



MEET IROBIQ

The University and a cluster of South Korean companies are officially launching the world's first large-scale multi-robotic study at an Auckland retirement village this month.

Researchers are conducting six separate robotics studies involving 31 robots sourced from South Korea, one from Japan, and 100 staff and 100 residents from Selwyn Village in Auckland.

The Healthbots project is an international collaboration between UniServices, South Korea's Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, and South Korean companies, ED Corporation, Yujin Robot and Isan Solutions.

Head of the Healthbots project Associate Professor Bruce MacDonald from the Faculty of Engineering says its aim is to make robots that are helpful assistants for older people and for their caregivers.

"We want to help older people to be more independent where they want to be, and to be happier and more socially interactive using the robot as a kind of conduit for interaction. We want to help care staff by doing simple tasks and giving staff more time to spend on the more human and more caring things that both staff and older people prefer to do together."

Bruce has put together a multidisciplinary

team that includes engineers and computer scientists as well as the human touch with medical specialists Dr Liz Broadbent, a Senior Lecturer in Psychological Medicine and Ngaire Kerse, Professor of General Practice and Primary HealthCare.

The large-scale study will evaluate five different types of robots: Friend, Guide, Paro, iRobiQ and Cafero robots. They can perform tasks such as recording the residents' heart rate or blood pressure, providing entertainment in the form of music videos, and reminding residents to take their medication and alert staff if someone falls. The residents can Skype from some of the robots, find out what daily activities are on at the village and play games to help their mental fitness.

The robots are being placed around Selwyn Village's Pt Chevalier premises including in its cafe, medical centre, hospital and in residents' rooms and in the communal spaces.

Some of the robotics studies being carried out include medication reminder trials, activity trials and companion trials.

The medication trials use robots to remind residents to take their medication. If residents fail to do so then the robot alerts the on-site

staff. The robots, which can monitor their users' blood pressure and heart rate, can also send regular reports to the on-site doctor.

The activity trials involve residents wearing wrist or waist bands which monitor their whereabouts. If they have a fall then the monitor bands send an alert to the nurse's station. Another trial involves the Paro robot pet, based on a Canadian harp seal which has tactile sensors and responds to being patted by moving its tail and opening and closing its eyes. The robot, which produces sounds similar to a baby seal, is being trialled with dementia patients to see if it has a positive psychological effect. According to overseas studies the therapeutic robot can reduce patient stress and improve motivation and relaxation.

Ngaire Kerse says the studies are important because the enhancement of the environment with stimulating and interactive activities can improve the quality of life and relieve loneliness for older people.

"Robots could provide an interesting option and also be an aid to communication and health monitoring."



We often talk about “the power of philanthropy” and that power is already being realized in relation to one of the University’s most recent gifts, the Goldwater Wine Science Centre on Waiheke. Through the generosity of Kim and Jeanette Goldwater and their family, the University became the owner of the facility just a few months ago.

Already, modifications are underway to equip the Vineyard as the home of the University’s Wine Science Programme, well ahead of the students who will arrive for the first semester of 2012. The Goldie Wines operation will continue to run in parallel with the educational and research activities. Fortunately, the scale of the buildings means there is capacity for the two streams to co-exist without extending any building footprints. While our students will have the benefit of being immersed in a realistic winegrowing environment, our professional winegrowing team will also have the benefit of access to additional resources and facilities when making wines under the Goldie and Island brands.

The seven hectares of vines in Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay and Viognier will produce approximately 2,500 cases of wine annually when fully mature. The range of varieties gives Goldie Wines an interesting portfolio of wines for different occasions and will provide our students with a broad experience in different winegrowing and winemaking techniques. There is growing interest in the facility as a venue for University events and the opportunity to take visitors to what is a truly wonderful location. I am also delighted to see the profile of Goldie Wines building with the presence of our wines at a wide range of University functions and events as Goldie Wines’ role as preferred wine supplier for University purposes becomes known.

As the festive season approaches, our wines are being made available to staff at trade prices, the same prices as apply for internal events. If you are interested in this offer, details can be found on the Staff Benefits page of the staff intranet. This offer creates an additional and I hope welcome benefit for staff of the University, even if they are not involved directly in the Wine Science Centre.



Go8 meeting at Auckland

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Research) from the Group of Eight - comprising eight of Australia’s top universities - met for the first time at The University of Auckland on 18 November.

