



NEWMARKET ON TRACK

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INSIDE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Joanna Browne is responsible for the delivery of Academic Services for the University. She oversees some 80 full-time staff and a large number of fixed-term and casual staff who all support student administration services from the moment they apply to come to University through to their graduation. In our “My Story” section, Joanna talks about growing up in the South Island, how her career has unfolded and her love of cooking.

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BUILDING PACIFIC ISLANDS

Ground-breaking research led by Professor Paul Kench from the School of Environment suggests Pacific Islands may be able to build vertically to keep pace with rising sea levels. “Our preliminary evidence suggests storm events are able to build island surfaces, indicating that physical mechanisms exist that will allow islands to withstand rising sea levels and increased storminess.”

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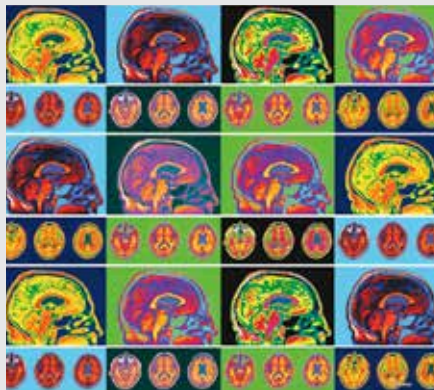
A LIVEABLE UNIVERSITY

“Attuned to atmospheres, the Arts tell us that the University is a place of many worlds, a pluri-versity or poly-versity.... This capacity to generate other ways of thinking and acting — to be able to “world” — is a human resourcefulness that cannot be pre-scripted or programmed without hollowing out our shared prospects. A truly liveable university, we believe, must embrace the risk of the possible as a critique of the imperatives of the probable.”

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YOUR SENSE-ATIONAL BRAIN

Minute by minute our five senses bring us information about our world and allow us to enjoy the pleasures of our environment: hearing our native bird song, feeling the arms of a loved one around you, seeing the magnificent night sky, tasting a delicious ripe nectarine or the smell of freshly mown grass. Brain Day 2014, which will take place on 29 March, 9am-4pm at the Owen G Glenn Building, will delve into how our sense-ational brain creates our senses. For more details see: www.cbr.auckland.ac.nz



NGĀTI WHĀTUA'S MODERN PĀ

Ngarimu Blair is a Treaty settlement negotiator for Ngāti Whātua, a Director on Waterfront Auckland and is heavily involved in Ngāti Whātua's innovative tribal housing projects. On 10 April, 12-1pm at the Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, he will speak as part of NICAI's Communique series. Specifically he will talk of Ngāti Whātua Orakei's ambitious plans to assist its people into home ownership, overcoming significant socio-economic, planning and financing barriers to create a modern pa in one of Auckland's most affluent suburbs.



4,000 KM ODYSSEY

Support Education academic Tara Remington's 4,000 km row across the Pacific to raise funds for Charlotte Cleverley-Bisman who lost her arms and legs to meningitis in 2004. In May Tara, who is studying for a PhD in adventure-based learning and is a Professional Teaching Fellow at the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, will row from Los Angeles to Waikiki in Hawaii with American Paralympian Angela Madsen. In 2017 the pair will complete the second leg of their quest between Hawaii and New Zealand. Read more at: www.givealittle.co.nz//cause/RowingforCharlotte



FILM GOING INTO SCHOOLS

Professor Annie Goldson's award winning film *He Toki Huna: New Zealand in Afghanistan* has been sent to secondary schools' history, English and media studies departments along with an accompanying study guide. Loosely translated as "the hidden adze", *He Toki Huna* uses independent journalist Jon Stephenson's reportage on the ground in Afghanistan as its spine, but includes a broad range of voices from soldiers and military leaders to journalists, academics and local Afghan community leaders in Bamiyan and Kabul.



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The first phase of the Newmarket Campus development is on time and on budget. The project is also a model of sustainability.

The *News* recently joined University Project Manager Lee Johnston on site.

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Spirit utensils were made over many centuries in ancient China as an alternative to killing slaves and animals to accompany the deceased when they were buried.

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The launch of Alun Brunton poems 1968-2002; a retirement-focused forum; Robb Lectures.

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COVER PHOTO: Lee Johnston at Newmarket

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Godfrey Boehnke, Judy Wilford

DESIGN: Sonia Tenreiro

PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland

Published by:

The University of Auckland
Communications,

Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant,
Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142

www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNI

This year's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was attended by 460 - including Dames and Deans, politicians and percussionists, accountants and actors, Sirs and scientists. It was the University's version of the Oscars, "though not nearly as long, with less singing, fewer tears, and a much, much shorter red carpet", pointed out Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) Professor Jenny Dixon.

The evening began with drinks on the lawn of Old Government House, just hours before the expected arrival of Cyclone Lusi. Percussionists Murray Hickman, Tim Whitta (both of *Strike*) and Rachel Jefferies (a former member of *Strike*, aka Events Co-ordinator at Alumni Relations and Development) got the celebrations off to an energetic start with a performance of *Volume Pig*, composed by 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Gareth Farr.

Alumni Orator Associate Professor Caroline Daley looked after the business of the evening, the presentation of the awards, assisted by University of Auckland Society President Amy Malcolm.

First up to the stage was Dr Julie Maxton, currently first female Executive Director of the Royal Society, formerly first female Registrar of Oxford University, and first female Professor of Law and Dean of Law at Auckland. Bruce



From left: Gareth Farr, Hon Dr 'Ana Maui Taufé'ulungaki, Dr William Tan, Dr Julie Maxton, Bruce Aitken and Roseanne Liang.

Aitken, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Vancouver-based Methanex Corporation up until 2012 was next, followed by Dr William Tan, a neuroscientist and Paralympian who has won medals and broken world records in wheelchair athletics, while raising millions of dollars for charities.

