



CHANGING TIMES

PAGE 5

RESEARCH FORUM

The inaugural Research Excellence Forum aims to inspire University researchers (including postgraduate students) with a glimpse into some of their colleagues' achievements in potentially unfamiliar disciplines. The day, which is free to attend, will include over 30 speakers from every faculty and large-scale research Institute including 2015 Rutherford Medallist Distinguished Professor Ian Reid and 2015 Pou Aronui Award winner Professor Margaret Mutu.

PAGE 3

HISTORY OF TĀMAKI

In 1944, the University Council bought 120 acres of farmland at Tāmaki. Historian Keith Sinclair records in his history of the University 1883 -1983 that it was decided at one point, supported by the promise of light rail to Tāmaki, to move the entire University to Tāmaki, build halls of residence and make it entirely residential. However, the underground railway and electrification of suburban lines that were crucial to the relocation proposal did not eventuate.

PAGE 5

OPOTIKI CASE

In an Opotiki courtroom last month, five young men were discharged without conviction after pleading guilty to sexual connection with girls under the age of 16. The boys were 17 and 18-year-old secondary school students at the time. The girls were 14 and 15. Most commentators agreed the judge made the right decision. However, Professor Nicola Gavey from Psychology looks further and suggests that what was going on probably had a lot to do with sexist cultural norms.

PAGE 12

GRAD GALA

Three virtuoso musicians from the School of Music will compete for a top prize of \$6,000 at the annual Graduation Gala Concerto Competition on Thursday 12 May. Siyu Sun (piano), Anna Cooper (flute), and Lauren Bennett (violin) will compete for the grand prize, accompanied by the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor Uwe Grodd. The free popular concert will open with a welcome fanfare by the Auckland Chamber Choir, directed by Dr Karen Grylls. Each of the three finalists will perform a concerto.



ADDRESSING THE POSTHUMAN

ALTER, currently on at Gus Fisher, is a group exhibition that asks important questions regarding the relationships between human and non-human, virtual and real in the context of the increasing digitisation of our contemporary existence. The exhibition includes works by international artists who critically address the posthuman. Referencing the biomimetic “self” these works often draw on neurobiology, brain imaging, neuropsychology and computational modeling.



WRITERS’ FESTIVAL

The University of Auckland is proudly supporting the Auckland Writers Festival again. Our staff, students and alumni help form New Zealand’s literary landscape and this year the 2016 Honoured New Zealand Writer is alumnus Vincent O’Sullivan. Unfortunately, the University of Auckland Festival Forum “The Border Debate” is SOLD OUT. But watch out for many of our staff, alumni and students featuring over the four days including Jane Kirby Hallum, Paula Morris and Selina Tusitala Marsh.



INNOVATIVE YOUTH MENTORING

More vulnerable youth will be mentored under an innovative youth mentoring programme at the University, thanks to a \$220,000 grant from the Vodafone NZ Foundation. Dr Pat Bullen and Dr Kelsey Deane, who both specialise in youth development and youth mentoring at the University’s Faculty of Education and Social Work, will lead the project. The grant will support them to work collaboratively with existing programmes and community partners to develop a culturally-based version of the Campus Connections mentoring model for Aotearoa New Zealand.



- WHAT’S NEW 3
- IN BRIEF 4
- COVER STORY 5
- DID YOU KNOW? 7
- WHAT’S ON CAMPUS 7
- RESEARCH 8
- WHAT AM I DISCOVERING? 9
- IN THE SPOTLIGHT 9
- FROM THE COLLECTION 10
- WHAT’S COMING OUT 11
- MARAMATANGA 12

COVER PHOTO: The Commonwealth Games Village at Tāmaki 1990

EDITOR: Tess Redgrave (t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz)
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Godfrey Boehnke, Judy Wilford, Tess Redgrave
 DESIGN: Dan Holt (University Marketing)
 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

SMART SHARP SNAPPY



Distinguished professors Jane Harding and Anne Salmond are headlining a showcase of excellent research from across the University on Wednesday 8 June.

Endorsed by the University's Research Committee, the inaugural Research Excellence Forum aims to inspire University researchers (including postgraduate students) with a glimpse into some of their colleagues' achievements in potentially unfamiliar disciplines.