The University has been participating fully in the group’s activities over the last two years. Quarterly meetings allow members to discuss issues of common interest and among topics discussed at the most recent meeting were the Go8/Australian Technical Network pilot exercise on the assessment of Research Impact, the report of the “Focusing Australia’s Publicly Funded Research Review”, and New Zealand’s PBRF and public research funding processes.

“The University of Auckland finds considerable benefit in these interactions with our closest peer universities,” says Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Pictured: Front Row (L to R) – Professor Dick Strugnell, University of Melbourne; Dr Ian McMahon, Director, Research Go8; Professor Max Lu, University of Queensland; Professor Lawrence Cram, Australian National University.

Back Row (L to R) – Professor Jane Harding, University of Auckland; Professor Michael Brooks, University of Adelaide; Professor Max King, Monash University; Professor Robyn Owens, University of Western Australia; Professor Les Field, University of New South Wales (Chair).

Successful Academic Career Module



On Wednesday 2 November 19 successful Doctoral Academic Career Module participants graduated after their year of learning from and engaging with current academics at the University, and alumni of the University with academic positions in New Zealand and overseas.

Supported by the Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Development Fund 2011, the module was facilitated by Dr Ian Brailsford and Dr Frances Kelly (Centre for Academic Development). Participants were awarded and celebrated in the presence of Professor Lorraine Stefani (Director

of the Centre for Academic Development) Associate Professor Caroline Daley (Dean of Graduate Studies) and several of the participants’ supervisors.

Photo from left to right: Sachi Kodippily, Helen Shearman, Buddhika Gunawardana, Reem Jan, Ritesh Shah, Amy Chan, Susan Potter, Zoë Vincent, Stuti Misra, Rose Martin, Christina Ergler, Meghan McIlwain, Emma Fergusson, Michelle Hunting, Manjo Oyson.

In absentia: Marek Tesar, Theresa Riley and Wendy Yu.

Celebrating Chinese language learning



Eighteen young Chinese Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) who have been in New Zealand all year teaching Mandarin in our schools, were awarded Certificates of Completion at a special celebration at the University's Confucius Institute on 17 November.

"After this year, after so many things, I've grown up and become mature," Ying Hon Liu told the gathering. "I understand family, friendship, and love again. I understand colleagues, career, world and myself again."

"Thank you New Zealand, show me a new window," said Yangyang Huang.

The NZ China Free Trade Agreement provides for up to 150 Mandarin language assistants to temporarily work in NZ at any one time and the Ministries of Education in both countries have partnered with the Office of the Chinese

Language Council International (Haban) and the University's Confucius Institute to implement the initiative.

"Having both ministries supporting this initiative signals the growing importance being placed on Chinese language in our schools," says Gillian Eadie, General Manager of the Institute. "The rapid increase in numbers of schools recognising that young New Zealanders need Mandarin language for future employment ensured there was great interest in hosting these assistants."

This year schools as far away as Rotorua, Wellington, Marlborough and Dunedin hosted a MLA student. Fifteen of the 18 young students are pictured here with the Director of the Confucius Institute Nora Yao (fourth from left) and General Manager Gillian Eadie.



Wine Science

The relocation of the Wine Science programme from the Tāmaki Campus to Goldie Vineyard on Waiheke Island is well underway.

The construction of the teaching lab commenced early November and Property Services are confident it will be ready for the first 20 post-graduate students, including the accommodation of ten students on site, for the first semester of 2012.

The Wine Science programme is expected to grow to 30 students as the profile of the programme grows. Already Director Randy Weaver is pleased with the level of interest both domestically and internationally that is flowing from the news of relocation of the programme to Waiheke.

The relocation of the existing winery laboratory to a section of the barrel hall is the biggest

physical change being undertaken. The new laboratory will naturally have a teaching focus and has been designed with future growth in course numbers in mind.

Other facility upgrades are taking place in parallel with the laboratory construction. Meeting rooms are being turned into lecture rooms or computer suites. Electricity and wastewater infrastructure is being improved to deal with the new educational activities and

accommodation needs on site.

General Manager Ken Christie says it has also been very pleasing to see the level of interest from the University in using the hospitality areas of the vineyard for all manner of functions. In October through December alone there have been (or will be) conferences, meetings, technical sessions and, of course, Christmas functions. Apart from appreciating the beauty and seclusion of the property, the feedback to date is how pleased users have been with the flexibility of the facilities and The Goldie Room to ensure staff events are successful.