After a dinner enhanced by offerings from alumni vintners Mount Riley Wines and Goldie Wines, Gareth Farr was next to take the stage. One of the country's leading composers, he has also been described by the BBC as "the most famous drag queen in New Zealand" for the performances of alter-ego Lilith Lacroix. The next awardee, the Hon Dr 'Ana Maui Taufé'ulungaki, like Julie Maxton, has racked up a fair few "female firsts", now holding the role of Tonga's Minister of

Education, Women's Affairs and Culture. Young Alumna of the Year, award-winning film director Roseanne Liang was the final winner to accept a 2014 award.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon asked guests to consider, while celebrating the achievements of graduates past, how we can continue to ensure that New Zealand has a world-class university, one capable of producing graduates of a truly international standing. He invited guests to help protect the University's autonomy by responding to the Government's proposals to reduce the size of university councils.

Photos and videos from the dinner and the Auckland Live! panel discussion the evening before are available via: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

CROATIAN VISITOR



His Excellency Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of Croatia.

On 14 March, His Excellency Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of Croatia, was welcomed at the Business School with an eloquent mihi by Jeremy Hema, Tuākana Equity Adviser, which focused on the historical links between our two countries, followed by an introduction by Chancellor Dr Ian Parton.

His Excellency then addressed around 90 University staff, along with the Croatian Ambassador to New Zealand and several consuls from the European Union, on "Croatia and the EU: Opportunities and challenges".

During the generous 20-minute question time following the address, the Croatian Prime Minister spoke of his pleasure at the prospect of Croatian students studying here in what would be not a "brain drain" but an exchange: "This is the country I would like to see Croatian students coming to, and vice versa."

Meantime, the Prime Minister's wife, Dr Sanja Milanović, was being welcomed to the University in a way that suited her own professional interests. Dr Milanović, an epidemiologist who holds the position of Senior Assistant in the Department of Medical Statistics, Epidemiology and Medical Informatics at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, visited the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, where she received an overview of the work of the faculty, with addresses from Distinguished Professor Ian Reid (Deputy Dean), Associate Professor Cameron Grant (Paediatrics), Dr John Thompson, a statistician with expertise in Paediatric Epidemiology, and Distinguished Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

The two guests, with the rest of their delegation, then attended a lunch at the Fale Pasifika.

SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST FOLIO

A copy of Shakespeare's *First Folio* of plays compiled in 1623 will feature in the University's 2014 Dr Alice Griffin Shakespeare Fellow lecture.

Dr Emma Smith of Hertford College, Oxford University, has located the copy of the *Folio* donated to Auckland City by Governor Sir George Grey. She will refer to the *Folio* in her lecture as she examines the first time Shakespeare's plays became available to read.

Emma is the author of *The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare*, of a series of *Guides to Criticism of Shakespeare's plays*, and of *30 Great Myths About Shakespeare* as well as of numerous scholarly articles on topics such as "Hamlet and Consumer Culture" and "Was Shylock Jewish?" She is currently Lecturer in Renaissance Literature at Oxford University and is a regular podcaster on Shakespeare.

3 April at the Old Government House Lecture Theatre at 6.30pm.

GATHERING A HUGE SUCCESS

The inaugural “Welcome back event” for staff held on 12 March to celebrate the start of the academic year was a great success with more than 500 academic and professional staff members gathering at the Alumni Marquee on Old Government House Lawn. (In fact, interest was so keen at Epsom that a bus was organised to bring staff members to the City Campus.)

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon welcomed staff and Council members, reflecting on the year ahead that will see a “call to arms” over the Governance review and introduction of legislation to Parliament; the on-going challenge of University rankings, the challenges and

opportunities presented by FAR; and the on-going rebuilding of our campuses.

Staff then mingled – many mixing with colleagues from other disciplines – as the jazz band, led by drummer and band leader Trevor Thwaites from the Faculty of Education, played in the background.

“The event was a great way to mark the return of our undergraduate students and to thank all those staff who have supported them in their transition into or back to the University,” said the Vice-Chancellor. “Staff were very positive about it, and it would seem to be something we should do each year.”



ANDREW'S EGG



Professor of Architecture Andrew Barrie is one of 100-odd New Zealand artists who have created a giant egg as part of The Whittaker's Big Egg Hunt raising funds for Starship Children's Hospital.

We can't tell you where the egg will be hiding over Easter but here is Andrew on his design: “This egg plays on two of the key themes associated with eggs – new beginnings and the pleasure of tiny things. The exterior of this egg

is plain white, but it has been sliced open to reveal an unexpected scene – visible through the narrow slit is a village of detailed 1:200-scale paper models. Each of the tiny buildings is a key example of New Zealand architecture, the high-profile buildings including Wellington's famed Futuna Chapel, a house by Ian Athfield, the Ponsonby Post Office, and a state house. The village also includes a number of buildings that have been built or rebuilt following the devastating Christchurch earthquakes, including the new Cardboard Cathedral, the Benjamin Mountfort-designed Victoria Clock Tower, and Hurst-Seager's Cranmer Bridge Club. The egg is a celebration of the power of architecture to reinvigorate and renew our lives.”

The egg was designed in collaboration with University of Auckland architecture graduate Melanie Pau and fabricated by Ben Callis.

See www.thebigegg hunt.co.nz

STOP PRESS

TOP DOCTORAL THESES RECOGNISED

Five PhD theses on topics as various as neonatal hypoglycaemia and homelessness in the Gospel of St Matthew have been rated the most outstanding of the 321 doctoral degrees successfully examined in 2013.

