



SHAPING OUR SPACES

The dancers moved in quietly and mingled with the viewers at the Auckland Art Gallery.

Their movements were subtle, the choreography discreet; only slowly did the viewers become aware that they were dancers.

At first the performers responded to the artworks on the walls, then slowly took possession of the spaces in between. Turning their attention to the paper "house" at the centre of the gallery, they circled around it, knelt to touch it, and ventured inside it. The visitors, attentive to the dancers, were drawn to experience the gallery and the works in a new way.

House Test, created by students of choreography from Dance Studies, with direction from senior lecturer Mark Harvey, was one of a series of performances, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, workshops and other events that made up "The Lab" at the 5th Auckland Triennial, New Zealand's most important contemporary art event.

Conceived by the Triennial's international curator, Hou Hanru, The Lab was a joint project of the Architecture and Spatial Design disciplines

of The University of Auckland, AUT University and UNITEC. Described by Hou Hanru as the "intellectual core," of the Triennial, The Lab comprised a location for presentation and discussion, along with flexible gallery spaces that could be used for performance and improvisation.

As the curator intended, The Lab did not end with the closing of the Triennial on 11 August, but is continuing to influence decisions that will shape our society and our spaces for living.

Three groups from The University of Auckland, led by Professor Andrew Barrie (Architecture), lecturer Kathy Waghorn and Sarosh Mulla, PhD candidate in Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with teams of postgraduate architecture students, presented exhibitions and events that set out to address some of the major issues confronting our cities.

Kathy worked with American architect Teddy Cruz to create proposals for the rejuvenation of the Whau River in Avondale, while Sarosh created an installation to explore the kiwi "quarter-acre dream". Andrew considered how the rebuilding of destroyed churches can

contribute to the recovery of Christchurch - his goal was to see how a relatively small number of projects could alter the city's social and urban environment.

"Historic buildings are presenting a challenge for churches all over New Zealand," says Andrew.

The problem, he explains, is that while congregations are diminishing, it is becoming more costly to maintain historic buildings. The churches often own valuable land but have little cash. At the same time they wish to offer support services to the community.

Andrew and his team have investigated the needs of some of the churches, in collaboration with their congregations, and have developed plans for architectural complexes which make it possible to use the land in a way that addresses those needs. Discussions are continuing with several church communities about these plans.

Says Andrew: "A major ambition of The Lab was for it to act as a catalyst for action. It has been very exciting for the students to take on projects that are of real value in tackling the current needs of our communities."

Government welcomes addiction advice



The Government spoke of the value of expert advice on addictions at the launch of The University's new Centre for Addiction Research on 9 August.

The Centre undertakes research into the harmful use of alcohol, illicit and prescription drugs, tobacco and gambling, and covers public health policy, social research, and clinical research.

Alcohol, illicit drug use, and gambling all have an impact on individuals and society, said the Associate Minister for Health, the Hon Todd McClay at the launch, held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

"I expect this centre will make a considerable contribution to the body of international research

and the work done in New Zealand. Our job in Wellington is better when based on the advice of experts and they can help us to get it right."

"We have made some changes recently, especially in methamphetamine use and we know the damage done to young people from synthetic substances," he said.

The presence of the minister at the CFAR launch "...signals that the Government is supportive of this research and seeks to understand the impact addictions have on people in our society," said the Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor John Fraser.

"We have links with treatment centres and the community, and this interaction works well in both

directions," says Associate Professor Janie Sheridan, director of the Centre, "It enables us to collaborate with our community and clinical colleagues on research ideas, and also to recruit participants for our studies through those links."

"It's exciting that we are an interdisciplinary group that embraces a broad spectrum of research from bio-medical to population studies," she said. "We hope to build addictions research capability in New Zealand."

The Centre brings its multidisciplinary perspective to a number of research themes including research into novel tobacco cessation therapies, investigating more effective ways of delivering addiction treatment, and examining the impact of new legislation on drug and alcohol consumption patterns in New Zealand.

Visiting ASB Professor Thomas Babor spoke at the centre opening and said it had a "broad translational role, taking what we learn from the lab, from people and from the community and translating that research into practical applications".

"There is a lot of work to be done looking at what is going on in our centres and community and using scientific knowledge as a part of the solution," he said.

Photo: At the launch of the Centre for Addiction Research are (left to right) Professor Peter Adams and Professor Natalie Walker (both associate directors), visiting ASB Professor Thomas Babor, Professor Janie Sheridan (director), Dr David Newcombe and Dr Susanna Galea (both associate directors).

