$34.99; UoA \$26.25

# What's on

## THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER

**Department of Statistics seminar**  
Dr Susan Pitts, University of Cambridge: *Nonparametric inference for an inverse queueing problem*. 4-5pm Computer Science Seminar Rm 303.279.

**Faculty of Engineering seminar**  
*Engineering the future: perspectives on energy*. 5.30-8pm Lecture Theatre 401.439, Faculty of Engineering Bldg, 20 Symonds St.

NZ aspires to generate 90% of its electricity from renewable sources. Come along and discuss the latest University of Auckland research.

Speakers:  
• Prof Mike O'Sullivan: *Current and potential geothermal generation in NZ*.  
• Assoc Prof Udaya Madawala: *A green energy system for grid integrating renewables and electric vehicles*.  
• Prof Andy Philpott: *Electricity markets, dry winters, and risk*.

RSVP at [www.uniservices.co.nz/energy](http://www.uniservices.co.nz/energy)  
Queries to [e.kirke@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:e.kirke@auckland.ac.nz)

## FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER

### NZ Personalised Medicine Symposium

9am-4.30pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Road.

Hosted by the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery.

Assoc Prof Thomas Deisboeck, Harvard Medical School will give a keynote presentation on 'Multiscale cancer modelling: applications for drug target discovery'.

A panel discussion at the end of the day will give the audience the opportunity to ask experts how NZ can prepare for targeted delivery of healthcare in the future.

Visit [www.mauricewilkinscentre.org](http://www.mauricewilkinscentre.org)

### Lecture Theatre Recording and more: How the Media Services Team can support your teaching

10-11.30am Medium Chemistry Lecture Theatre, Chemistry Bldg, 23 Symonds St. An overview of how the Media Services Team can support your teaching, including how Lecture Theatre Recording (LTR) works and what you need to consider before you start using it, where LTR is offered and how it's being used, other media-related support such as file conversion and hosting to support teaching and learning, insights from teaching staff who have been using LTR, copyright considerations in use of LTR and other video-based content, and how to access resources and support for making effective use of LTR.

Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/) workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

### Crossing Boundaries: 4th Biennial International Conference on Task-Based Language Teaching

Runs until 20 November.  
Hosted by the International TBLT Consortium and the Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics. The theme of the conference, 'Crossing Boundaries' encourages us to explore different perspectives on tasks and language learning and

make connections between theory and practice, teaching and research.

## SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

**China Connections**  
7.30pm Maidment Theatre, 2 Alfred St. A dance collaboration between the University and Nanjing University of the Arts.  
Tickets \$25/\$15. Phone 308 2383.  
Visit [www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER

**Department of History seminar**  
Assoc Prof Susan Hill, University of Western Ontario: *Haudenosaunee thought and philosophy frameworks for land tenure policies: 19th century policies as lessons for the 21st century and beyond*. 2pm Waipapa Marae, 20 Wynyard St.  
Queries to [a.harris@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.harris@auckland.ac.nz)

## TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

**Business School seminar**  
Alexia Cooper, UK qualified naturopathic nutritionist:  
*Toxic beauty: A discussion of personal care products and cosmetics*. 12noon-1.30pm Case Rm 2, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Seats are limited. Please confirm your attendance to [juleen.grant@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:juleen.grant@auckland.ac.nz)

### 3rd International Conference on Language, Education and Diversity 2011

Owen G. Glenn Bldg. Runs until Friday 25 November.  
An international quadrennial conference series which focuses specifically on the impact of increased cultural linguistic diversity, at both national and supranational levels, and its consequences for the theory, policy and practice of language education. A forum that brings together the latest academic and policy discussions, and promotes critical debate, on the often complex interconnections between diversity and language education.

### Short, sharp series: Ensuring project success in 2012

5.30-8pm Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Presented by Rob Verkerk. Free. RSVP to <https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/ShortSharp22Nov2011>

### STRATUS event: Balancing myths and truths

5.30pm drinks; 6-7.30pm discussion with questions, Engineering School Neon Lobby and Lecture Hall 401-439.

Join a panel discussion about the challenges in communicating your discoveries and hear the successes and pitfalls that can turn scientific truths into dinner table rumours.

