



THE POWER OF SONG

June Rigg (left) and Mary Brown, members of the CeleBRation Choir in the foreground, with music therapist Alison Talmage during the mayoral visit

Choral singing might just be one of the most pleasant ways to help oneself after stroke or brain injury.

This is one of the reasons why the Centre for Brain Research's 30-strong CeleBRation Choir for people who have had a stroke, Parkinson's or other neurological diseases is going from strength to strength. So much so in fact that recently Mayor of Auckland Len Brown joined the weekly rehearsal of the Visiting Brain Recovery Clinic at Tāmaki Innovation Campus, vouching for the role of singing in his own recovery from serious illness.

"Singing, according to brain scans, may be more akin to instrumental performance than to speaking," says Head of Speech Science, Professor Suzanne Purdy, who is leading research into the power of song in recovery from illnesses like stroke. She says that stroke sufferers often can sing but not speak. There is no complete answer why.

"Singing requires and activates many different areas of the brain, song is remembered in chunks, and embedded with more emotion than speech."

It is this multiplicity which might provide the advantage over speech after stroke. Singing also exercises to the vocal muscles for people with Parkinson's disease, and so may play a part in delaying the loss of voice quality and control.

"The role of the music therapist is also a critical success factor for group engagement and recovery," says Suzanne Purdy. So while all eyes were on Mayor Brown at the recent practice, a video camera tracked across the room to music therapist Alison Talmage. The recording will be used to code the various ways Alison interacts with and manages the choir as part of the HRC-funded SPICCATO study (Stroke and Parkinson's: Investigating Community Choir Engagement and Therapeutic Outcomes).

Alison has 20 years of teaching experience,

and her masters in music therapy from the New Zealand School of Music provided a "very eclectic training in the use of music as a therapeutic modality with people with all sorts of special needs or conditions throughout their lifespan with all sorts of special needs or conditions".

"Music therapy is a small but growing allied health profession with the choir the only application of this at the University," says Alison.

In New Zealand pockets of music therapy work exist mainly for children with special needs, the elderly and in mental health. It is hoped that this research might provide hard evidence of the unique benefits of singing in vocal function, language and overall quality of life.



Once again, and with alarming speed, the time has arrived for me to write this last column of the year, and to reflect on the challenges and achievements of 2011.

The year has, of course, been dominated by the Canterbury earthquakes. I am very proud of the way in which The University of Auckland has worked with colleagues in Christchurch, notably the University of Canterbury which was particularly hard hit. For example, some of our engineers who were in Christchurch on 22 February remained to help inspect and assess damaged buildings, and have subsequently provided public comment, research and advice in support of the recovery. Many of our staff supported and taught the nearly 100 Canterbury students who arrived here for a first semester "exchange", while several of our donors provided financial support for those students. Staff of the Graduation Office organised a graduation ceremony for Canterbury in the Maidment Theatre, thus helping that university achieve a sense of normality. And our External Relations team recently organised the largest alumni event in Christchurch in recent memory. Meanwhile, the University has been instrumental in helping to ensure that Government funding of the Canterbury-based universities remains stable, at least for the next couple of years, despite the inevitable decline in student numbers.

The fact that we have been able to support our colleagues in these and other ways testifies to the genuine collaborative spirit that exists between the nation's universities, even if we are from time to time also competitors. Meanwhile, our University has continued to perform at a very high level, increasing the quality of its students, the scale and impact of its research, the support it receives from donors and the quality of its built infrastructure. These are spectacular achievements at a time of increasingly constrained resources. As always, I must acknowledge the contributions and support of Council, staff and students, alumni, donors and friends of the University. It is you who make this the great institution it is.

Next year we face the challenge of completing our new Strategic Plan and charting a course for the University to 2020. For now, it is time for a well-deserved holiday. Deborah and I wish you and your families the very best for a restful and safe Christmas break.



Press goes digital

Come March next year, 250 of Auckland University Press's backlist books and all new books will be available as ebooks to read on Kindles and iPads and every other device - a bigger offering than any other New Zealand publisher

"We are working hard on our ebook plans to make sure that our great books and authors flourish in the new digital world," says Press Director Dr Sam Elworthy. "That's because we are pretty confident that two digital developments overseas will be hitting our shores over the next couple of years. " These are firstly the rapid growth of the consumer ebook market-in the US and UK with up to 40 percent of new title sales sold as ebooks for reading on Kindles and iPads, Nooks and Android phones. Secondly there is a push to integrate books fully into libraries' digital holdings, so that scholars can access the complete world of books from their computer as easily as they can now access journal content.