Goldie wine is now available to staff as a Staff benefit at heavily discounted prices. Staff wishing to buy Goldie wine should visit the Goldie Wine Staff Benefits page on the Staff Intranet and download the order form. This can either be scanned and return via email to Ken, sent in the internal mail or posted to him as detailed on the order form.

Also see the Vice-Chancellor's editorial page 2.

Spinout merges with Texas company

Telemetry Research Ltd, one of the University's most successful spinout companies, has merged with Millar Instruments, Inc (Houston, Texas).

Combining the two companies will create a world-class organisation to provide quality, innovative sensing and telemetry products to the research and clinical markets. Millar Instruments pressure sensing technology is acknowledged as the gold standard in pressure monitoring products and systems for life sciences research and clinical applications. Telemetry Research has successfully developed a platform of technologies surrounding wireless physiological monitoring for research applications.

"Telemetry Research has always been focused on building a world-class platform technology company and the merger with Millar Instruments will allow the company to springboard into new markets and products," says Dr. Simon Malpas, CEO and founder of Telemetry Research.

Telemetry Research will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Millar Instruments and will continue to operate under New Zealand registry. Operations will continue in New Zealand and the US with headquarters in Houston, Texas.

The companies have collaborated for almost five years on life science applications for wireless monitoring of pressure, having developed and

commercialised the world's first system combining wireless power and high-fidelity pressure sensors. During this development project the companies discovered shared values and a vision for the future.

The merger will bring together many long-standing relationships with employees, business partners, customers, distributors, collaborators and local communities. Director of Telemetry's Research and Development, Dr David Budgett, said: "Telemetry Research has maintained close linkages to The University of Auckland Bioengineering Institute, where the company began, and will continue working to expand these opportunities."

Mighty River Power funds chair

Mighty River Power is investing in the continued development of New Zealand's expertise and research into geothermal power generation by entering into an agreement with the University to sponsor a newly established Chair in Geothermal Reservoir Engineering.

Mighty River Power's General Manager Development, Mark Trigg, said the Company's sponsorship would provide funding of \$1 million over a five year period to the role – known as the Mighty River Power Chair in Geothermal Reservoir Engineering - supporting the rebirth of

the University's internationally renowned Geothermal Institute.

"The University of Auckland is among the top universities in the world for geothermal engineering research and education – an area of high importance to our business. The re-establishment of the Geothermal Institute will provide vital impetus to the building of New Zealand's geothermal capacity, both in terms of a greater number of graduates with the skills sought by Mighty River Power, and also in building a greater depth of geothermal

knowledge in New Zealand," said Mr Trigg.

Professor Michael Davies, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, said the Geothermal Institute is a cross-faculty centre with a focus on research and education related to the exploration and utilisation of geothermal energy resources.

"Since 1978, more than 850 students from over 50 countries have graduated from the Geothermal Institute with a world recognised qualification in geothermal energy – with many graduates going on to become leaders in the industry."

Dr Ted Bollard, a former Pro-Chancellor and Honorary Professor of Botany, died on 10 November aged 91.

Between 1988 and 1995 he served on the University Council as a ministerial appointee, and was Pro-Chancellor for more than one term.

Dr Bollard was a key and influential figure in the University's decision to amalgamate four departments to form the current School of Biological Sciences.

In 1983 the University recognised his major contribution to science by awarding him an honorary Doctor of Science. His son Dr Alan Bollard, Governor of the Reserve Bank, received an honorary Doctor of Laws in 2007, making the Bollards the only family to have two members so recognised by the University.

Having graduated BSc from Auckland in the early 1940s Dr Bollard gained a PhD at Cambridge after World War 11 and built a

strong international reputation on the physiology of fruit trees, winning many awards recognising his contributions to plant science. He rose to become Director of the Plant Diseases Division of the DSIR, and was President of the Royal Society of NZ from 1981 to 1985.

At a service for Dr Bollard held at the Maclaurin Chapel, Emeritus Professor Dick Bellamy, his one-time employee and a former Dean of Science, was among the speakers. He endorsed a tribute paid in 2008 by Associate Professor Willie Smith (School of Environment): "Ted's personal research and involvement in science at a national and international level ensured that he, like so many of his generation, was intimately involved in positioning horticulture as one of New Zealand's foremost knowledge-based industries and (as) a powerful competitor on the world stage. This legacy lasts to the present day."



Scientist's legacy

Freemason contributions boost research



Amanda Heapy

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and the Grand Master of the Freemasons, Mr Selwyn Cooper.