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis has been awarded to Dr Deborah Harris (Liggins Institute), Victoria McLelland (School of Psychology), Dr Robert Myles (School of Theology), Rachel Simister (School of Biological Sciences) and Dr Marek Tesar (School of Critical Studies in Education). They will be presented with their certificates at the University's “Celebrating Research Excellence” function on 2 May.

SUBJECT RANKINGS

The University of Auckland ranks alongside the world's elite (Top 200) institutions in 29 of the 30 subjects featured in this year's QS World University Rankings by Subject published in February at: www.topuniversities.com.

The University's strongest subject was accounting and finance, in which it ranked 24th, with politics and international studies second at 26th and law third at 28th. Auckland also had education, psychology, linguistics, English language and literature, pharmacy and pharmacology, modern languages and biological sciences in the top 50. The QS Rankings by Subject evaluated 3,002 universities and ranked 689 institutions in total.

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

The University Drama Studies programme's major production in September this year will mark the centenary of the start of WW1 in 1914 with the musical comedy *Oh What a Lovely War*. In 1963, despite it being 45 years since the end of the First World War, the debut performance of Joan Littlewood's musical, sent shock waves through British society. It features popular songs of the period “It's a Long Way to Tipperary,” “Pack up Your Troubles,” “Oh What a Lovely War” and “Keep the Home Fires Burning”, intercut with satirical sketches and arranged in such a way as to map out the progress of the war and point to its cruel absurdities.

MARRIAGE

Associate Professor Carrie Yodanis from the University of British Columbia will give a talk on the institution of marriage in the Department of Sociology on 2 April. The talk addresses recent social science research and theory and public debates about marriage. Using a new institutional perspective, Professor Yodanis says she will re-examine some of the most common and accepted conclusions about marriage and relationships.

ASPIRE

The ASPIRE Professional Staff Conference scheduled for April has been deferred. Staff are encouraged to see other professional development opportunities at: www.auckland.ac.nz/careerdevelopment or by consulting the *Continuing Capability Development Guide*.

ON TIME AND ON BUDGET



Building B901: View from Park Road.

The first phase of the Newmarket Campus redevelopment is on time and on budget.

That's the word from Peter Fehl, Director Property Services, as over 300 workers toil at the site daily, revamping the four former Lion Brewery buildings in preparation for the first staff and students to move in from the end of July.

It has been all systems go since Hawkins Construction moved onto the 5.2 hectare site last September to execute the University and Jasmx Architect's "commitment to re-use wherever possible".

Now as the new Engineering research facilities take shape, they are a model of sustainability.

"The biggest sustainable practice has been to re-use the four former brewing and bottling warehouses," says Project Manager, Lee Johnson when *University News* meets him on site.

As we walk inside the first warehouse (Building 901) which will soon incorporate an Aerodynamics Hall, the Yacht Research Unit and a new wind tunnel, large windows, skylights and strips of polycarbonate glazing throw light across the high ceiling and its exposed, rustic beams.

"These were very big, dark spaces," says Lee.

The four recycled warehouses are being re-clad with a combination of vertical metal panels, Danpalon (the translucent polycarbonate panels), and some plastered areas. Wherever possible the architects have used natural light and ventilation, reducing the need for electric lighting and air conditioning.

As we walk on through a wide internal corridor linking the buildings, Lee points out that transformers on site have been refurbished and re-used too, while existing bore water reserves are being used for cooling and irrigation systems, before being returned to source, rather than using the city's water supply and sewerage system.

While the focus is on the interior spaces, the cluster of buildings was lacking a main entry.

"Large windows, skylights and strips of polycarbonate glazing throw light across the high ceiling and its exposed, rustic beams."

"There was no obvious sense of arrival or entry, so the new link building will achieve that," explains Lee.

As we stand in the centre of the link area we look out through generous windows to the Newmarket railway line and then beneath it the remains of a concrete ramp that will be used to border a "remnant garden". Pedestrian access into this part of the Newmarket Campus will start from Park Road and lead towards the link building,

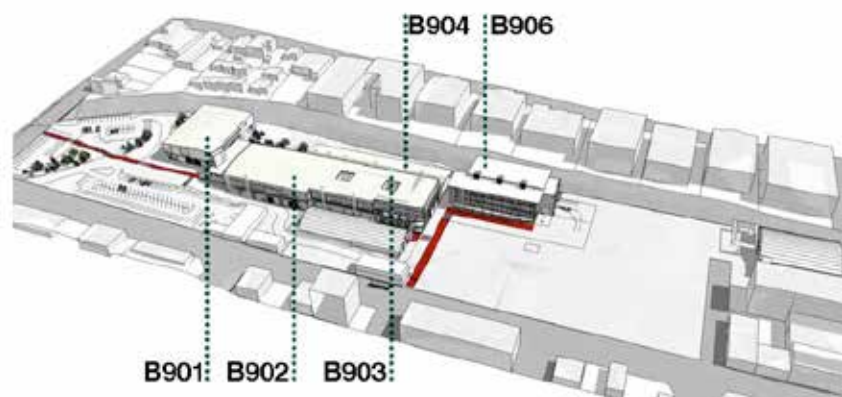
where people will be dispersed to different areas.

While some of the spaces within the warehouses haven't lent themselves freely to conversion for use by the University, others have. In Building 903, for example, one of the levels, formerly used as a bottling line, had a significantly lower ceiling height than the other levels, lending itself to office space. "Two skylights were introduced in this building, which allowed us to bring light deep into the floor plate and into this middle office level," says Lee.

In Building 904 a new structural steel frame was added to the facade walls to bring the building up to current seismic standards. Another key project underway in 904 is the construction of a 45-metre, 50-tonne flume that will sit on a specially designed foundation and circulate water from a below-ground reservoir. It will be used by fluids engineers for research ranging from the understanding of erosion in river beds to effects of waves on civil engineering structures.