So why does AUP have so many books undergoing conversion?

"We have been publishing books since the 1920s," points out Sam, "and so we have one of the biggest backlists in New Zealand - around 800 titles altogether. And, unlike many mass market titles, a strong scholarly title can

continue to find new readers consistently ten or 20 years after publication. We culled through our complete list of titles and identified around 250 of our most important books that we thought important to move into the digital world. Many of these books are currently out of print, others are hidden deep within libraries, so we think that bringing those books out as ebooks will enable a big chunk of New Zealand cultural life to be newly accessible to individual book buyers and to scholars here and overseas."

The Press's ebook list will be larger than other New Zealand publishers because of the size and longevity of its publishing. "We've just produced a whole lot of major books that it makes sense to convert to ebooks and we are able to undertake such a major conversion programme because of the enthusiasm of our supporters. The Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund and grants from Creative New Zealand and Copyright Licensing Ltd were critical in enabling us to undertake such a major programme.

"At the Press, we love winning awards for big beautiful hardback books, we like the smell of ink and the look of a ligature. But converting our titles to ebooks will enable us to access new readers, in new formats, in new parts of the world and that's a great adventure to be part of."

Supporting Rainbow staff and students



The Faculty of Education's rainbow group initiative is running a one-day hui: "Towards an inclusive culture: Queers in tertiary education" at Epsom Campus on 13 February 2012.

The inaugural event which follows Auckland's Big Gay Out will include research presentations, a panel discussion and workshops. Key speakers include Kevin Hague from the Green Party who will talk about the "It gets better" campaign.

"The aim of the hui is to host a celebratory event affirming Rainbow staff and students' place within the University and to provide a platform where members/networks meet to exchange ideas, share their research and resources, and explore opportunities for future collaborative work," says Dr Ruth Williams, Associate Dean Students, Faculty of Education.

The event has been supported by the Faculty of Education's Equity Committee and it is hoped there will be follow-up "Affirming Diversity" sessions and workshops later in the year. These will be piloted at the Epsom Campus.

For more information on the one-day hui in February see: www.education.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/events/events

Preparing for PBRF

Evidence Portfolio preparation is well underway for many PBRF-eligible researchers across the University. With the deadline inching closer, activity is increasing, and many will take advantage of the December-January period to create and refine their Evidence Portfolios using the PBRF tool in the Research Outputs module.

Evidence Portfolios are to be completed by the end of March 2012, ready for review, feedback and scoring by University internal review panels in April. Last-minute changes can then be made before final sign-off on 31 May and submission to the Tertiary Education Commission. Key dates to note are:

Hands-on training and user guides are available to help those using the PBRF tool for the first time. PBRF faculty teams and the PBRF project team are working closely together to ensure a variety of support options are in place. The hands-on sessions, where attendees receive PBRF tool training as well as tips on improving the quality of their Evidence Portfolio, have been very well received. Session attendees have been impressed with both the user-friendliness of the PBRF tool, and the quality and structure of the workshop style sessions.

Dr Jennifer Kruger of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute is proactively avoiding the last-minute PBRF rush. She found the system “easy to use and fairly intuitive”, and recommended the training for colleagues “as it

definitely helps to go through the steps, and the handout is useful for future reference”.

Associate Professor Janie Sheridan, from the School of Pharmacy, added that the PBRF tool has vastly improved the Evidence Portfolio preparation process. She has come away with tips on making the most of the tool. She recommends that staff “put in the hard work in advance in getting your research outputs completed, before you do PBRF. Use the Research Outputs module as a repository for all your research-related outputs as they occur.”

More information about training sessions, user guides and where to go for help can be found on the PBRF web page:

<https://www.staff.auckland.ac.nz/uoq/home/staff-intranet/research-36/pbrf-and-research-outputs/using-the-pbrf-tool>



Elam art show



The annual Elam Graduate Show once again, attracted art enthusiasts from across the region.

Questions and concepts posed by artists were rich and varied. “What role does art play in the world?” Suzanne Insley, a BFA student, believes that art is a powerful influence that can change the world. Her photograph of a woman using a knife and fork on a man represents how dominant our species considers itself over others. “If we cannot treat innocent beings fairly, how are we expected to treat one another with kindness?” she asks. Her work brings the

message home that we are consuming beyond what is necessary and to the detriment of our planet as a whole.