The celebration on 25 November marked the 30-year history between the Freemasons and the University with the memorandum a symbolic gesture to note the significant and ongoing support of the Freemasons to University research.

To mark the occasion, a special one-off gift of \$100,000 has been made to the University to advance the work of Professor Charles McGhee in age-related macular degeneration – the leading cause of visual impairment in older people in developed nations.

This donation will support a PhD scholarship to enable the completion of a pilot study examining the effects of treating sustained inflammation in the blood supply and the role of protein in disease progression and

maintenance. It is hoped that the study, which will commence in 2012, will lead to interventions to retard or prevent the process that leads to severe visual impairment.

Earlier in the week the Freemasons also provided a generous donation of \$248,000 for a fellowship at the University's Centre for Brain Research (CBR) to develop new drugs for neurodegenerative disorders. The funding will assist translational research by enabling collaboration between medicinal chemists led by Professor Margaret Brimble from the School of Chemical Sciences and neuropharmacologists working in the CBR Biobank.

Synthetic chemist Dr Amanda Heapy, who received the Freemasons fellowship on Monday evening, has been creating a unique library of 2000 bioactive natural product derivatives which will be used as novel molecular scaffolds to design new therapeutic agents to treat neurodegenerative disorders.

Work experience for students

University Careers Services and Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) have again joined forces to offer 23 Summer Clerkship opportunities.

WINZ, a unit of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), has negotiated the clerkships specially for students of The University of Auckland.

"The Ministry of Social Development has high praise for the quality of students from previous years; for their dedication, willingness to learn and pick up technical competencies," says Fred Lutua, Careers Consultant with the University Careers Services.

The clerkships are Case Manager positions supporting the increase in emergency assistance applications to WINZ during the Christmas and New Year period. Placements will be across all 36 WINZ Service Centres in Auckland and also

across the region, from Wellsford in the north to Meremere in the south. Start date is 5 December.

University Careers Services have held CV and Interview workshops to prepare the students for selection, with MSD handling the screening and interview process.

Successful applicants will receive formal orientation as well as "on-the-job" training at Work and Income.

Students will also benefit from full support by a supervising manager and trainer, ensuring they develop the requisite knowledge and skills to operate effectively.

Opportunities to gain workplace experience and generate some much needed income are being seen as of increasing importance to students. The qualities and skills of the students are equally relevant to employers.

Cameron Grant says: "The CDC has been running studies in developing countries in the Northern Hemisphere such as China and Southeast Asia, particularly tropical countries. Those tend to be capacity building. This one is more research-oriented, aiming at getting good quality data from the Southern Hemisphere which can inform Northern Hemisphere planning.

"Several things make this project particularly important to New Zealand also. Our health status for infectious diseases sits precariously between developed and developing countries. Our childhood hospital admission rates for chest infections are several times greater than those reported from Britain, Australia and the United States. So we have lots of disease but we also have a health care system which is fairly sophisticated in terms of its data, linkages and the national health index number for tracking. We are small enough that we can have the universities, hospitals and the ESR lab working together.

"This study will help us find out why infections are getting worse and develop a strategy for turning the situation around.

"The infectious disease issue is complex with origins in nutrition, housing and other factors. Poor nutrition underlies half the cases in the developing world. Malnutrition is also a factor here. We have a diet that, on the whole, has too much energy and not enough nutrients and unlike many developed countries we neither fortify our foods nor recommend nutrient supplementation. We have no policy securing good nutrition for pregnant women and young children such as they do in the United States.



Tracking influenza

Leading child health researchers from the University, Associate Professor Cameron Grant (above) in Paediatrics and Nikki Turner, Director of IMAC are taking a global perspective on infectious diseases. This is being done as part of a New Zealand research team led by ESR undertaking a multimillion dollar study into influenza funded by the United States.

The Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Research and Surveillance (SHIVERS) study, funded by the Centers for Disease Control in the United States, will investigate influenza and serious chest infections such as pneumonia as well as other lower respiratory tract infections.

The Auckland-based study will begin surveillance in 2012 on all people who are hospitalised with pneumonia and other serious respiratory infections at North Shore, Waitakere, Starship, Middlemore, Kidz First, and Auckland Hospital and continue over the next five years.

The Marsden Fund is for investigator-initiated research which can generate new knowledge. There are two categories of grants available:

Fast-Start grants for emerging researchers – ie PhD conferred within the last seven years. Funding is set at \$100,000 per year for three years.