Gold award for PC3

The University's PC3 laboratory was awarded the top prize, the Gold Award of Excellence, at the INNOVATE NZ Awards staged by the Association of Consulting Engineers of New Zealand (ACENZ).

These are the academy awards for engineering and gave recognition to Beca Consulting, who designed and built the PC3, the University's dedicated high level containment facility (Physical Containment Level 3) that now operates on the third floor of the Grafton Campus.

ACENZ said that the design of any PC3 facility is recognised as one of the most complex a consulting engineer will ever be involved with, and praised the University's lab as one of the very rare ones globally to achieve full certification on its first inspection.

The University shared the Gold Award with the Newmarket flyover project, and won out over a number of very big projects such as the Victoria Park Tunnel and the safe demolition of the Christchurch red-stickered CBD high-rise hotels, which gives an idea of the very impressive

company the University was ranked with - and surpassed.

Peter Fehl, Director Property Services, said the successful construction of the PC3 lab was due to several factors: "not the least being the very detailed project management by Property Services

Project Manager Ann Cooke, with her knowledge of faculty laboratory practices, coupled with the close collaboration between faculty and Property Services staff which has been an outstanding feature of the very successful Grafton Redevelopment project".



Endocrine medal for Liggins Director

Leading paediatric endocrinologist and Director of the Liggins Institute, Professor Wayne Cutfield, was honoured at the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) Annual Scientific meeting earlier this month.

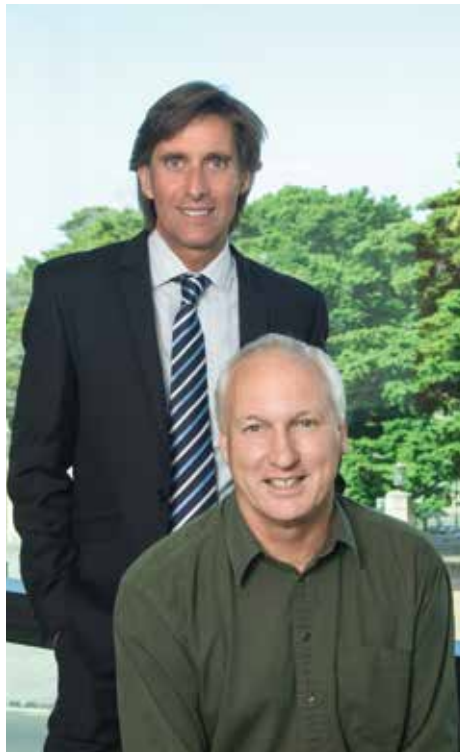
He became the fourth recipient of the prestigious Norman Wettenhall Medal for Research and Innovation.

APEG is the professional body representing more than 200 members in Australia and New Zealand involved in management and research around children with hormonal disorders. The society was founded as an initiative of the late Dr Norman Wettenhall (1915–2000), a pioneer in developing and gaining recognition for the specialty of Paediatric Endocrinology in Australia.

Dr Wettenhall is equally remembered as a dedicated amateur ornithologist and the medal which commemorates his contributions to the specialty fittingly includes a magpie in its design. First awarded in 2007, the medal is awarded every other year to a member who has made an outstanding research contribution to the discipline.

As APEG President at the meeting, Associate Professor Paul Hofman (Liggins Institute) paid tribute to Wayne, describing his outstanding research record, initiative, drive and vision.

"During 14 years as Clinical Director of Paediatric Endocrinology at Auckland Hospital he established and developed a vibrant, world-class service, introducing a number of innovative clinical strategies to improve the diabetes service," said Paul. "In parallel he has grown a highly productive



Wayne Cutfield (back) with Paul Hofman.

research team, initially in The University of Auckland Department of Paediatrics and later at the Liggins Institute, where he established the Paykel Clinical Research Unit."

Wayne has served as President of the Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES). He was appointed Liggins Institute Director in 2009.

From the Vice-Chancellor



We have recently completed the 2013 Staff Survey and presented results to staff on all campuses. The purpose of the survey is to give staff the opportunity to comment on how they feel about the working environment at the University, and to give all of us the opportunity to consider ways in which that environment might be improved.

Conducted for the fourth time by Towers Watson in May, the survey involved 3,480 staff, a 62% participation rate. This is slightly higher than the 2011 rate and significantly ahead of the years before that. Some 50% of academic staff and 70% of professional staff participated.

Results were compared with a benchmark group comprising some 55 science organisations (public and private sector) and tertiary institutions with over 80,000 employees internationally.