Hollie Tawhiao, who has been studying for a BFA Hons, sees Māori “navigating a continuous and accelerating cultural shift, requiring compromise and adjustments to define cultural boundaries”. Hollie’s vision includes figures based on simplified traditional Tainui carving.

The work on show was from the 60th cohort of Elam students, who will formally graduate in May 2012. A full catalogue of exhibiting artists will be published to coincide with graduation.

2012 will see Elam celebrate 60 years of University of Auckland graduates with a special programme of exhibitions, lectures and events that began with the graduate show. For more information about the Elam Jubilee visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/elam-jubilee.

Hollie Tawhiao (left) (wall) *Sum of its (->) parts*, 2011. (on table) *Kia ora kitty*, 2011. Suzanne Insley (right), *A piece of meat*, 2011.

Pacific success in international spotlight



The University's Fale Pasifika set a fine and fitting stage for the Vice-Chancellor to highlight Pacific success at the University in his keynote address at the recent Equal Opportunities Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EOPHEA) conference.

Hosted in New Zealand for the first time, the biennial gathering brought together equity practitioners, and university and other tertiary

education providers who work in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region.

In recent years, theories and practices around equity have begun to shift from "deficit models" of diversity to policies, perspectives and programmes that value and affirm diversity, inclusiveness and a commitment to equity outcomes. Within this context, the Vice-Chancellor's presentation, "Pacific success:

From community outreach, recruitment and retention to academic success", was warmly received by the 150-strong delegation. His speech clearly demonstrated the numerous ways in which the University proactively engages with, and positively impacts, achievement among Māori and Pacific students among others.

Noting that 40 percent of New Zealand's Pacific graduates are from The University of

Auckland, the Vice-Chancellor said he was proud that the University's alumni include such esteemed Pacific leaders as the current Prime Minister of Samoa, as well as cabinet ministers and parliamentarians of various South Pacific countries, including New Zealand. He gave an overview of the Pacific-focused scholarships, pastoral support and academic mentoring programmes on offer within the University. They include the Pacific Heritage Artist in Residence, a programme that highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge and showcases important Pacific values such as reciprocity and respect; the Chancellor's Awards for Top Māori and Pacific Scholars (CATS); and the dedicated advisers and mentors for Māori and Pacific students through the University-wide Tuākana programmes.

As a result of the EOPHEA conference, senior members of the University have been invited to meet with colleagues at various Australasian universities to further discuss equity initiatives at their own institutions.

Laying the foundations



Some 126 students were honoured at the University's Tertiary Foundation Certificate Programme (TFC) graduation ceremony held at the Fale Pasifika on 24 November.

"Every year I invite people who began their tertiary studies with the TFC, to speak to our graduating students," said Programme Coordinator Stephanie Wyatt. "The loyalty and generosity of former TFC students means that I have rarely been turned down and I am always very touched by the enthusiastic response I get."

Andrew Faleatua (23) is one among many good examples of a successful academic career made possible by the University's TFC

programme. After finishing with home schooling and working for a year, Andrew wasn't sure what career path he wanted to take. His parents convinced him to participate in the TFC programme to get prepared to study at tertiary level. Full of self-doubt, Andrew found the courage to sit a two-hour diagnostic test to ascertain his English and mathematics abilities.

"It was quite bad actually and it was very intimidating having to step into the University and being interviewed and trying to convince Stephanie that I would be a hard-working student," Andrew told a large crowd at the Fale.

"Over the course of that year my grades progressively improved and looking back from where I am now after graduating and so forth, I can see that the TFC course had definitely fully prepared me to take on my undergraduate degree."

After passing the TFC programme in 2006, Andrew began to study for a Bachelor of Arts in Maths and swapped to Music, majoring in Jazz Performance a year later.

"I was awarded graduate scholar in the final year of my undergraduate degree, so this past year the scholarship has supported me financially and I've just completed my postgraduate Bachelor of Music Honours year with first class honours. Furthermore my music lecturers nominated me to compete in the Lewis Eady Emerging Artist competition where pianists are selected from around New Zealand to represent their university [...]. I am still awaiting

the results."

Andrew is currently putting together his masters proposal and will consider PhD study in the future.