Standard grants are open to established researchers as well as emerging researchers. Funding is generally up to \$300,000 per year for three years. The Marsden Fund requires applicants to submit a preliminary proposal by 28 February and, if invited, submit a full proposal in May. Results are announced in October.

What to do now: If you are intending to apply, contact Julia Zhu at the Research Office, j.zhu@auckland.ac.nz in the first instance to receive a link to the funder portal. Contact Chris Tews (Marsden Fund Specialist) at the Research Office for funding advice, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz ext 88301 or contact your Faculty Research Manager. See the Marsden Fund web site at www.royalsociety.org.nz

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has announced three new funding opportunities : Biomarkers of Gastrointestinal Function and Health

Closing date at the Research office 22 December 2011.

Discover New Ways to Achieve Healthy Growth.

Closing date at the Research Office is 18 January 2012

Exploring Pathways to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth

Closing date at the Research Office is 24 January 2012

For more information and guidelines see www.grandchallenges.org Research Office contact is David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84486

The European Union FP7 Institutional Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) supports multi-year programmes of exchanges between a group of institutions and is intended to develop and strengthen research links between Europe and the rest of the world. The external (EU) deadline is 18 January 2012. To give further information and offer advice on applying to prospective applicants, a workshop will be held on Wednesday 7 December, 1-3pm at the Research Office. For further information or to reserve a place please contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, Research Office, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz ext 84486.



In late October, the Fine Arts Library received a copy of *A True and Strange Story: the life of Teuane Ann Tibbo 1895-1984* written by her eighty-year-old daughter Audie Pennefather. Achievement late in life seems to be a family trait: Teuane Tibbo began her art career aged 69, spurred into action by the results of Elam training this same daughter showed her.

Introduced by Pat Hanly, Barry Lett organised Teuane Tibbo's first solo exhibition at the Uptown Gallery in Queen Street in 1964. The *Te Ao Hou* reviewer was impressed: "Mrs Teuane Tibbo, who is aged 70, began painting only last year. Her paintings of the remembered landscapes of her youth have an innocence and directness of vision and a strong and natural sense of design." By July of 1965, she had a dealer gallery show in Elizabeth Bay in Sydney. She met Tony Fomison, Michael Illingworth and Denys Watkins when they bought her paintings, and her works soon entered public collections including the National

Gallery in Canberra. Visiting master potter Shoji Hamada bought three to take back to Japan in 1965. The University acquired Samoan Village at auction two years after Teuane Tibbo's death in Papakura in 1984, and it featured in Bronwyn Fletcher's 2002 survey of Tibbo's work from the years 1964-1974 at Lopdell House Gallery and most

recently in City Gallery's Oceania.

Bright and busy, the composition is typical of the glimpses of early twentieth century Samoan village life as earthly paradise that Teuane Tibbo enjoyed painting. Using her usual high viewpoint, symmetry and leaps of scale, she orders tropical vegetation including coconuts, hibiscus and taro into parallel rows. Villagers are similarly regimented, and lined up with the various fale structures, while an outsized parked bicycle announces the arrival of an important visitor. Giant red and orange hibiscus bushes bloom raucously in the background against a line of hills that McCahon might have wished he had painted. Wispy clouds percolate above in a blue Pacific sky.

In contrast to this idyllic image, Teuane Tibbo's early life in Samoa was far from peaceful. Born on the island of Upolu in 1895, just after the end of the first Samoan civil war (and ten months after the death there at age 44

of the Scottish poet Robert Louis Stevenson whom she claimed to have met), her early life coincided with the contest for control of Samoa between the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. As a teenager she witnessed the beginnings of the Mau movement for independence in 1908 and the arrival of New Zealand Expeditionary Forces sent to seize and occupy German Samoa during World War One. On the home front, things were no less turbulent. Her first unhappy marriage to a New Zealander, William Betham, ended when she shot him and he later died of gangrene. After imprisonment, she married another New Zealander, Edward Victor Tibbo in 1920 at the age of 25. Six years later he uprooted her and their eight children to live in Fiji for the next twenty years.

In 1946 the family arrived in New Zealand where Edward worked as an engineer in Mangakino, Rotorua and Grey Lynn before retirement in Kingsland. There a vision of Santa coming down New North Road inspired her to paint, as she recalls in a 1974 interview: "So I started painting Father Christmas coming down the hill, four reindeer, in the snow. The next day I had four paintings, then 20. I couldn't stop. It was a game to me. The television came, the newspaper, and the artist [Pat Hanly]. All the artists came and looked at it this way and that way. All the questions they asked!"