As in past surveys, academic staff were more satisfied with the nature of their own work, and less satisfied with aspects of the environment such as leadership, collegiality and institutional reputation than were professional staff. Those in academic or professional staff management positions were more positive about the working environment than staff in mid-level positions. There were few differences attributable to ethnicity of staff other than more positive than average responses from those who declared Chinese, Indian and Filipino ethnicities.

Three aspects of the survey stand out in particular. First, there was an increase in the proportion of staff who were positive about their immediate managers, coupled with positive responses from those in middle management positions (who make up the bulk of the leadership group). This suggests that the work we have been doing to recognise and develop staff in those management roles is paying off. Second, the proportion of staff feeling positive about the way they were communicated with increased by 6%, the largest jump in the survey. Again, this would seem to reflect the considerable effort that has gone into improving communications in what is a large and complex organisation. And finally, whereas staff in the benchmark organisations were generally less positive than in 2011 across the range of survey categories, we held or gained in most. This may suggest that we are weathering better than many similar organisations the on-going effects of the worldwide economic recession.

Auckland Mayoral Debate



Four candidates for the mayoralty of Auckland have confirmed that they will take part in the University of Auckland Society Debate on 4 September, where they will discuss issues surrounding the Auckland Council's Unitary Plan and present their vision for the future of Auckland.

Confirmed participants are current Auckland Mayor and Law alumnus Len Brown, John Minto, John Palino and Reverend Uesifili Unasa from the McLaurin Chaplain.

"Important as trains and tunnels are," said Uesifili, "investing in our people must come first. People make the city and strong communities build the future."

The 2013 Mayoral Debate, jointly hosted by The University of Auckland Society and the National Institute for Creative Arts and Industries, will take place at the Fisher and Paykel Auditorium in the Owen G Glenn Building at 12 Grafton Road from 6-7pm. Entry to the debate is free.

University of Auckland Society members are invited to register for a VIP reception at 5-5.50pm in the foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building, Level 0, at a cost of \$25, with a limit of one guest per member. Those registered to attend the VIP Reception will be guaranteed a seat at the free debate.

For enquiries, please contact Jane Bradley at society@auckland.ac.nz

Staff news

Graeme Aitken was recently re-appointed Dean of the University's Faculty of Education following the Vice-Chancellor's consultation with faculty leaders.

"The comments I received were overwhelmingly supportive of Graeme's performance as Dean and of his reappointment," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

"On the basis of an holistic assessment of Graeme's contributions during his University career to teaching, research and leadership, and the advice of external referees and the out-of-rounds promotion committee, I decided his reappointment would be at the level of Professor. I am sure staff will join me in congratulating Graeme on an outstanding first term as Dean, his reappointment for a further term, and his well-deserved promotion."

Graeme has a background of more than 30 years as a teacher and teacher educator, and more recently as a researcher on curriculum design and teaching effectiveness. He was first



appointed Dean of the Faculty in October 2008 and prior to that held positions in the University as Director Secondary Teacher Education, Director of The University of Auckland Principals

Centre, Co-Head School of Education, and, since the amalgamation with the Auckland College of Education, as Associate Dean (Academic) and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Education.

Unlocking autism

Leading scientists from the University are working to unlock the causes of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and they're encouraging people who are affected to take part in their research.

The Autism Research Network of New Zealand's "Minds for Minds" campaign was launched on 12 August at the University's Centre for Brain Research. This is a unique community-researcher partnership with the aim of bringing together researchers, health professionals and the community from across the country to facilitate understanding and treatment options for ASD.

ASD is a group of complex brain development disorders that affects around one in 100 New Zealanders. Learning more about the underlying causes may allow people to be diagnosed earlier and more easily, may help them to better understand their condition, and may eventually inform any educational programme or other desired treatment.

A Minds for Minds scientist, geneticist Professor Russell Snell from the School of Biological Sciences, says the aim is to contribute to the worldwide effort to unlock the causes of autism. "I have no doubt that New Zealand researchers will make a significant contribution to the better understanding of ASD and the development of specific treatments. This is of course in collaboration with our international counterparts."

One of the new research projects within the network will investigate the genes and microbes

of people with ASD. The researchers are encouraging New Zealanders on the autism spectrum – whether high-functioning or severely affected – to register on a database from which samples will be used to study the causes of the disorder.

"International studies have indicated that the genetics of autism is very complex, with many genes involved," says award-winning young scientist Dr Jessie Jacobsen, who last year received a Rutherford Discovery Fellowship for her research on the genetics of ASD.

"We want to understand our New Zealand populations, which will contribute to the international effort and may identify genetic variations that are specific to New Zealanders."