"I love to teach from beginner to the more advanced levels - hence the reason why I would like to get a PhD or DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) under my belt. It would be great in the future to possibly give back to the University for everything they have given to me. I do love performing. It gives me adrenaline everytime."

After finishing his speech, Andrew got his daily adrenaline dose by performing the jazz song "Days of wine and roses" on the keyboard. He was accompanied by two University Music students Eamon Wells (bass) and Jared Desvoux de Marigny (drums).

A video of the performance can be watched on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNXUnXimTGg

Certificates were presented to the 2011 TFC graduates by Pro-Chancellor Dr Ian Parton. The Dean of Arts, Associate Prof Jan Crosthwaite presented the academic prizes to honour outstanding graduates of the TFC programme. The Rod McKay Memorial Prize to recognise excellent grades with aspirations to head in the direction of Engineering was given to Alex Talakai Puloka.

Alexander Paizanos

Doing the maths



“Women are just as good at mathematics as men, and why shouldn’t we be?” laughs Hinke Osinga, the first female Maths Professor at The University of Auckland – and only the second in New Zealand.

Hinke arrived here with her husband (fellow mathematician) Professor Bernd Krauskopf three months ago from Bristol University, where she had a similar role-model status. “We’ve already had events here in Auckland with female PhD students and undergraduates attending, and whenever our Head of Department gets the chance he’ll say: ‘Look over there, our female maths professor.’ Sometimes he’ll introduce us or they’ll come over themselves, but most of the time, they are a bit scared.”

But there is nothing scary about Hinke when she shows her passion for mathematics. Her research focus lies in Dynamical Systems - the theory of how systems change over time - and its applications, especially in neuroscience. With colleagues James Sneyd, Vivien Kirk and Martin Wechelberger (Sydney) she has just been awarded her second Marsden grant “Applications of multiscale excitable systems to calcium dynamics and neuroscience”, which is relevant to diseases such as Alzheimer’s,

Parkinson’s and epilepsy. Hinke’s contribution in this area concerns the analysis, both theoretical and numerical, of the dynamics of mathematical models and how this relates to the phenomena under study, such as the signalling mechanisms between cells. “The challenge is not only to gain mathematical insight,” she says, “but also to demonstrate its relevance to the application.”

Hinke, who is originally from the Netherlands, has also been collaborating with Bernd for 15 years. Their research focuses on using numerical approximation and visualisation of time-invariant objects to understand the origins of complex behaviour, such as chaotic dynamics. While fundamental in nature, the research is important for applied questions as diverse as the parameter sensitivity of neuron cells, coupling effects of lasers and the handling of aircraft on the ground. Bernd and Hinke are jointly supervising PhD students Pablo Aguirre, Jennifer Creaser, Stefanie Hittmeyer, and Peter Langfield, who have come with them to Auckland from the UK.

Hinke is impressed that the Dynamical Systems Group at the Maths Department is gender balanced, with three female and three male academics, and a high proportion of female PhD students and postdocs. Bernd agrees that the comparatively high ratio of women in the group and the department creates “a more natural academic environment that is to the benefit of both women and men.”

For Hinke’s part she hopes that women will take notice and think to themselves: “I’d like to be a mathematician too.”

Aid for geothermal study

Geothermal energy has been given a boost with 25 new scholarships available next year for international postgraduate students to study the subject at the University.

The scholarships are being funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Aid Programme.

Of the 25 scholarships about half will be for Indonesians - building on the close cooperation between the two countries in the field of geothermal energy.

Faculty of Engineering Dean Professor Michael Davies says the University recognises that as a leader in geothermal research and education it has an important role to play in the Government’s plan for geothermal development.

More than 850 students from more than 50 countries have graduated from the University’s Geothermal Institute with a world recognised qualification in geothermal energy; many have gone on to become leaders in the global geothermal industry.

New Zealand Aid programme, Deputy Secretary Amanda Ellis says that the scholarships will help contribute to sustainable economic development in the participating countries.

“New Zealand sees access to clean, reliable and affordable energy as essential for sustainable economic development and the New Zealand Aid Programme is pleased to be supporting this innovative partnership with The University of Auckland’s Geothermal Institute.”