The day, which is free to attend, will include over 30 speakers from every faculty and large-scale research institute including 2015 Rutherford Medallist Distinguished Professor Ian Reid, 2015 Pou Aronui Award winner Professor Margaret Mutu, Professor Grant Covic, co-winner of the 2013 Prime Minister's Science Prize; and documentary filmmaker Professor Annie Goldson.

"As researchers, we're often deeply immersed in our own work and it can be useful to put our heads up and see what everybody else is doing," says Associate Professor Mark Costello, Forum instigator. "It can spark

different ideas and ways of working. And this will be a chance to increase our understanding of each other's work – and then catch up for a drink afterwards."

Mark says the presentations are intended to be "short, sharp and snappy"; most will only be seven minutes long, with some as short as three minutes. The day is designed so that attendees can come and go as their schedules allow – people can stay for an hour or for the whole day.

In the afternoon, a panel will discuss research collaboration and, in a special session entitled "Thinking the Box", an interdisciplinary group from the faculties of Arts, Science and Business & Economics will demonstrate a number of very different explorations of the concept of shipping containers.

The Vice-Chancellor will start the day at 9:15am and formalities will finish at 5pm with refreshments. Venue: City Campus Conference Centre lecture theatre (423-342). Search for Research Excellence Forum on the intranet to find the full programme. All welcome.

Future Islands

Staff and alumni from the School of Architecture and Planning are leading New Zealand's pavilion at the upcoming Architecture Biennale in Venice.

The team features Senior Lecturer Kathy Waghorn as Associate Creative Director, alongside Creative Director Charles Walker, a former member of the University's teaching staff. Their proposal, Future Islands, was selected by the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) from a pool of 15 submissions to represent New Zealand at the event.

The 15th international architecture exhibition is curated by Chilean architect and 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Alejandro Aravena. Aravena's theme, "Reporting from the Front," focuses on architecture's capacity to improve the human condition by responding to important issues such as segregation, inequality, suburbia, sanitation, natural disasters, the housing shortage, migration, crime, traffic, waste and pollution.



AUP WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The University's Auckland University Press (AUP) is thrilled to win the London Book Fair International Excellence Award for Academic and Professional Publisher of the Year against strong competition from shortlisted publishers Higher Education Press (China) and Teseo (Argentina).

The awards, which are held in partnership with the UK Publishers Association, celebrate success in 14 categories, representing the best publishing ambassadors, cutting edge publishing, and groundbreaking initiatives in the industry.

AUP Director Sam Elworthy received the award at the awards ceremony. He commented: "It has been a huge thrill to win the London Book Fair Academic and Professional Publisher Award. At the London Book Fair, you're surrounded by thousands of publishers from around the world—

big to small, trade to education, Africa to America. In the midst of all that great work going on, it's humbling to have our work at Auckland University Press recognised by the international publishing community. Getting back up the morning after, finding publishers around the world excited about co-editions of books like Robyn Toomath's *Fat Science* and Warren Moran's *New Zealand Wine*, you realise again that we can play a full part in the international life of the mind from our small islands."

Richard Charkin, Executive Director, Bloomsbury and President, International Publishers Association said: "Congratulations on the award. You have shown how it's possible to survive and thrive in what might

appear to be a very small and difficult market. New Zealand punches above its weight and I'm proud to be an honorary Kiwi."



Sam Elworthy (right)

IN CHINA

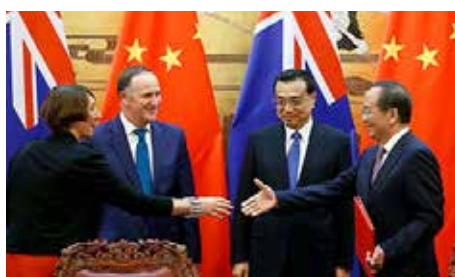
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) Professor Jenny Dixon was a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding witnessed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in April.

Jenny travelled to Beijing to join the 40-strong trade mission led by John Key.

The Memorandum strengthens the NZ Centre at Peking University (PKU) relationships and reflects the importance of the centre to New Zealand and its Chinese university partner.

Jenny, Peking University President Lin Jianhua and Victoria University of Wellington Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford signed the memorandum. The centre offers an undergraduate elective course on New Zealand, which is taught in English, facilitates exchanges of researchers between PKU and New Zealand universities, and provides a forum for policy dialogue. An annual summer school is held in New Zealand for PKU students.