Phase One of the Newmarket development covers just over half the site. When the renovation of these four buildings is finished and a new building housing the structures test hall is complete, the project will provide approximately 20,000m² gross floor area of high-quality floor space.

"The facilities at Newmarket will be transformative for large-scale engineering research not only at the University of Auckland but also the country as a whole," enthuses Engineering Dean, Professor Nic Smith. "As a faculty we are excited about the opportunities to both expand existing work and develop new research in what will be a state-of-the-art environment on the site."



SCIENCE

The Science redevelopment is also "going particularly well," says Peter Fehl. "The demolition is finished and now the piling work has started, though," he cautions, "we won't see the new building come up above ground until the middle of this year."

MY STORY

STAFF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



JOANNA BROWNE

Joanna Browne is responsible for the delivery of Academic Services for the University. She oversees some 80 full-time staff and a large number of fixed-term and casual staff who all support student administration services from the moment they apply to come to University through to their graduation.

Joanna has a Master of Arts in History from Canterbury University. Most of her career, however, has been spent in administration. In Christchurch she managed English Language schools, bookshops (notably the Government Bookshop) and then worked for Canterbury DHB in a project manager /administrative role. In 2002 she and her husband (Stephen Whiteside, the University's Chief Information Officer) moved to Auckland and Joanna was appointed as a Service Team Manager in the Faculty of Arts. She then became Faculty Registrar for Arts and when there was a re-organisation of student administration services she was appointed to her current role in 2009. Joanna describes her core skill set as understanding strategic direction and how that can be put into action, particularly identifying opportunities to improve the customer experience for students.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND WHAT DID YOU LOVE DOING WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

I was born in Dunedin and grew up in Invercargill and Christchurch. Dad was a manager for the NZ Railways and had a number of transfers around the country. All my teenage years, and until we moved to Auckland were spent in Christchurch, apart from four years in the UK on OE. We still have a lot of family in Christchurch and visit often, particularly since the earthquakes, to provide support where we can.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT IN YOUR EARLY LIFE?

I had two brothers and a sister and basically we disappeared in the morning and came back at night when we heard the call for dinner. We roamed the neighbourhood; people would be horrified these days. We were very independent and had huge imaginations. We made up little scenarios and played games. I can remember many seasons going digging for toheroa at Oreti Beach and swimming in the Southland rivers. Dad was an Aucklander so we'd do summer camping trips to Auckland.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB EVER?

I had a summer holiday job laying rail tracks at the Ferrymead Transport Museum in Christchurch but my first significant job was as a research assistant in Canterbury Public Library. I then started working in bookshops. I managed the Christchurch branch of the Government Bookshop. It carried all Government legislation... whenever there was a major piece of legislation we dealt with the sale of that to the public. I remember Ruth Richardson's "Mother of All Budgets"; that was absolutely huge. We had people queuing outside, and we were working late at night waiting for the embargo to come off. It was a quite a buzz.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEST TEACHER?

Sam Adshead was Professor of History at Canterbury. He was slightly eccentric and had a very gentle personality: engaging and passionate. He fuelled my interest in Asian History and that is what I completed my masters in. I also remember very well Peter Lees Jefferies who was a very inspiring English and Drama teacher when I was at secondary school. He was very involved in the theatre and he helped to form my interests in the arts.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU DECIDE WHAT YOUR FUTURE CAREER WOULD BE?

My career just happened, rather than me planning it. I think you have to take opportunities when they present themselves and there has been a bit of serendipity with my career progression.

IN JUST ONE SENTENCE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRESENT POSITION.

My role in a sentence is to improve the quality of our administration services that support recruitment, retention and achievement of our students.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

That I can really help to achieve some of the University's strategic aims, particularly around

the recruitment and support of students and that I work with academic and professional staff across the faculties and service divisions.

The University is a very complex organisation, it's an interesting, exciting and often frustrating and challenging place to work. You have to be resilient, robust and patient because we work in such a consultative environment it can take a long time for changes to be made. You have to take people along on the journey with you and for all the foibles and anachronisms that affect the way we can do things here the University still works!

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WHAT YOU DO CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES?

Yes, when we introduced our new student services online system it was a huge change at an organisational level and for students it was a new interface with the University. We put in a new timetabling system and for the first time students were able to see all of their timetable when we opened up for enrolments. I remember coming in to work early after online enrolment had opened at midnight. For the first time thousands of students had enrolled online and been able to see their timetable at the same time. While it has had its challenges we have delivered real benefits to the University with the changes made. That has been a significant achievement.

I think we are creating a culture in Academic Services – rather than being the bureaucratic gateway for students to come into university – that is moving to a much more customer service focus. We are putting ourselves in the students' shoes; we're looking at how it is for them. We want it to be a seamless, transparent, easy process for them.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

I love theatre and art (I have a double major in Art History and History) and I like to cook. I have a professional cooking qualification from City and Guilds in London. I graduated with distinction (laughs). I learnt very classical techniques, everything from preparing pastry to boning a pheasant. I flirted with the idea of running my own catering business, but decided I'm too lazy, I didn't want to work nights and weekends. I like to cook for friends and family and have a library of cookbooks. I particularly like Vietnamese and Thai cookery, but lately just enjoy going to our local markets and buying whatever is in season to cook with. We travel a lot and food is a big part of that. I try everything from street food to expensive restaurants. I like the street end the best I think (laughs).

DID YOU KNOW

... that if you were part of the wealthy elite in ancient China and wanted to ensure that you would achieve passage to the afterlife and also that you would be provided for at the level of comfort you were used to, then you would need to make sure that you were buried along with the right sort of funerary objects.