Research Plus is now sending out automated reminders to Principal Investigators (PIs) to assist them with returning reports to research funders on time. PIs will receive reminders one month and one week ahead of the Research Office deadline, with an extra reminder three months ahead of the deadline for final reports. Once the report is received and submitted to the funder, it is uploaded into the module and future reminders and escalations are blocked. If reports and coversheets are not received on time, a series of escalations is activated to assist PIs and faculties to manage following-up on the outstanding reports. For further guidance see the Research Intranet pages at: Research/Manage Your Research Funding/Reporting to Funders or phone the Research Office Helpdesk on ext 87956.

Success in international funding

The University received five international awards in November. The following grants were awarded or had contracts signed and the Research Office extends its congratulations to:

- Associate Professor Edmund Crampin, Bioengineering, funded under an NIH subcontract for “The virtual physiological rat project”
- Dr Maarten Koeners, a visiting EU Marie Curie fellow from Utrecht University, will spend 24 months at the Physiology Department considering rechargeable telemetry-based electrochemical sensors: Kidney oxygenation and health.
- Dr Thor Besier, of the Bioengineering Institute has funding under an NIH subcontract to help develop software for multi-modal image segmentation, meshing, and OpenSim model generation.
- Associate Professor Suzanne Purdy, Science has funding from the Oticon Foundation to consider “Voice disorder in teachers: prevalence risk factor and vocal loading”.
- Professor Peter Hunter from the bioengineering Institute has an ARC “Linkages” collaborative research award to consider Bioengineered bioscaffolds for Achilles tendinopathy treatment

Early Career Research Excellence Awards

Early career researchers who have completed their PhD or equivalent no more than eight years ago and are in the early years of developing a research career are eligible to apply for this. There are six awards annually, of up to \$25,000 per award. The closing date for 2012 applications at Faculty Office is 17 February 2012. For advice and assistance with your application, please register your interest with Mandy Brown, Internal Fund Specialist, Research Office, ext 82735 or mandy.brown@auckland.ac.nz



Constituting a system that became a style, Ian Scott's lattices remain his signature works. His "basic over-and-under pattern" paintings went into production in 1976, after a decade of *Girlie* paintings. Like an industrial product, each lattice suggests a limitless number of colour ways, but Scott drew the line on the series in 1982 after making over 200 sequentially numbered variations on the idea. Now that he is again investigating the pictorial possibilities of scantily-clad girls, Scott rarely makes a lattice painting. When he does, the resulting interlace is like a puzzle solved: a two-dimensional Rubik's cube. The compositions are tricky but seem deceptively simple: a few bands of pure acrylic colour laid down over a

square white canvas ground. Optical effects generated by complementary colours cause these reduced elements to magically weave together and bounce into three dimensions like a kete.

Scott is aiming for the same effect as the American painter Kenneth Noland whose *Plaid* series deployed colour bands interweaving and crossing each other, lacing the whole surface together. Everything is subordinate to the compositional grid in Scott's work, so that even dangerously similar colours like the blues in this painting, can't dominate. Brush strokes are hidden and masking tape eliminates human

messiness around the edges. Without figures or other imagery, attention focuses on the formal elements: colour relationships and how they work.

Produced in a suburban New Zealand context, the colours and patterns in the lattices reflect their origin without illustrating it. As Kenneth Noland wrote: "Colour can convey a total range of mood and expression, of one's experiences in life, without having to give it descriptive or literary qualities." So not literally a depiction of trellis work, deck chair webbing or a Maori kete, but still carrying those kiwiana associations, and fitting in with the surroundings – like a logo on a van, on a hoarding outside a dairy or a T-shirt emblem. Hamilton City Council even used one

of Ian Scott's lattice designs for the paving of Garden Place in the city centre.

Just as contradictory is the sense of space in the lattices. Each one seems part of a continuous all-over pattern, yet the compositional system is not symmetrical, so not extendable. Colours are orchestrated to play complements like red and green off against each other, and create an optical illusion. Pictorial space is similarly homegrown and experimental: Scott introduced black to his Lattices for the first time in 1978. Bright and hot colours like red push forward and the cool blues and greens pull back, contained by bands of black like military ribbons. Black and white complicate the effect, punctuating the surface and introducing a sense of a void beyond the bands. Integral to the surface itself, and completely flat, the colours end up performing the work.