The Minds for Minds campaign aims to bring together people with an interest in autism from around the country, and also raise funds for the research effort.

Members of the network to date include University researchers Dr Jo Montgomery (Department of Physiology), whose work on the connections between neurons in ASD captured headlines last year, Dr Mike Taylor (Biological Sciences), who is studying the microbial communities (microbiome) in the gut of people with ASD, functional biologist, Associate Professor Klaus Lehnert (Biological Sciences), developmental neuropsychologist Associate Professor Karen Waldie (Psychology), and psychologist Professor Ian Kirk (Psychology); as well as clinical neurologist Dr Rosamund Hill, who has a severely autistic son.

Final Robb Lecture

You still have one last chance to hear this year's Robb Lecturer, listed by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the world's seven most powerful thinkers.

Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, will deliver his third and final Robb Lecture on Friday 23 August at 7.30pm in the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building.

In the lecture, entitled "A decent respect to the opinion of mankind", Professor Appiah will discuss ways in which national honour, the honour in which we participate as citizens of our country, can be mobilised in cross-national dialogues about central questions of morality and human rights. He believes the engagement of national honour across societies, in the project of helping one another achieve the basic human rights for every man and woman, is one of the most powerful mechanisms for giving meaning to a cosmopolitan ideal.

Among Professor Appiah's works are three mystery novels and a variety of works in philosophy and cultural studies, some relatively technical and some addressed to a wider reading public; among the latter are *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*, *Experiments in Ethics* and *The Honour Code*. He reviews regularly for the *New York Review of Books*.

Admission is free and all are welcome. Evening parking is \$6 in the lower levels of Owen G Glenn Building.

For more information visit www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

Time to prepare your MBIE bid

If you are a researcher wishing to apply for funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, now is the right time to contact the Research Office. They have launched a new way of supporting researchers applying for MBIE grants.

The deadline for internal expressions of interest is 27 August. These will then be assessed by a panel who will give you feedback on what you need to do next.

One researcher who has been successful in gaining funding from MBIE is Associate Professor Cather Simpson from the Department of Physics and the School of Chemical Sciences. Cather recently sat on the MBIE assessment panel and gained valuable insights.

“Now I've had experience in both writing and evaluating MBIE bids,” she says, “the most important advice I can give is to make sure the commercial information is just as convincing as the science. The funds are very competitive and many, many bids earn high scores for the parts academics are expert at writing. That makes the other sections surprisingly important (even for the Smart Ideas bids where these are only weighted at ten percent each).”

Cather is pleased that the University's new support strategy seems designed to help researchers get top scores for the sections they're not so accustomed to writing – which leaves them free to focus more efforts on the science and technology.

The University has introduced a whole suite of support measures. One of the key changes is a shift from checking compliance and giving advice to a more active participation in helping the researchers achieve their goals.

Potential bidders are encouraged to engage



with the Research Office early so they can get the support they need to put forward bids of the highest quality. For large bids, the budget negotiations, the IP plan, and project management can take much more time and energy than actually writing the scientific and technological ideas. Industry support, which is sometimes critical for success, can also take months to develop.

“I have participated in six MBIE bids in the last two years,” says Cather. “I wish I had started every one of them sooner!”

For more information email ro-submissions@auckland.ac.nz or visit the staff intranet on Research>Develop your research funding application and apply>MBIE assistance.

MBIE: Now is the right time

The University has launched a new way of supporting researchers with their MBIE applications. Support comprises, but is not limited to, writing workshops for commercialisation, industry reference groups, advice in relation to vision Mātauranga, advice in relation to project management. We are encouraging early engagement from potential bidders to ensure that teams receive the support they need to put forward the highest quality bids.

Please, submit your Expression of Interest to the Research Office by **Tuesday 27 August**.

For more information email ro-submissions@auckland.ac.nz or visit the staff intranet on Research>Develop your research funding application and apply>MBIE assistance.