Ming qi, or “spirit utensils”, were made over many centuries in ancient China as an alternative to killing slaves and animals to accompany the deceased. They represented items which were familiar to the person in everyday life and were a means of providing the same type of material comforts, along with servants and other attendants needed for support in the afterlife.

The Confucius Institute is fortunate to have on display a number of figurines and objects which are examples of *Ming qi* and which have been dated to the mid to late 1400s. The group on display includes 12 figures each approximately 35 cm high, a bed, a table, food in the form of a pig and a duck, candles, a sedan chair, a horse, a chest, a house altar and a cupboard. By examining these objects it is possible to learn not only about the history of the Chinese approach to death but also about daily life as well.

The 12 figures are dressed in robes, mostly glazed in green and yellow over a stoneware base, with hats typical of the Ming period. This type of colourful glazed pottery is known as Tang Sancai as it was developed during the Tang dynasty (618-907). The green glaze was formed by adding copper to the lead glaze base and iron was added to the base glaze to produce the yellow colour. Blue was less common, but produced through adding cobalt.

These *Ming qi* figures are part of the Chan collection. Chairs, cupboards, desks and other



pieces of furniture from the collection are also on display. Not only tangible artefacts of historical Chinese life they are also fascinating objects in their own rights, illustrative of Chinese art and pottery techniques. A beautiful China red glazed porcelain vase is among the other items at the Confucius Institute. This was presented by the Confucius Institutes' Headquarters on one of the occasions when the Auckland Institute was recognised as the Confucius Institute of the Year.

While the display is not open for public “walk in” viewing, the Confucius Institute welcomes visitors to come and look at the figures, and the other items in their collection. Anyone wishing to visit should contact Kim Robson (DDI 923 9955) to make an appointment.

■ Nora Yao
Director, Confucius Institute, Auckland

WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

BEYOND THE OHLALA MOUNTAINS

ALAN BRUNTON / POEMS 1968-2002
BOOK LAUNCH
27 MARCH, 6.30 FOR 7-9PM
Wharekai at Waipapa Marae,
16 Wynyard St.

Drawing on 12 published collections and the rich resource of his papers, editors Professor of English Michele Leggott and Martin Edmond present a selection that shows for the first time the scope of Brunton's poetics as well as his trademark linguistic bravura. This will be an evening of readings and performances in the spirit of Red Mole and Roadworks, those experimental theatre troupes that put so many of Alan Brunton's words in the mouths of singers, musicians and actors.

RETIREMENT FORUM

17 APRIL, 9AM - 5PM
Retirement Policy and Research Centre,
Business School

There is no shortage of recommendations for the government to do something about the costs of an ageing population. In the last six months there have been reports from, amongst others, the Treasury, the Retirement Commissioner, the Financial Services Council and the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research. There was also an earlier report from the Savings Working Group. The RPRC Forum will draw these threads together into a series of recommendations for public discussion. See www.rprc.auckland.ac.nz

ROBB LECTURES

19, 21, 23 MAY
More details in the May *UniNews*

This year's Robb lecturers are UK social epidemiologists Professor Richard Wilkinson and Professor Kate Pickett. They are the authors of *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Good for Everyone* (London: Penguin, 2010). The book argues that “In rich countries, a smaller gap between rich and poor means a happier, healthier, and more successful population.” In contrast, there is no correlation between average income and social problems for these countries. Further details here: www.equalitytrust.org.uk/.

PASSION FOR EYE HEALTH



Ilva Rupenthal

When Dr Ilva Rupenthal came to the University as a Pharmacy student in 2002 she couldn't have known that 12 years later she would head up the University's new Buchanan Ocular Therapeutics Unit (BOTU).

Ilva came from Germany to complete a six-month practical experience internship for her Pharmacy degree from the Philipps University of Marburg. Her study project was to help develop a special eye drop to improve healing after corneal surgery.

After finishing her degree and graduating, Ilva decided to return to New Zealand to continue the project for her PhD. "It was a continuation of my initial project, but instead of using an oil-based eye drop (microemulsion), I was working with in-situ gelling systems that, when applied as a solution to the surface of the eye, turn into a gel which helps the formulation to stay in the front of the eye for longer."

Ilva completed her doctorate and took up a senior tutoring position in the School of Pharmacy in 2009 combined with a part-time post-doctoral research position in the Department of Ophthalmology.

In 2010, she was awarded one of the last post-doctoral fellowships from the Government's Foundation of Science, Research and Technology (FoRST). "For this I had to decide whether to stay in pharmacy working mainly on delivery systems, or to move into ophthalmology to pursue translational research," she says. "The decision to move to ophthalmology was one of

the best I made, because I really enjoy applying my knowledge of pharmaceuticals in the clinical setting." Her post-doctoral position included supervising masters and doctoral students, as well as a now-steady stream of German intern students who have followed in her footsteps.

The FoRST fellowship also offered the opportunity for leadership training and approved Ilva's request to do the Outward Bound Navigator Leadership Development course at Anakiwa in March 2013.

"This was an amazing course with both theory and practical sessions, that gave me a totally different perspective on leadership from any classroom-based course," she says.

The Fellowship also resulted in many invitations to conferences and in March 2012 one of those opportunities led to a significant advance for her career.

"I was giving a presentation at the Cornea and Contact Lens Society (CCLS) one-day meeting on what's new in ocular drug delivery systems and mentioned that I was currently building an ocular drug delivery group in the department, working together with the clinicians." One of the delegates in the audience happened to be Dr Trevor Gray, a prominent ophthalmologist and philanthropist.

Unknown to Ilva, Dr Gray and Professor Charles McGhee (Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the New Zealand National Eye Centre) had already been in discussion for more than three years in relation to a major philanthropic donation to the Department of

Ophthalmology. Dr Gray intended this donation would enhance research and build teaching across the allied professions of Ophthalmology and Optometry.