Oscillating between abstract and representational art throughout his career, Ian Scott wants his viewers to recognise the similarity between the constituents of abstraction and representation. Continuously using diagonals within a square format, he picks his way between American all-over abstraction and the New Zealand optical alternative epitomised by Gordon Walters. The content of Scott's lattices is the way they solve their formal problems – everything tied together artificially and complicated but disguised as easy and natural.

Linda Tyler

Ian Scott (b.1945), Lattice No. 63, 1979
Acrylic on canvas, 1525 x 1525mm

Books



Alumnus Nicholas Reid took all his degrees at The University of Auckland – first an MA in English and French literature; then an MTheol in Church History; and finally a PhD in History. He is the author of three biographies and three works of social history, including *The University*

of Auckland – The First 125 Years, published by AUP in 2008. His first collection of poetry, *The Little Enemy*, has just been published by Steele Roberts. Dr Reid comments:-

I began writing poetry seriously eight years ago, when I had a university fellowship to research a history book. I was informally mentored by a well-known New Zealand poet. We made an agreement that I would write at least one new poem a week and she would critique it. I've stuck with this arrangement.

At first, I wrote about whatever moved me, whatever came into my head. I gradually found that my poems reflected four interests – childhood and family memories; adult encounters with places; religious and

philosophical problems; and reactions to the arts.

Whenever I write a poem I'm concerned with that individual poem, and not with how it will fit into a book. As I became more actively immersed in poetry I submitted my efforts to poetry journals and got some encouraging acceptances. I also twice guest-edited *Poetry New Zealand*. As I put *The Little Enemy* together, my four preoccupations asserted themselves. That is why the collection is divided into four parts, roughly following these interests.

I deal with things like the experience of driving back from Galway to Dublin; of randomly meeting people at bus-stops; of admiring my daughter's pet rabbit; of wondering how religion plays out in our society and in some older societies.

\$125,000 fellowship to Law lecturer



Auckland Law School senior lecturer Christopher Hare has won the NZ Law Foundation's 2011 International Research Fellowship, New Zealand's premier legal research award.

The annual award, worth \$125,000, supports research either in this country or overseas that aims to make a significant contribution to New Zealand law.

His research will be published in a book, *Banks in the Conflict of Laws*, and will cover legal issues arising from international banking operations. It will deal with three broad areas: the intersection between international banking regulation and the conflict of laws; conflict of laws problems around the bank-customer relationship; and legal problems around bank payment systems and recovery of mistaken payments.

The book will shed light on issues

that often come to court but have received little academic treatment. Banks are often involved in significant litigation where conflict of laws issues are raised – the book will fill a gap in detailed analysis of how conflict of law principles operate on bank payment instruments and the banker-customer relationship.

His study is especially timely given efforts to produce a coordinated response to the global financial meltdown, which has highlighted the inter-connectedness of domestic banking systems.

Christopher is a graduate of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard. His specialty teaching and research areas include banking law and international sales and finance, company and insolvency law, conflict of laws, and law of obligations.

What's on

THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Critical Studies in Education lecture

Prof Louise Morley, Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research, University of Sussex, UK: *Sex, grades and silence: The impact of feminist research on higher education globally*. 1-2.30pm Room N357, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus.

This seminar will focus on research findings on gender violence in higher education.

For more information, contact Barbara Grant at bm.grant@auckland.ac.nz or ext 48272.

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Postgraduate Certificate awards

4.30-6pm Room 220, Building 730, School of Population Health, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

Professor Alistair Woodward invites you to attend the annual celebration for the students who are completing the Postgraduate Certificate programme. There will be drinks and nibbles followed by the formal presentation of certificates.

RSVP to Barbara Brooking b.brooking@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER

Exhibition talk

1pm The Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Mary Morrison and Billy Apple discuss their collections of Fiesta ware and Dorothy Thorpe tableware. 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

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 jjinqt@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