National Science Challenges

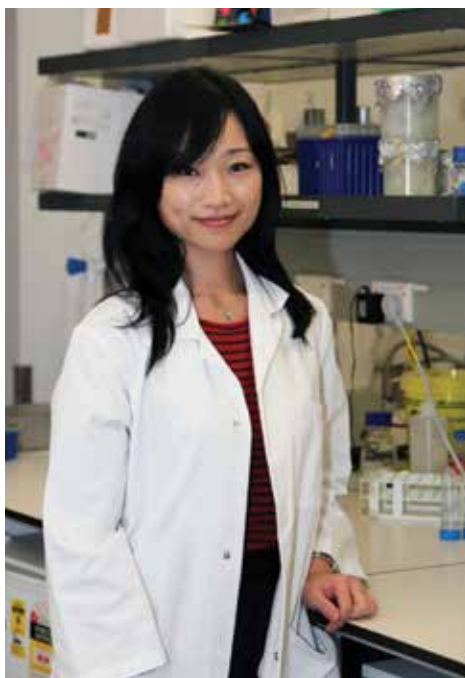
Work on the National Science Challenge bids is well underway, with initial workshops facilitated by MBIE in Wellington completed in June and internal workshops organised by the Research Office. The internal lead for each challenge has been confirmed by the University. Challenge leaders are currently engaged in conversations with researchers both within the University and at other institutions. It is anticipated that the Ministry will release RFPs for the Challenges in three tranches, with the first being expected in September for proposals early in 2014 and the other two tranches following through 2014. The Ministry will be seeking collaborative national research programmes rather than individual research projects. For further information contact: ro-submissions@auckland.ac.nz.

AMRF awards announced

Thirteen proposals have received funding in the recent Auckland Medical Research Foundation project funding round. The successful proposals came from the departments of Pharmacology, Biological Sciences; Medical Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Paediatrics: Child & Youth Health; Liggins Institute; Obstetrics & Gynaecology; Physiology, Ophthalmology and Molecular Medicine & Pathology.

Rutherford Discovery panels

Six researchers have been invited to the Rutherford Discovery interview panels in late August and are currently undertaking “mock” interviews, reflecting the real event. Senior academics, with experience of participating on Rutherford panels, or having received Rutherford funding, have agreed to form the mock panel for this fund; one of the most prestigious in New Zealand. The Rutherford Discovery Fellowships aim to support the development of future research leaders. Ten Fellowships of five years are awarded annually.



Lily Chang

The eyes have it

It is the ultimate elevator pitch, one power point slide and 180 seconds to explain and communicate the significance of your research project to a non-specialist audience.

Daunting it is, but not for two Optometry students who took out first and second places in the University-wide Three Minute Thesis competition held at the Business School.

Congratulations to Lily Chang (Supervisor, Monica Costa) who won the competition, and to Sachini Jayaratne (Supervisor, Julie Lim) who finished in second place. This is a great result for the Department of Optometry.

Lily Chang will have the opportunity to compete in the Trans-Tasman finals to be hosted by the University of Western Sydney in Australia, and will also have the chance to compete (by video) in the inaugural Universitas 21 Three Minute Thesis Grand Final Virtual competition in October.

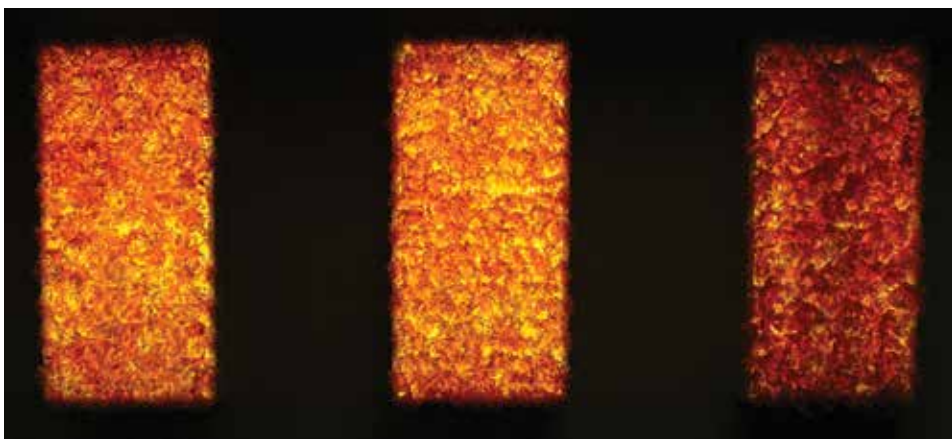
From the art collection

Golden and good humoured, Niki Hastings-McFall's floral tribute to her Samoan heritage has greeted tides of students and staff since the opening of the Kate Edger Information Commons in 2003.

Boxing together artificial yellow hibiscus flowers with electric light, the artist uses contemporary and permanent materials to link the intangible qualities of a Pacific experience. These showy blooms broadcast beneficence and hospitality - they are flowers with power.