The Centre was initially established by the University of Auckland in 2007 and joined soon after by Otago, Victoria, Waikato and Canterbury universities. Massey University, AUT and Lincoln University joined later.



PACIFIC DIGITAL STORYTELLING

A project to foster more digital media production in the Pacific has flourished, thanks to the work of the University of Auckland's Media, Film and TV academics.

Filmmakers Dr Shuchi Kothari and Dr Sarina Pearson, along with Senior Media Technician Peter Simpson, have created the Pacific Digital Storytelling Project that enables amateur storytellers in Fiji, Tonga and Aotearoa New Zealand to make short personal films about their own lives from their own points of view.

The project began in 2013 after Shuchi and Sarina felt there was an opportunity to foster more grassroots digital media production in the Pacific. They received funding from a University of Auckland's Te Whare Kura grant to conduct workshops where, under their facilitation, participants created their personal films.

They held their first three-day workshop in Suva in November 2013. Participants - who were mainly professional staff from the Centre of Distance and Flexible Learning at the University of South Pacific Laucala Campus - produced stories that were 3-4 minutes long, based in reality with a focus on an event, a person or a place.

Since then two further workshops have been held in Tonga and Auckland. So far a total of 25 digital stories have been produced.

As a collective body of work they offer a glimpse into contemporary experiences of place, mobility, family and culture in the Pacific.

"The hope of the Stories in the Pacific project is that, through the practice of making these stories, everyday storytellers engage with digital technologies and also provide us with the opportunity to listen to their experiences and perspectives," Shuchi says.

Digital storytelling is a short form, relatively low tech, audiovisual model, which was developed 20 years ago by the Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley, California, now called Story Center.



Sarina Pearson and Shuchi Kothari

INVENTORS FUND

Auckland UniServices Limited has launched the University of Auckland Inventors Fund (UoAIF), an "evergreen" open-ended \$10million investment fund accessible to University researchers and students for the development of technologies for commercialisation.

Over the past three years, UniServices has invested around \$4million in commercialisation projects and has delivered a three times return on investment.

Based on this success in 2015, the University made a further \$1million available to expand UniServices' investment activity. To further accelerate this growth UniServices is making an additional \$5million funding facility available to make the \$10million (UoAIF) a reality.

The overall objective of the fund is to enable University researchers and students to successfully transform good research into good businesses and exciting new products. This early funding is the riskiest stage of the venture process and typically no other sources of risk capital are available. All proceeds will be returned to the fund for reinvestment.

Researchers and their students wishing to apply to the fund should contact either their Commercialisation Manager at UniServices or contact Will Charles on: w.charles@auckland.ac.nz.

2017 DAA AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards. If you know any University of Auckland alumni who have truly excelled and made their mark on the world, now is your chance to nominate them for an award.

The University and the University of Auckland Society bestow the annual awards to honour alumni who have made outstanding contributions through their different achievements to their professions, to their communities and globally. To find out more visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/daa. Nominations close 30 June 2016.



TĀMAKI SALE SIGNALS CHANGING TIMES



The recent sale of Tāmaki Campus signals the growing importance of cross-disciplinary teaching and research to the University. It also puts an end to a long debate that has persisted about the University's location.

"The sale reflects how times are changing and how much the University needs to be highly connected to the city, drawing strength from it as well as creating great benefits for it," says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

"In looking how to physically configure the University of the future, we have taken into account three things. First, we depend absolutely on having very talented students and staff, people who are typically attracted to the many artistic, cultural, sporting and other opportunities that a great city has to offer. Second, many of our most able students are motivated to take conjoint degrees. Third, many of our most successful research groups are multidisciplinary.

"It is obvious that if we are to enhance these strengths then co-location of our diverse faculties and large-scale research institutes close to the city centre, offers the best possible outcome."

But this hasn't always been the case.

The University site debate

Almost as soon as the Auckland University College was established in 1883, debate began about its permanent location. The battle raged for most of the first two decades of the 20th century, with the University seeking to be located permanently on what was then referred to as the Metropolitan Ground, a paddock adjacent to what is now Old Government House.

However, many in the city were opposed to this proposal, particularly because of the fear that the University would acquire Government House. That would eventually happen, of course, but not until the 1960s.