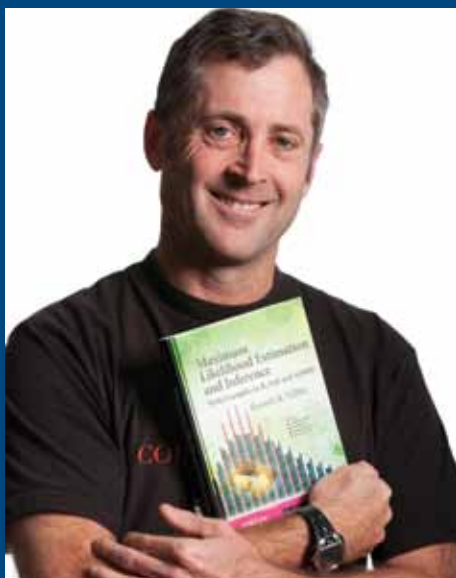
Teuane Tibbo continued to live a life as colourful as her painting until 1984, dying in her 90th year.

Linda Tyler

Teuane Tibbo (1895-1984) Samoan village, c.1965, oil on canvas on board, 595 x 900mm

Books

New Zealand's next top (data) model



If you have to model data, Associate Professor Russell Millar's new book is for you. Russell, a fisheries modelling expert in the Department of Statistics, says his first book *Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Inference* (Wiley, 2011) takes a pragmatic, rigorous, real-world approach in exploring maximum likelihood modelling "regardless of whether readers are grad students or researchers."

The 357-page book contextualises theory in a relevant and motivating way, offering examples and case studies from medicine, biology and ecology, as well as small pieces of code that can be freely downloaded from Dr Millar's University web page.

"In many ways," says Russell, "the book is the next step up from the sanitised models like linear regression, ANOVA and chi-square tests that are

used in undergrad teaching, and provides the skills that are needed out in the real world." Examples are presented in the programmes SAS, ADMB, and also R, the free statistical and graphic computing software born in the Department of Statistics in the mid-1990s that has since taken the world by storm.

"R has created an open sharing of extremely useful code," says Russell. "The book shows how to make use of R packages to avoid nasty computations that would have been prohibitive not too many years ago."

Russell says he was prompted to start writing the book because he felt there was "a need for a something that was both rigorous and readable. All of the existing books seemed to do one or the other, but not both."

What's on

THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER

Globalisation, higher education and the knowledge economy: Refiguring subjects and spaces in the neoliberal university symposium

Runs until 2 December, ClockTower Presentation Rm.

The neoliberal reframing of universities as economic engines and the growing emphasis on higher education as a commercial enterprise are significantly changing the mission and meaning of the university. This symposium will address the way universities in NZ and elsewhere are engaging with these processes and the neoliberal higher education policies and practices that are driving them.

Speakers include: Roger Dale (UK), Chris Tremewan (Singapore), Ole Henckel (Denmark), Campbell Jones, Cris Shore, Matheson Russell, Elizabeth Rata, Stephen Turner, Sean Sturm, Mark Amsler, Nick Lewis (New Zealand). RSVP to l.read@auckland.ac.nz

Pedagogy of Possibilities: The 2nd Critical Studies in Drama in Education International Symposium

Runs until 2 December. 9am Faculty of Education Epsom Campus.

RSVP and register with Stacey Davis, s.davis@auckland.ac.nz

Carbon dioxide in the urban atmosphere workshop

10am-2pm Runs until 2 December. Rm 307, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. The aim of this workshop is to review the latest developments with respect to CO₂ measurement in urban areas, discuss Auckland's CO₂ reductions initiatives, and develop an innovative and agenda setting CO₂ measurement programme for Auckland which addresses the needs of the research and end-user communities.

Hosted by the School of Environment. Queries to l.schwendenmann@auckland.ac.nz

RSVP to i.hindle@auckland.ac.nz

Department of Sport and Exercise Science research seminar

Assoc Prof Greg Anson: *Motor conversion disorder: A brain mystery*. 12.30-1.30pm Room 733-234, Tāmaki Innovation Campus, 261 Morrill Rd. The seminar is open to all. Queries to Kharmin, k.sukhia@auckland.ac.nz

Publisher introduction training

1-4pm Student Learning Training Rm, 3rd Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. Phone 923 7951 with queries or to enrol.

Inaugural lecture

By new professors at The University of Auckland.