Part of the artist's series FI/Oral Histories, made in 2002, they are delivered already freighted with the inheritance of colonisation. Permeated by a yellow light which symbolises the legacy and continuing influence of Christianity in the Pacific, they encapsulate past and present. Their perky petals point to how Pasifika traditions were suppressed by a new authority in the nineteenth century. When missionaries arrived, the role of verbal recitation to establish social identity and position was usurped by The Word, which was written. Indigenous knowledge got devalued, part of the darkness of ignorance that would be banished before the light as souls were saved.

The triptych or three-panelled altarpiece is a format associated with the Christian church. Arranged across its surface, devotional imagery conveyed the mysteries of faith. Iconoclastic, this trio of trapped blooms is an adornment for the altar of art. Rather than leading the viewer to God, it points to two high points of 20th-century art for its form, combining the readymade of Dada with the all-over technique of an American colour field painting. A three-piece suit, it shows how emblems of living cultures can be appropriated into narratives of



power and displacement by museums, sealed in airless vitrines, and placed on display for popular consumption, and so consigned to history.

Raised in Titirangi (the Fringe of Heaven) by palagi grandparents, Niki Hastings-McFall first plied her making skills as a jeweler at the Manukau School of Visual Arts, graduating in 2000. Craft was the vehicle she used to navigate the shifting sands of her personal and cultural identity, which became important to her at the age of 35 years: "I first met my Samoan father, James McFall in 1992. He was terminally ill and sadly he died later that year. However, he left me the rich legacy of my rich Samoan aiga (family). Since these significant events, my work has been increasingly driven by my research into this Pacific Island heritage," she writes.

Representing Ubuntu - kindness, generosity of spirit and humanity - floral lei are symbolically exchanged in many cultures of the Pacific, and flowers are also worn in the hair or over the ear. Despite prohibitions on the custom by church fathers preoccupied with sin, the idea of the

islands as densely populated by languishing dusky maidens, advertising availability and consent by wearing flowers in their hair, has persisted. Sourcing her artificial lei from the \$2 shop, Niki Hastings-McFall's positions her flowers to face down the possibility of being confined by this unreal stereotype.

Functioning both as garlands and as wreaths, lei have sacred associations with the gods. Giving, wearing, storing and disposing of lei is governed by custom and protocol. Using materials as synthetic as an economy dependent on tourism, Niki Hastings-McFall shows how in the contemporary world Pacific myths and realities have become scrambled, and traditions are not always honoured. A symbol of prestige has become a cultural cliché, albeit lightly worn.

Linda Tyler

Commissioned for the opening of Kate Edger Information Commons in 2003, Niki Hastings-McFall, born 1959, Yellow lei light triptych, 2002, Perspex, lightboxes, artificial lei

From the Cultural Collection



Deep in storage there rest almost 70 small suitcases of various colours and sizes, neatly lined up on top of each other.

A sign on the shelf reads "Tests Suitcases etc". When looked at more closely a number have University of Auckland stencilled on the outside and cryptic descriptions such as "Bayley scales" or "STYCAR".

Opening the suitcases reveals that they contain a variety of educational testing kits. "Bayley scales" refer to the Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID) which measure "the mental and motor development and test the behaviour of infants from one to 42 months of age", and STYCAR are the Sheridan tests. In addition there are

the Reynell Developmental Language scales, the Snijder-Oomen non-verbal intelligence tests and numerous others. Educational testing kits such as these appear to have been used in New Zealand in the second half of the 20th century, and were presumably used by the University to demonstrate the scope, values and issues involved in educational testing.

The collection provides a valuable tangible resource which demonstrates some of the changes that have taken place in educational approaches and testing. Teaching resources from previous eras also show changes in syllabus, assessment techniques, educational philosophies and resources. The objects and resources used in the course of teaching can also develop an intrinsic value in themselves and to areas outside their primary purpose. For example design elements, use of language, and media used can all be examined through the teaching materials and equipment from by-gone days. If anyone knows any more about the provenance and use of these educational kits in the University please contact the writer.

Elizabeth Nichol
Records Management Programme Manager
Office of the Vice-Chancellor

What's on

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

Music workshop

5pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre.

Deepen your knowledge of traditional Korean musical practices in this two-hour workshop held by Professors Suh Seungmi, Choi Jin, Cho Kyongsun and Sunhee Koo. No instruments or prior knowledge required.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST

Science meets industry workshop

9am-5pm, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road, Grafton. Held for the food industry by Nutrigenomics NZ.

Queries to v.parslow@auckland.ac.nz

School of Biological Sciences seminar

Andrew Granger, Plant and Food Research, Australia: *A snapshot of plant and food research in Australia*. 1-2pm, FGW Rm, upstairs, OGH.