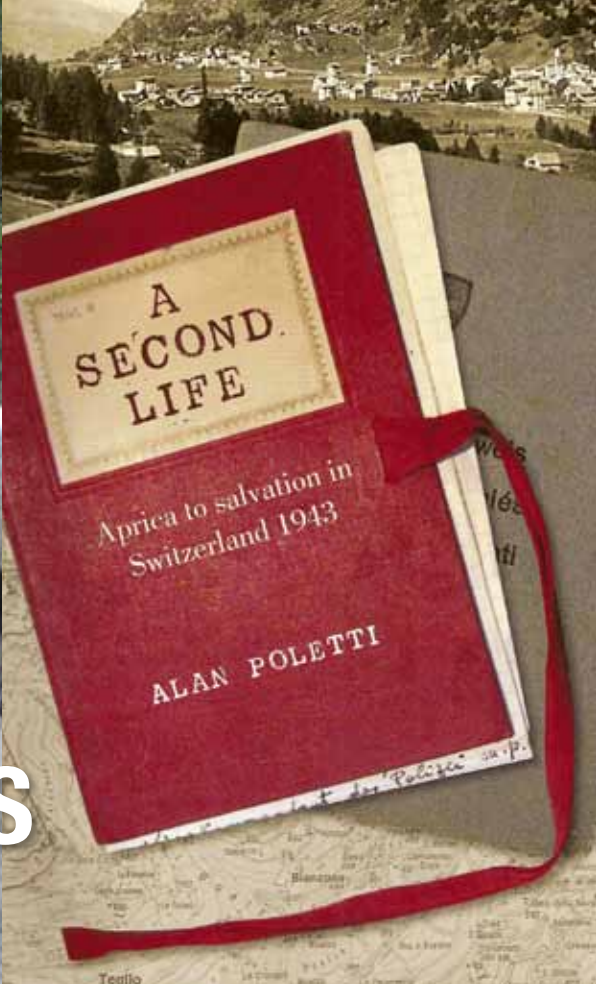
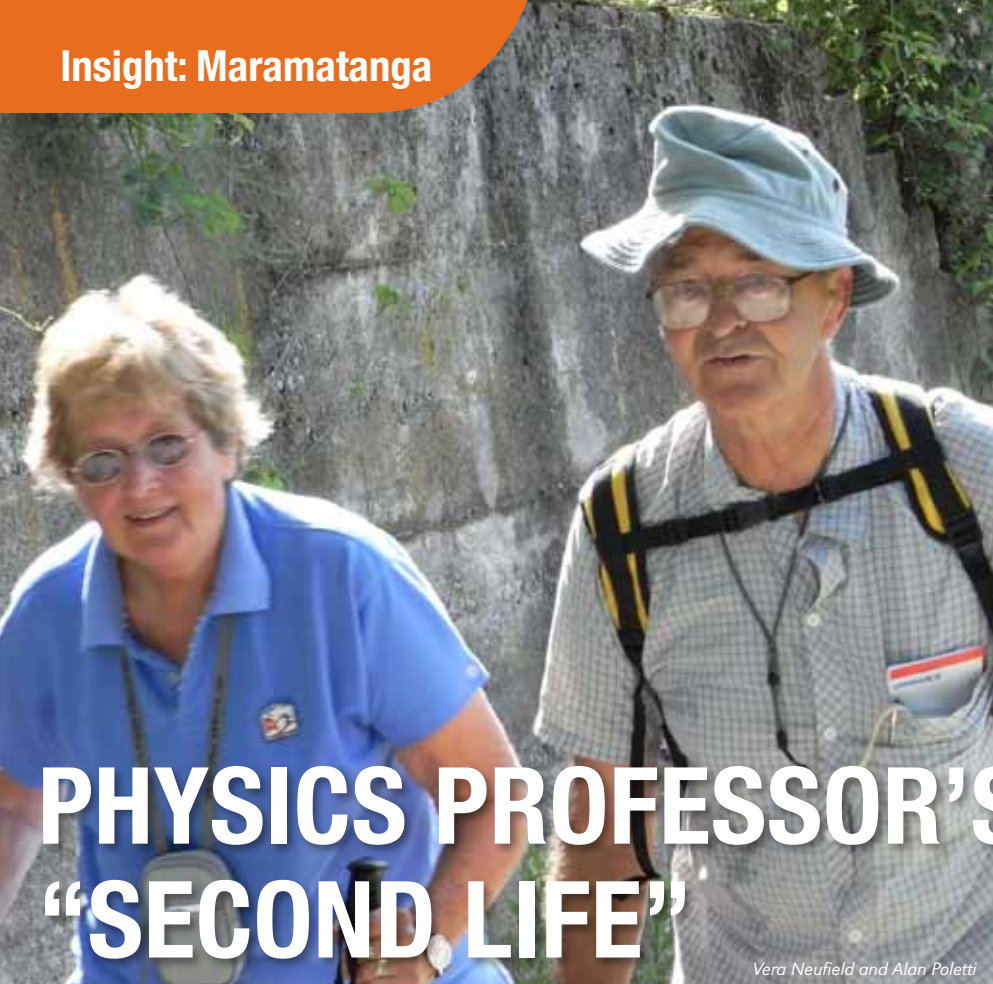
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Claire Morrison-Rooney DipEdit, GradDipBus, MMgt - Business. Phone (09) 4864246 or 021739992 or email csr.clm@xtra.co.nz

Claire has worked in management positions at the UoA for 16 years and is currently employed on a part-time basis.