Panel members:  
Margaret Brimble (Rutherford Foundation)  
Hamish Campbell (GNS Science)  
James Frankham (NZ Geographic editor)  
Rebecca Priestley (NZ Listener)  
Steve Martin (PM Science Teacher Prize Winner 2010)  
RSVP for catering purposes by 18 November to [secretary@stratus.ac.nz](mailto:secretary@stratus.ac.nz)

## WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**Transforming Auckland: Towards Sustainable Futures Symposium**  
Lecture Theatre 401-439, 20 Symonds St. Runs until 24 November.

International and local researchers will examine some of the major issues faced by cities in their transformation towards sustainable, resilient futures. The programme features three international keynote speakers:

- Robert Liberty, Executive Director, Sustainable Cities Initiative, University of Oregon;
  - Prof Tony Wong, CEO and Director, Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, Monash University;
  - Assoc Prof Linda Williams, School of Art and member of Global Cities Research Institute, RMIT University.
- Free. Online registration essential. Visit [www.transforming.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.transforming.auckland.ac.nz)

## THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER

### 7th APRU Research Symposium on multi-hazards around the Pacific Rim

*Physical and human dimensions of natural hazards: From research to practice*. Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Runs until 26 November.  
In the last few years, the Pacific Rim has experienced many traumatic earthquakes, tsunamis and meteorological incidents. This symposium brings engineers, scientists, social scientists, architects, other scholars and leaders in public policy and governance together to advance the science and to learn from the experience of those who have confronted crises and developed strategies for ameliorating their social and economic effects and restoring healthy, productive societies and institutions.

Queries to [apru2011mh@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:apru2011mh@auckland.ac.nz)  
Visit [www.apru2011mh.com](http://www.apru2011mh.com)

### Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences seminars

10-11.30am Auditorium, Clinical Education Centre.

- 1) Prof Rob Kydd: *The prediction of treatment response to antidepressant medications*.
- 2) Assoc Prof Bronwen Connor, Centre for Brain Research: *Identifying new targets to treat depression and anxiety*.

## FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

### Management and International Business seminar

Dr Ken Platts, University of Cambridge: *A process methodology for management research*. 1-2pm Room 219, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.  
Queries to [l.callagher@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.callagher@auckland.ac.nz)

## SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

### Elam Graduate Show

10am-5pm, 20 Whitaker Place, 5 Symonds St (Elam B) and 25a Princes St (George Fraser Gallery). Runs until 27 November.

The annual Elam Graduate Show is a 'must-see' event for anyone interested in the next generation of artists and creative thinkers. A visual arts extravaganza featuring work by more than 120 graduating students. Take this chance to view their individual

achievements and gain an insight into the challenges and rewards of earning a degree from Elam.

Queries to [elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER

**Department of Political Studies seminar**  
Dr Liam Weeks, University College Cork, Visiting Academic Fellow, Macquarie University: *Crashing the party. Does STV help independents?* 12noon-1pm Meeting Rm G02, 16 Symonds St.

**Accounting and Finance seminar**  
Rachel Baskerville, Victoria University: *Hoes and picks to get off the sticky floor: Enhancing your promotion prospects*. 3.30-5pm Room 321, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to [c.devilliers@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.devilliers@auckland.ac.nz)

# 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 Andrew or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or [rentals@citysales.co.nz](mailto:rentals@citysales.co.nz) or log on to [www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

**Birkenhead:** Four-bdrm house for rent from July 2012 to January 2013. Cedar home amidst kauri trees. Furnished. Would suit visiting researcher/family. \$600 pw negotiable. Easy access to schools, library, shopping, beaches. Near bus lines to CBD and UoA, 10-minute drive to Birkenhead ferry. Contact [lisa.samuels@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.samuels@gmail.com)

**One-bdrm apartment in city centre.** Close to Britomart, Foodtown, Downtown Shopping Centre, University of Auckland and Queen St. Stunning views of harbour, Rangitoto, eastern suburbs. Fully furnished including whiteware, DVD, Sky TV. Plenty of parking nearby. Ideal tenants would be professional. No pets or smokers please. \$400 pw. Phone (09) 348 5319 or (021) 932 391 or email [prasadm@poal.co.nz](mailto:prasadm@poal.co.nz)

## OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

**Sabbatical or holiday retreat** in Greek fully-furnished apartment in East Peloponnese close to beach, overlooking the Aegean, pristine village, orange groves. [t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz) or [www.tyrosapartment.com](http://www.tyrosapartment.com)

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**Bach. Orapiu, Waiheke Island.** Stunning views, close to beach, own mooring. Pretty 1930s bach, refurbished. Two dble bdrms inside, sleepout with two beds. Available before Christmas, from 13 Dec, and immediately afterwards till 31 Dec. Exact dates negotiable. \$120 a night. Phone (09) 624 5422 or email [jaldeng@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jaldeng@xtra.co.nz)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Home educator/nanny share wanted** for two-year-old boy in Westmere and/or surrounding areas. From January 2012. Must have current references. Email [amberwrite@hotmail.com](mailto:amberwrite@hotmail.com)

**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](mailto:karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz) or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



# PORNOGRAPHY IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Pornography occupies an awkward position when it ends up on the public stage. We saw this last June when it was revealed that a high profile MP had used his ministerial credit card for “blue movies”. The public revelation of this private habit seemed to show a complex intersection of old and new sensibilities about pornography, a twilight zone between sleaze and hip, disgust and embrace, and the private and public spaces of pornography “consumption”.

On the one hand, the Minister of Porn’s shame and embarrassment were paraded in the media. On the other, when the leaders of his party deftly deflected questions seeking their views on the pornographic particulars of the case, there seemed to be agreement that any judgement of such private matters would be inappropriate. End of story. In this way, both politicians and media mirrored the growing normalisation and liberal tolerance of pornography.

Some scholars see this shift is a good thing, associated with sexual pluralism, and more openness in general towards sexuality. However, it could be argued that the cloak of liberal tolerance closes down rather than opens up opportunities for talking about both sexuality and pornography in nuanced and critical ways. Over the past couple of years, I have been prompted – in relation to presentations by students in my stage 3 “Gender and psychology” course, among other things – to find out more about the nature of contemporary pornography,

practices of consumption, and views about it within the research community.

After years of researching the cultural norms underpinning rape, and with an ongoing interest in sexual violence prevention, it has become clear to me that we collectively need to think a lot more carefully about the issue of pornography. We need to understand its place in contemporary society and question what is at stake in turning a blind eye to it. The point is not to deliver moral judgement on individuals, like the MP in question. Given how normative pornography use appears to be, this would be nonsensical. But this does not mean we should treat the genre itself as a taboo topic for critical debate.

In theory, pornography is a broad and diverse category. There are queer and feminist subgenres that seem to offer transgressive, expansive, and empowering possibilities for “doing” gender and sexuality differently. But the bread and butter of everyday pornography arguably tests the imagination in less progressive ways. What do we think about material that blurs the boundaries between sex and violence in tired old gender normative ways? Is it ok if the theme of popular heterosexual pornography is repetitively patterned, as research suggests it is, with men dominant and in control, and women submissive and quite often treated badly? What do we think, for instance, when trends in mainstream heterosexual pornography render routine scenes like a woman being orally penetrated so deeply

and forcefully that she gags? Or being orally penetrated by the same (unwashed) penis that has just anally penetrated her or another woman? What do we understand is the relationship between the fantasies played out in these kinds of representations and the possibilities for understanding ourselves and other people? And what might be the relationship between the norms and values expressed in popular pornographic media and those lived out in daily life?

In a new Marsden-funded project, Linda Tyler (Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery), Ginny Braun, Octavia Calder-Dawe (both from Psychology), and I hope to create dialogue on these kinds of ethical, psychosocial and political questions. As well as a theoretical dimension, we are looking forward to two action research projects designed to find new spaces and wider vocabularies for critical public engagement. Octavia will embark on doctoral research working with groups of young men and women, to explore the ethical dilemmas posed by exploitative and aggressive forms of pornography. And in a wider collaboration with artists and activists Linda, Ginny, and I will organise an exhibition of artworks that call into question the prejudicial gaze of mainstream pornography. Supported by an interactive website and public symposium, we hope it will invite more people to question what might be at stake.

Associate Professor of Psychology,  
Nicola Gavey