Prof Suzanne Purdy, Psychology: *Listening and speaking: Psychoacoustics, communication and quality of life*. 5.30pm refreshments in Cafe Europa, Building 733, 6pm lecture in Lecture Theatre, 732.201, Tāmaki Innovation Campus. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/inaugural

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER

Windows 7 Upgrade training

9-11am Student Learning Training Rm, 3rd Floor, Kate Edger Information

Commons. Phone 923 7951 with queries or to enrol.

NZ Asia Institute seminar

Dr David Skilling, Landfall Strategy Group: *Think small: Challenges and opportunities facing small countries in a rapidly changing global economy*. 3-4pm Rm 310, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to d.towle@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER

Exhibition talk

1pm The Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Collectors Alison Reid and Brian Ronson discuss the fine art of collecting ceramics and their mutual obsession with Crown Lynn. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER

Evoking and provoking narrative and metaphor in education symposium

9am-4.30pm Music Auditorium (B Block), Faculty of Education, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave.

Narrative and metaphor figure greatly in current discussion about education. Researchers, practitioners, and activists working on narrative and/or metaphor in any aspect of education are invited to participate in this symposium.

For further information please email e.fitzpatrick@auckland.ac.nz

Dean's distinguished speaker series

Brendon Lynch, Microsoft Corporation: *Looking into the future: Trends and implications for data, technology and policy*. 5.30-8pm Lecture Theatre OGGB3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to m.barr@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER

NZ Mathematical Society Colloquium

Runs until 8 December. The annual Colloquium brings together the mathematical community of NZ while welcoming overseas visitors to join us. Time will be dedicated to the discussion of all aspects of pure and applied mathematics. Talks will be given by internationally recognised leaders in the field and also by emerging researchers and postgraduate students. Visit nzmathsoc.org.nz/colloquium/home.php

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER

Expanding Documentary: Sound, Image, Text Conference

Runs until 9 December. Ngā Wai o Horotiu Marae. Focusing on non-fiction and documentary-related work produced within Aotearoa, Australia and the Asia Pacific region, the conference includes presentations of works-in-progress or recently completed works, as well as academic papers. The overarching, interdisciplinary ethos is on new and revised directions in thinking and practice while keeping in sight significant questions of subjectivity, embodiment, ethics, history, politics, economy and technology in the process

of making and interpreting documentary works. Held in association with the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies. Queries to documentary@aut.ac.nz

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER

The University of Auckland Society Christmas Celebration

5-8pm OGH. Expose yourself to student ingenuity, artistic expression, lively conversation, and the opportunity to take home an exquisite or unique purchase through our silent auction. We invite you and your guests to join us. Purchase tickets at <http://web.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/alumni/news/rsvp/christmas-celebration-2011.cfm>

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

Exhibition talk

1pm The Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Potter Peter Lange talks about the importance of bricks, which have become a key ingredient in his recent work, including new public installations in New Lynn where Crown Lynn and Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Company Ltd were once based. The bricks that make up the distinctive exterior of the Gus Fisher Gallery, were manufactured by Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Company. Visit www.gusfishergallery.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 or log on to 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

Central Orewa: Make the most of your weekends at Orewa beach. Five bdrms, office, two bthrms, new carpet/paint. Two-minute walk to beach, clubs, sports, shops, banks, schools. Regular bus service to city. N/s, no pets. \$650 pw. Long-term rental preferred. Available from 1 December. Phone (027) 275 8585.

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

Queenstown. Rustic, fully self-contained house comprising comfortable large living spaces, country kitchen, three dble bdrms. Quiet mature people only,

medium/long-term stay. \$600 pw. Peaceful, rural, lake-front location ideal for summer sabbatical /study writing/art retreat. Email jjingqt@xtra.co.nz

Torbay. Four-bdrm family home, furnished, available mid-January 2012 to January 2013. Study area, two bthrms, dble garage with internal access. Large secluded section, seven minutes walk to beach. Close to schools and city bus route. Rent negotiable. Phone 473 6380 or email Roger, r.halkyard@auckland.ac.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

I am looking to rent a family house for six months starting January or February 2012. This would lie in the Western Springs College catchment area (Pt Chev to Ponsonby, Westmere, Grey Lynn etc) and have at least three bdrms. Please contact Prof Saville Kushner at savillekushner@hotmail.co.uk