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.



PHYSICS PROFESSOR'S "SECOND LIFE"

Vera Neufield and Alan Poletti

When Emeritus Professor of Physics, Alan Poletti took early retirement from the University in 1999, one of the things he wanted to do was to find out more about his grandfather's Italian heritage. The following year while seeking this information in the comune of Villa di Tirano, which is in the Italian Alps right on the Swiss border, Alan made an intriguing discovery.

"We met don Crillo Vitalini who had been the Stazzona parish priest for over 40 years and learned that he had helped Jews to flee to Switzerland during the war and when the parish funds ran low, would smuggle goods into Italy over those high mountains. No ordinary priest," observes Alan.

Another priest's name was also mentioned: don Giuseppe Carozzi who helped many people who had been interned at a place called Aprica to find salvation in Switzerland in September 1943.

"And that's where it lay for a while," says Alan over a cup of coffee in his Ponsonby villa.

"But every time I went back to Villa di Tirano, I began to pick up information and I realised no one really knew what had happened. If you're a physicist you gather the information and you do an experiment. Well I couldn't do that but there was a record of the experiment if you like in archives. I went to the Italian Central archives in Rome and there was a wonderful record. It was a complaint actually that 200-odd people had escaped from Aprica illegally. A list was furnished of these people ... I was starting to get hard facts. I could match Italian and Swiss lists and that allowed me to identify almost all the

people that left illegally and got to Switzerland. Not all of them were Jews; some were political prisoners or communists."

By now Alan realised he had a book on his hands. "No one had written anything about this time that didn't involve too many assumptions," he says. "Originally what I wrote was going to be an academic thing."

But then Alan's research led him to Vera Neufield in Sydney who had been a child when her family escaped from Aprica and crossed the border on 16 September 1943, and he realised he had the material for an important story to tell "from all angles". The result is *A Second Life: Aprica to salvation in Switzerland 1943*, about to be published by Toile Press and available from January at: www.toilepress.com

Beginning with Alan's personal voyage of discovery, the book tells the story of over 200 internees (internati libero) who had crossed the border from Yugoslavia to Italy – some Yugoslavs, others Germans, Austrians, Czechoslovakians and Hungarians. Although reasonably comfortable at Aprica, when the Armistice between the Italians and the Allies was announced on the evening of 8 September, the internees knew they had only a few days to find safety in Switzerland. With the help of the two priests and the commanders of the carabinieri at Aprica and the Italian border guards all but one of the internees were guided over mountain passes to safety.

Alan, who has explored all these mountain routes himself, carefully traces the internees' escape and allows first-hand accounts from several to vividly illustrate the drama of their

flight. He also lists the internees and records detailed biographical information he has gleaned from sources such as the Swiss archives. "There was an amazing amount of material in the archive for every adult interned," he says. "Each had a one-page transcript of an interview and a standard 15-page questionnaire." Photographs from the 1940s and more recent ones illustrate the paths used to escape through the mountains.

For Alan the detour into history and writing has been the challenge to conquer "something you find difficult". But there have been huge rewards too in getting to know the Villa di Tirano region and its people and in meeting internati libero survivors like Vera Neufield. In 2009 Alan and his wife Marcia organised a reprise for Vera of the climb from the Italian valley floor to the Swiss border that had given her a "second life".

"To some, this book of mine may appear far too long and far too detailed," Alan writes at the end, "but because of the events described in it, the lives of over 200 people were saved from the gas chambers and furnaces of Auschwitz. There are many, who are descended from some of these 200 and who now call countries in every corner of the world their home. The facts I have collected and put together in this book may allow them to reconstruct part of their family's past. Before the climb to the border we met up with Vera in Tirano. She gave me a small note from her daughter, Maya. As I took it from the envelope all I saw was one word: 'Grazie. ...'"