As a result of further discussions and key additional input from Ilva, Professor Colin Green and Associate Professor Dipika Patel, a \$2.4 million donation from the Buchanan Charitable Trust (Dr Trevor and Dr Caroline Gray) enabled the establishment of the BOTU in the University's Ophthalmology Department.

In December Ilva was confirmed as senior lecturer and the inaugural Director of the BOTU. At about the same time, she was also awarded a \$500,000 Sir Charles Hercus Health Research Fellowship from the Health Research Council to investigate "stimuli responsive implants" for the eye, which currently is her major project for the Unit and includes her supervising two doctoral students to support the research.

Ilva also collaborates with staff from Optometry, Pharmacy and Chemical Sciences on projects involving the development of novel ocular therapeutics, which is one of the main aims of the Unit. She has a small teaching load in both pharmacy and ophthalmology with the BOTU, planning online courses for community optometrists to learn more about ocular therapeutics.

"I feel very lucky to have my dream job and my dream lifestyle here in New Zealand," she says.



ROBUST PACIFIC ISLANDS



Paul Kench

Low-lying coral reef islands in the central Pacific and Indian Oceans are considered among the most vulnerable nations on earth. Future sea-level rise and changing storm frequency and intensity are widely expected to destabilise the physical foundations of these small islands, rendering them uninhabitable. Together with colleagues in the School of Environment and international collaborators I have led a research programme that is building a comprehensive understanding of the controls on coral reef island formation and change.

The research programme has three complementary strands. First, we have been examining how reef islands formed over the past 5,000 years in response to past changes in sea level. Second, we have been undertaking a number of detailed studies of wave and current processes that control island deposition and change. Third, we have been documenting how islands in the Pacific have physically changed over the past 60-100 years, using geological charts, aerial photographs and more recent satellite imagery.

Results from our work are suggesting reef islands are geologically robust landforms that will persist on coral reef platforms, and are therefore challenging conventional perceptions of the vulnerability of these small islands. Our results have stimulated a significant increase in global research effort on this issue.

Preliminary findings, published in *Global Planetary Change* in 2010, showed that the majority of reef islands in Fongafale atoll, Tuvalu, had either remained stable or become larger over the past few decades. Such a finding is contrary to expectations that islands are beginning to erode away. In a more recent study with Murray Ford



Changes in the vegetated shoreline of Tepuka Island 1896 – 2005

(Ford and Kench 2014) we show that islands in Nadikdik Atoll, Marshall Islands, have entirely rebuilt over the past century despite being obliterated by a typhoon in 1905.

Our current work is developing a much larger dataset of island change for 1,000 islands in the Pacific located in the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Federated States of Micronesia and Cook Islands. We aim to develop a robust regional analysis of island geomorphic behaviour. Our programme is also attempting to resolve whether islands are also able to build vertically to keep pace with rising sea levels. Our preliminary evidence suggests storm events are able to build island surfaces, indicating that physical mechanisms exist that will allow islands to withstand rising sea levels and increased storminess. These results are encouraging news for the Pacific communities and provide critical information in assisting Pacific island countries in developing adaptation responses to global environmental change.

■ Professor Paul Kench
School of Environment

ANTI-DEPRESSANT SIDE-EFFECTS

School of Psychology researchers Dr Claire Cartwright and Dr Kerry Gibson's major online survey of respondents who have had side effects from anti-depressants achieved significant media coverage in early March. Dr Cartwright discussed the findings on RNZ's *Morning Report* and the study was reported by Newstalk ZB, Fairfax Media's Stuff website and regional newspapers.

WOMEN SCIENTISTS

Professor Merryn Tawhai, deputy director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, was one of four women scientists featured in a *New Zealand Herald* article titled "Women's passion now their careers".

CRIMEA

Professor Robert Greenberg, Dean of Arts, spoke on the increasing tension in the Crimea between Russia and the Ukraine on TVNZ's Breakfast on Monday 3 March, 5 March on Radio New Zealand's *Morning Report* and on Sunday 16 March on Radio Live. Nicholas Ross Smith, a PhD student from Politics and International Relations, wrote on the Russian military action in Crimea for the *NZ Herald*, 13 March.

DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN

Associate Professor Sally Merry, head of the University's Department of Psychological Medicine, is the joint author of the editorial in the latest issue of the *New Zealand Medical Journal* which speaks about depression and bullying in children. The Pacific Islands Families Study, published in the journal, found seven per cent of nine-year-old Pacific children showed depressive symptoms compared with the one-to-three per cent prevalence generally in children.

POWER FAILURE

Associate Professor Steve Matthewman of Sociology discussed his paper: "Blackouts: A Sociology of Electrical Power Failure" on TVNZ's *Breakfast*, 18 February and Radio New Zealand's *Nine to Noon* on 26 February.

POLITICS AND RELIGION

Dr Chris Wilson, Politics and International Relations, and Dr Ashok Sharma, Honorary Research Fellow in Politics, wrote a joint piece on corruption, religion and leadership in the upcoming elections in India and Indonesia, *The Conversation*, 13 March, while Dr Zain Ali, head of the Islamic Studies Research Unit, wrote an opinion piece on religious education in schools, published in *NZ Herald*, 13 March.

FROM THE COLLECTION

ART COLLECTION



Paul Gauguin made a huge painting of the same title as this photographic series by Shigeyuki Kihara in 1897. As a teenager, Gauguin had attended a Catholic seminary where he was taught by the Bishop of Orléans to reflect on the nature of human life. Repudiating both religion and his native France, Gauguin sailed off in search of a simple life in a South Pacific paradise, arriving in French Polynesia in 1891. But Gauguin never forgot the Bishop's spiritual questions: *Where does humanity come from? Where is it going to? How does humanity proceed?* and inscribed them in the top left corner of puzzling paintings.