Queries to k.henty@auckland.ac.nz

School of Music lunchtime concert

Jazz students. 1.05pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre.

A series of lunchtime concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings.

Free. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

Exhibition opening

A Different View: Artists address pornography. 5.30pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz
Sir Douglas Robb Lecture 2013

Identity, honour, politics.

Prof Kwame Anthony Appiah: *A decent respect to the opinion of mankind*.

7.30pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Free, all welcome. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

Music of the Moment concert

7.30pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre.

School of Music students will present a selection of new works from the classical performance, composition, jazz and popular music departments. Proudly presented by the School of Music Students Association. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 24 AUGUST

Exhibition event

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. *A Different View: Art and social change*. With Julie Ewington, Head of Australian Art, Queensland Art Gallery and Rachel Liebert, The Porn Project and City University of New York.

Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz
Korean music concert

7pm, Music Theatre, School of Music. Come along to experience the enchanting and contemplative sounds of these traditional Korean instruments;

the daegeum, gayageum and geomungo. Featuring a repertoire of both traditional and contemporary compositions, *Bridging the Wind* promises to be an enjoyable demonstration of the sounds of Korea by the three visiting Professors Suh Seungmi, Choi Jin and Cho Kyongsun. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 26 AUGUST

Student jazz ensemble concerts

Jazz combo concerts. 7pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre. Also 27 August. Jazz Performance students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work prepared over one term. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST

Final 2013 Winter Lecture

Charms and harms of natural medicines.

Associate Professor Jo Barnes: *Safety of herbal medicines: from patient to population*. 1-2pm, Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

The final of six weekly lectures.

Admission is free and open to the public. No bookings required. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

Sociology/School of Asian Studies seminar

Dr Changzoo Song, UoA: *Engaging diaspora: South Korea's response to the challenges of demographic crisis and transnationalism*. 4pm, Pat Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2. Queries to asianstudies@auckland.ac.nz

University of Auckland Chamber Choir concert

Accents on Aotearoa. 7.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

Accent on Aotearoa brings together student and staff composers of The University of Auckland and guest Witi Ihimaera. \$15/10.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST

Fermata seminar

Dr Brian Dietrich: *Shared experiences: Ethnographic reflections on learning and knowing through song in Micronesia*. 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Fast Forward Lecture series

Dr Michelle Dickinson, Dept of Chemical and Materials Engineering, UoA: *Thinking small, building smart*. 6.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds St.

Visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST

School of Environment research seminar

Jan Lindsay and Kate Lewis Kenedi, UoA: *Volcanoes, volcanic hazard, and the burka: Perspectives from female geologists in Saudi Arabia*. 12noon-1pm, HSB 429

Queries to a.bartos@auckland.ac.nz

Child and family research seminars

3pm - Anne Duncan: *What does the new government investment in research and evaluation mean? Will it lead to better outcomes and better practice? If not, why not?*

4pm - Dr Jeremy Robertson: *Having an impact: How can research and evaluation findings influence policy and practice?*

Venue tba. Register at <https://strengtheningpracticeseminars.eventbrite.co.nz>

Queries to h.pengelly@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST

School of Music lunchtime concert

Piano and string students. 1.05pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

A series of lunchtime concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings.

Free. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST

Courses and Careers Day 2013

9.30am-3.30pm, University of Auckland City Campus.

Come to our open day and find out how to make your mark on the world! Experience what it's like to be a student at The University of Auckland while you investigate your undergraduate study options. You'll experience campus life, see exhibits, attend lectures and tours, and learn about entry requirements, scholarships and careers that your University study could lead to. There will be plenty of entertainment, food and fun, and our current students and staff will be on hand to welcome you and answer all your questions. Visit www.coursesandcareersday.ac.nz

Exhibition event

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. *A Different View: Artists speak*.

Exhibiting artists, Lauren Lysaght, Lonnie Hutchinson, Peter Madden and Liz Maw talk with Linda Tyler about their work and their reasons for exhibiting in the show.

Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Aotearoa New Zealand Triple P Research and Practice Forum

9am-4.30pm, Lecture Theatre 201, Bldg 722, Tamaki Campus, Gate 1, 261 Morrin Rd, Glen Innes.

The forum will bring together leaders in parenting and family issues to discuss the theme: *Transforming the lives of children, parents and communities through positive parenting*. Presented by The Parenting Research Group, Faculty of Education and the Werry Centre at The University of Auckland in association with the Ministry of Health.

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Fast Forward Mayoral Debate

6pm-7.30pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

The leading mayoral candidates' will be in conversation on vital issues, detailing a vision for the future of Auckland.