Professional woman looking for one-bdrm flat or a house share with like-minded 30+ female. Prefer Herne Bay or Tamaki Drive areas. I am working full-time, am considerate and house-proud, into hiking on the weekends, and like to share the occasional wine with my flatmate. Referees available. Happy to pay up to \$250 pw (plus exp), and look after the cat or walk the dog. Own bathroom and proximity to beaches would be a plus. Please contact s.kruekel@auckland.ac.nz

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Charming, sunny, fully furnished Waiheke cottage, walking distance to beaches and near bus stop. Suit couple or family of up to 5. \$125 a night, (minimum three nights) or \$750 pw. (BYO bed linen and towels, no pets). Contact pat.neuwelt@xtra.co.nz or phone (09) 849 4457 or (021) 136 1759.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Conservation shareholding. Share available in 420ha covenanted Brynderwyns bush property, 10 minutes from Mangawhai Heads. Includes own delightful architect-designed cottage in beautiful surroundings. Active conservationists sought. Enjoy joint land ownership, privacy, clean streams and bush tracks while helping care for the land. A special place for special people. POA. Phone (09) 376 4069 or email marunui.share@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Editing and proofreading services for all academic, literary and general writing (short or lengthy items). Please contact Dr Jan White, (021) 025 87579 or email jweddingservices1@gmail.com

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

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



SUNSHINE THE BEST POLICY

Gehan Gunasekara argues that the hysteria behind “Epsomgate” misses the point of the public’s right to information

Let’s be clear: the complaint laid by the Prime Minister with police over the alleged illegal recording of his conversation with Act candidate John Banks was a red herring, an attempt to prevent potentially embarrassing material being published prior to the election whilst the recording itself is unlikely to amount to criminal behaviour.

The criminal law is relatively straightforward. Part 9A of the Crimes Act criminalises the use of interception devices, the interception and subsequent disclosure of private communications. However, apart from the need to prove intentional conduct to secure a conviction, the operative definition of “private communication” is crucial. This definition states that it does not include “a communication occurring in circumstances in which any party ought reasonably to expect that the communication may be intercepted by some other person”.

The events that apparently took place in the Epsom café differ vastly from the *News of the World* scandal in Britain, earlier this year. In that case, individuals’ voicemail accounts were hacked into, something that could only take place intentionally. There is an expectation that outsiders will not access our voicemail, usually protected by PIN numbers. Had a microphone been introduced into John Key’s limousine, or his cell phone conversation intercepted, this would

no doubt constitute criminal behaviour. On the other hand, overhearing a cell phone conversation, even one not intended to be publicly aired, is not an offence.

A microphone left on the table ought not to be any different given the context. This was a media circus intended to be a public spectacle. As the parallel events involving President Obama and President Sarkozy in Europe recently highlight – they were both caught out discussing their mutual dislike of the Israeli Prime Minister – the distinction between on and off the record is a matter of convention and not law. A prudent politician should assume every microphone is a live one. Where journalists are in the immediate vicinity it is a fair assumption that microphones may also be present (directional ones for instance).

The setting in which the meeting occurred is also a key factor. Not only were others within earshot but a lip reader could clearly observe the conversation through the glass barrier. Key and Banks therefore ought reasonably to have expected that the communication may be intercepted by some other person in terms of the statutory defence which is an objective standard, irrespective of what they believed. Case closed.

More pertinent, however, is the question whether any right to privacy or of confidentiality existed in the contents of the conversation that could be protected through the civil law. Here, the position is even more clear-cut. Judicial precedents from New Zealand and overseas have consistently ruled that little or no

expectation of secrecy exists in public spaces, even secluded areas of restaurants. In the United States there have been cases where journalists have surreptitiously filmed or recorded conversations in just such arenas.

Although the First Amendment to the US Constitution would trump any attempt to restrict media publication in that country, the position in New Zealand is not dissimilar due to the courts here having to consider our Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the public interest. The more nuanced approach in New Zealand necessitates a balancing of competing interests. In the case of the Epsom tapes there can be little doubt where the balance tilts. Given the proximity to the general election, the controversy over the endorsement of Banks in Epsom and tension between National and Act in other electorates, there is an overwhelming public interest in disclosure. In particular, the public has a right to know if any discrepancy exists as between the Prime Minister’s and John Bank’s public statements and their private ones. Whether in the case of Helen Clark’s “Corngate” or John Key’s “Epsomgate”, sunshine is the best disinfectant and the only course of action that will put the issue to rest.

Gehan Gunasekara researches and teaches privacy law at The University of Auckland Business School