An 8.3 magnitude earthquake generated 4.5 metre waves – the Galu Afi or Wave of Fire – which killed more than 100 people in several islands, destroying homes and villages, just before 6pm on 29 September 2009. Shigeyuki Kihara travelled to Samoa to assist with the recovery and has set up her camera on

Lalomanu Beach, about an hour from Apia on the east coast of Upolu island. She revisits Gauguin's masterwork in this post-tsunami photographic tableau, soliciting answers to the same questions. She is critical of the French painter's exoticising of Polynesian peoples for a European audience, and casts Gauguin's painting as the archetypal imperial instrument. In contrast to the nakedness of Gauguin's women, Kihara herself performs the role of the female figure. She is primly clad in a bustled and trained black taffeta mourning dress derived from the Victorian period when a widow was expected to mourn for her husband for two and a half years. Kihara's mourner is a generic cipher for grief, three years on from the tsunami. Made in 2012, this image also commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Samoa from New Zealand in 1962, which is celebrated every year on 1 June. Standing calm and erect, the female figure gazes out to sea from whence the terrible disasters of both the

tidal wave and colonisation originated, unbroken and stronger for having withstood the experience.

The artist describes herself as transformed into the character of a latter day Salome for these tableaux. Dancing before her stepfather Herod on his birthday, the original New Testament character requested the head of John the Baptist as her reward for giving pleasure. As a postcolonial princess of the islands, the price demanded by Kihara's Salome for her dancing remains unnamed. Turning her back on the viewer, this Salome is refusing to perform seductively for the camera. Rather than the warm, tropical colours of Gauguin's painting, the scene is rendered starkly monochrome. It recalls both documentary photography traditions of newspaper reportage and is also a critique of the imagery of semi-naked Samoan belles in idyllic scenery posed by the New Zealand photographer Thomas Andrew, who lived in Samoa from 1891 until 1939.

This Salome is witness to both the transformations wrought on Samoan culture and society by the arrival of Christian missionaries and settlers, and the long struggle for independence that followed. Viewers are invited to consider Samoa's situation in the era of rising sea levels and continued exploitation of the natural environment and supply the answers to the perennial questions: *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?*

■ Linda Tyler

ARTWORK: Shigeyuki Kihara, *After Tsunami Galu Afi*, Lalomanu, from the series *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* 2013, c-print 4/5, 795 x 1040mm

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 David Feng (09) 303 0601 or (021) 246 6710 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log onto www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

FLATMATE WANTED FOR VILLA IN PARNELL. Walking distance to University. Share with a mother and daughter (12) and son on some weekends. Happy for flatmate to just stay in term time if required. Very reasonable price for child-friendly person. Semi vegetarian. Phone Kate on 368 1190 or (022) 616 0097.

KINGSLAND. Two-bedroom town house to share with owner. Only 2.5 kms from University. Easy bike, train, or bus ride. Fully furnished, quiet, secure, wireless Internet. Short or long-term. Prefer female. \$200 pw + expenses. Ph Helen on (027) 301 6888 or email helenpow@gmail.com

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT TO LET in a superior two bedroom unit from 1 September to 20 October 2014 while owner overseas. Please email e.longdrive@gmail.com or phone (021) 267 5331.

SPACIOUS APARTMENT with great views of harbour and Hobson Bay available for 10 weeks from 11 April. Two enormous bdms, vast lounge and balcony overlooking garden reserve. Separate dining and extra

family room off kitchen area. Entrance hall and corridor leading back from very big bthrm with extra separate facilities in cloakroom. All mod coms including Wifi. Parking available on concrete apron at back. Within walking distance of the University, Newmarket and Parnell. Close to daytime bus route and school and 5 minutes from Link buses. For more details please email Shelagh, ong_scoop@clear.net.nz for photos and any further information. \$550 pw.

UNFURNISHED TWO-BEDROOM PENTHOUSE APARTMENT (80sqm) with large rooftop terrace in upmarket building only five-minutes walk from the University. Outstanding views to Old Government House and Auckland harbour. Rent includes whiteware,

MOZART'S SYMPHONIES

In this album Professor of Music, Uwe Grodd gives his audience an arrangement of Mozart's Symphonies 38, 39 and 40 for flute, piano, violin and cello by one of Mozart's (and Beethoven's) star pupils - Johann Nepomuk Hummel. The Naxos album demonstrates what an accomplished composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel was. And that is nowhere more obvious than in these arrangements of three great late Mozart symphonies, which are universally regarded as masterpieces of the classical repertoire. Hummel proves what a genius he had for instrumentation, and what astounding tricks he was capable of to make a four-person chamber ensemble sound as full-bodied as if it were a genuine chamber orchestra.

With Uwe Grodd (flute), Friedemann Eichhorn (violin), Martin Rummel (cello) and Roland Krüger (piano) coming together, we have here a quartet that gives an absolutely inspiring performance of this music – here it's not just technical perfection that counts, but above all the kind of deeply felt playing that is now seldom heard.



PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT

Actor Oscar Kightley, poet Sam Hunt, rugby great John Kirwan and Maori Elder Dame Whina Cooper are just some of the people that appear in this new New-Zealand-focused edition of the introduction to psychology: *Psychology in Context*.

Compiled by Associate Professor Anthony Lambert, *Psychology in Context* opens each chapter with a story about well-known events (such as the Erebus disaster and the Christchurch earthquakes) or people. This helps students anchor important concepts in a relevant context while interviews with leading New Zealand academics and psychologists and vignettes about young psychologists working in different fields of psychology illustrate the types of research and career options available to students. "I have learned so much," says Tony in the introduction. "I hope that readers of this textbook will share some of the enthusiasm and fascination that I felt, both as a student of introductory psychology...and more recently, as a teacher, researcher and co-author of this textbook."