Chaired by Rod Oram and featuring mayoral candidates Len Brown, John Minto, John Palino and the Reverend Uesifili Unasa. Free. Queries to events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward

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THE FOURTH ESTATE

The headlines are worrying: “Spy agencies eavesdrop on Kiwi journalist”, “Investigative journalists deemed a threat by military”, “Reporter’s phone records given to inquiry”, “Chilling attacks on freedom”, “Journalists’ freedom seen as under attack”, “Violation speaks ill of our democracy”.

Worrying ... yet oddly reassuring politically and, for me, also professionally. My research into the genealogy of ideas about press freedom and censorship relies on the paradox that public protestations against the tearing asunder of media freedom are prima facie evidence for both the presence and absence of a problem.

If the matter were all or nothing, perfect censorship or untrammelled freedom would leave me without a subject.

After all, how do most of us know what we know about military chiefs targeting investigative journalists as “subversive”? About security services monitoring phone calls by war reporter Jon Stephenson? About “metadata” listing calls by political reporter Andrea Vance being supplied to the parliamentary inquiry into the leaked report about the GCSB?

We know because some journalism continues to perform the role traditionally held to undergird its freedom in democracy - as the vaunted fourth estate, the public’s watchdog.

There is no room for complacency, of course. The question of who is watching whom is worrying a lot of people. But the recent barking about the undermining of press freedom met with revelation, apology and denial from government and military, not indifference. A Google news search on Stephenson and Vance throws up hundreds of hits about the affair. The fourth estate has done its duty, it seems.

By the time you read this, the burst of energy around the issue of press freedom will be yesterday’s news, superseded by other topics. This too is reassuring if it means returning to the

business of journalism that journalists leapt to defend - investigating and informing in the public interest.

That was the promise held out in recent articles: journalists are the eyes and ears of the public, the fourth estate acts as a proxy for the public’s rights, the media probes power and exposes wrongdoing, an attack on journalists is ripping the democratic fabric, and so on.

This is quite a responsibility to acknowledge, pairing rights or freedoms with correlative duties, as the philosophers say. Can journalism really deliver on its promises?

Most journalists are sincere, if hyperbolic, on this subject, in my view. But they inhabit a cash-conscious, fragmenting news media environment, facing a widening gap between fourth estate rhetoric and reality. Those hundreds of hits featured many more commentators proclaiming the watchdog’s value than investigative journalists tasked with demonstrating it. They were promising outcomes deliverable, if at all, by companies they do not control.

Individual journalists have the same freedom as you or I. An effective watchdog has the extra resources, institutional muscle and influence to turn information and opinion into public opinion and make governments sit up and take notice, whether out of principle or self-interest.

Contrary to reports, the fourth estate metaphor was not coined by Edmund Burke in an eighteenth century Britain marked by small-scale newspapers but in a nineteenth-century context where the dominant *Times* could argue that an institutionally and economically strong press was needed to be an effective political watchdog - in effect, bigger business with a public purpose.

Today, the watchdog dilemma is acute: the bigger the better, or the more the merrier? The technological revolution that aids surveillance also offers unprecedented online opportunities for

individuals to find and provide information and opinion, not least investigative journalists. But the public still needs traditional news media committed to its “public service” role and to resisting a divergence of rhetoric and reality, which stems partly from the digital challenge to its business model.

The irony is that the public as a body cannot insist on the fourth estate “promise” being fully redeemed. Its logic excludes the public enforcer, the government. The *Herald* adopted a revealing editorial line last year as inquiries into media regulation proceeded in the UK, Australia and, on a smaller scale, here in New Zealand. Under headlines warning of “Centuries of press freedom under threat”, it contended that media freedom is not justified by a fourth estate role, by serving democracy, or by a public interest. “Freedom needs no justification,” it opined.

The intention was to avoid acknowledging a duty the media might be called on to fulfil, by law. But the “freedom of the private sector” which the *Herald* claimed does not end the argument. It cannot mean individual freedom of expression, or absolute freedom, since the *Herald* denies even its own journalists the freedom to pick and choose what to put on the presses at Ellerslie each day, with the law behind it. And as a property argument it is not invalid but not self-sufficient unless newspapers are like cornflakes, part of our breakfast, rather than being part of our democracy, as the political adviser Joe Haines once said.

Perhaps the underlying media message in difficult times is: “We’ll serve the public when we can, but no promises.”

Geoff Kemp is a Senior Lecturer in Politics, co-editor of Politics and the Media (Auckland: Pearson, 2013), and a former journalist.