DEBRIS

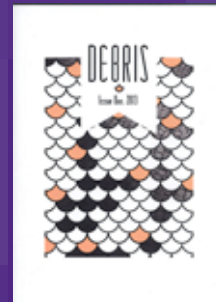
Faced with a wealth of creative writing talent but no outlet to publish it did not faze a group of industrious students from the University; they simply created and published a new literary journal.

Called *Debris*, the journal launched its first issue last September. Editor-in-Chief Saiya Guo, a joint BA/LLB (Hons) student and Hilary Johnston, a BA (Hons) student started work on the first issue early last year. A team of undergraduate and postgraduate students joined them to form the editorial and publishing staff of *Debris*.

"We have a very strong community of writers here at the University but there didn't seem to be an outlet for it," Saiya said.

"The journal has provided a platform and opportunity for people to see their work in print."

The team were looking for "both fresh voices and established voices" and found a wide range of local and international contributors. They include Auckland poet Samuel Carey, Howie Good, a journalism professor from New York, and several current University of Auckland students.



Debris is available for \$15 online at www.debrisjournal.co.nz or from the University Bookshop and select retailers across Auckland.

cold water + secure carpark. Building amenities include a swimming pool, gym and spa. \$680 pw. Phone Stephan on (021) 232 5195 or email stephan_resch@gmx.de

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

SEEKING PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION from January-June 2015. Near University on bus line. Retired professor (woman) with local references. Tidy, quiet, non-smoker. Happy to take care of mail, plants, etc. Reply to JeanneOnly1@yahoo.com

SHORT-TERM RENTAL REQUIRED of two/three-bedroom house or apartment (furnished, gas heating/heat pump) for Italian visiting professors and

their two kids (10 and 11 years old) at the University of Auckland from 13 May-25 August 2014. Non-smokers. Please contact giusi.parpinello@unibo.it

MISCELLANEOUS

CINEMA GROUP: This is a group for University staff and students interested in filmgoing to attend European movies on a regular basis at the Lido and Academy Cinemas. Meet for coffee. All welcome. Contact film.group0012@mail.com

CITY LEGAL SERVICES. Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street. We are near the University, with good parking. We can assist with property transactions,

trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters.

Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz. Visit www.rainey.co.nz

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF CARE

The Liveable University is a research project under the Transforming Cities (TCI): Innovations for Sustainable Futures Thematic Research Initiative, which addresses “transformations in space and place for sustainable futures”, and “mechanisms/interventions for the creation of liveable cities”.

To ask what terms like sustainability and liveability might entail and why they are timely is part of our remit. The situation within which our research takes place is shaped by underfunding of the tertiary sector, increasing emphasis on STEM-subject areas and calculable “outputs”, and the proposed narrowing of university council membership. This begs questions about the value of the university – what universities do and what they are for.

Our research investigates what social values the University of Auckland itself models and practises. In the context of University-wide administrative restructuring, command-and-control models of consultation and communication, and ever-increasing subjection to performance metrics, we note that there is little or no account of what those who work in the University environment themselves value, or of how this environment itself works as an instrument of instruction. Given the place of our university, nested within the central city “Learning Quarter”, we consider the effects of the nominal drivers of change within the university (sustainability, innovation, leadership, excellence), and whether they express the social values of urban communities, including the productive and bottom-up value of community itself. Without concern for a living wage, for local access to

higher education, for students in difficulty, for campus life that includes dissent and dissonance, the value of “sustainability” reduces to securing the risk of investment, and liveability to the life of the brand.

The project therefore relates the TCI themes to the University itself as agent and engine of personal and collective transformation, conceived holistically in terms of its people and place. As the Universitas 21 “Statement on Sustainability” makes clear, the university may be taken as a “microcosm, test-case and demonstration of liveable cities”. Consideration of the extent to which the university meets this challenge—as a matter of care – is central to our investigation. “Liveability” addresses what Ron Barnett, in *Being a University* (2011), calls the university as ecology, an intelligent system that works for the flourishing of people and nourishing of place.

To document the experience of the University setting, we propose workshops and symposia that give flesh to the value of liveability. Following the work of philosopher James Carse, we aim to engage University workers and students in games of greater value to make visible the differential between the work that we variously do and the quality of our experience of the University itself. In view of what values do aspects of University life appear as deficits, and actually inimical to human thriving? What bloom spaces already exist or can be imagined within this institution? How are the University’s atmospheres and affects generated and felt? Turning towards the less-than-visible work and values of others in our midst seems likely to re-face the University in some sense. Such

re-facing will also involve turning the University towards the grounds of the place it occupies, and towards history as much as the future, in order to recognise the encompassing significance of its Māori past and presence.

The project draws on areas of interest, experience and expertise from across all facets of University life. But it recognises that if living well is an art, something more than merely subsisting, then the world-making and world-responsive contributions of Arts may be of especial value. Attuned to atmospheres, too, artful forms of teaching and learning reveal the University to be a place of many worlds, a pluri-versity or poly-versity. Offering models of social worlds – old and new, restorative and imaginative – the university can be a vital place of social renewal and transformation. This capacity it draws on to generate other ways of thinking and acting – to be able to “world” – is a human resourcefulness that cannot be pre-scripted or programmed without hollowing out our shared prospects. A truly liveable university, we believe, must embrace the risk of the possible as a critique of the imperatives of the probable.

We are Stephen Turner (pictured top right) and Anna Boswell (English, Drama and Writing Studies), Sean Sturm (CLear), Niki Harré (Psychology) and Kirsten Locke (Education). If you wish to participate in the workshops please contact Anna at a.boswell@auckland.ac.nz