The delay in finding a permanent home was

apparently traumatic. At boisterous public meetings held to address the site issue, students of the early 1900s would break into protest song and hold up banners such as *We have eyes but no site*.

Relief came in 1919 when the University acquired Choral Hall for science students and the Government agreed to hand over Metropolitan Ground even though the then-Minister of Education, Sir Francis Bell, protested it was "authorised sacrilege".

Soon after, the Lippincott-designed purpose-built Arts Building now known as the ClockTower, was constructed.

But the debate continued and strengthened as to whether the University should be permanently located in the city centre near business, commerce and the law firms or whether it would more appropriately be located on a larger greenfield site.

The history of Tāmaki

In 1944, the University Council, heeding the above, spent 14,200 pounds of its own funds for 120 acres of farmland at Tāmaki. Historian Keith Sinclair records in his history of the University 1883-1983 that it was decided at one point, supported by the promise of light rail to Tāmaki, to move the entire University to Tāmaki, build halls of residence and make it entirely residential. However, disputes about the suitability of the location arose almost immediately. And, as Sinclair notes, the underground railway and electrification of suburban lines that were crucial to the relocation proposal did not eventuate.

Further debate about potential sites and political manoeuvring continued through the 1950s. In the mid-1970s, the Tāmaki land owned by the University but not required for campus development in the foreseeable future became University park (It was renamed Colin Maiden Park in 1994).

In the late 1980s, the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village was built at Tāmaki for

the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland. The University then acquired the buildings, establishing the Tāmaki campus in 1991 because it was felt there was a real opportunity to foster co-location with commerce and industry at Tāmaki.

Teaching began with a stream of Bachelor of commerce students. Arts and science teaching followed in 1993. In 2004, the School of Population Health, part of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, was opened in purpose-built facilities at Tāmaki. The first of its kind in New Zealand, the school focused on factors that affect the health and wellbeing of entire populations.

Today, Tāmaki Innovation Campus is home to courses in biosecurity, exercise sciences, population health, psychology and speech science. It also provides public clinics in cardiac and exercise rehabilitation, health and performance, hearing and tinnitus, nutrition and dietetics, optometry, psychology, and speech language therapy.

"The sale agreement enables us to lease back our core buildings and a number of car parks at Tāmaki for a maximum period of three-and-a-half years while we develop facilities on the central city campuses to accommodate the staff and students currently remaining there," explains the Vice-Chancellor.

THE SITE SONG CHORUS

Here we are, waiting for a site,
Waiting for a site, waiting for a site,
That the Government is pretty tight,
Really you must acknowledge
While they wait, we're growing out of date,
Morbid and sedate. Melancholy state!
Do be polite and offer us a site –
WE WANT A COLLEGE



MY STORY

STAFF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



MARGARET CRANNIGAN ALLEN

Margaret Crannigan Allen is the University's Manager of Scholarships and Graduation. Margaret has a background in administrative roles and has worked in a range of industries in New York, Chicago, Melbourne and London. In 1998 she emigrated from the UK to New Zealand with her New Zealand husband and daughter. After doing a number of temp jobs in Auckland, she was employed by the Auckland City Council to manage civic events as well as key committees, including the transport committee.

On March 7, 2007 Margaret joined the University as Graduation Manager. As she streamlined and automated a lot of the processes for Graduation, she was able to take on other roles as well. For a while she was seconded to manage University Records. She now manages both the Graduation and Scholarships Offices.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

Although I was born in Manchester in the UK, I grew up in Ilkley in Yorkshire so our whole family re-lived the War of the Roses every day. I was very fortunate to have grown up on the edge of the moors (think Wuthering Heights) and I loved walking through the bracken and lying on the heather, looking up at the sky and wondering where my life would lead me.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT AS A CHILD?

My mother is a talented artist but sadly I did not get any of those genes despite my multiple attempts to emulate her. My father was a linguist – he just loved languages and I do have a bit of a love of grammar from him. My parents used to have family quizzes a lot and that's where I learnt to spell.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB EVER?

At 14 I worked every weekend in an old people's home, cleaning bed pans and assisting the residents to get up and dressed. I loved it and frankly spent more time talking to them about their past than working. I met some fascinating people including a number of WWI veterans. One resident was a veteran of the Boer war.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEST TEACHER?

My best and favourite was Madame McGough – my Senior School French teacher. She was pretty hard on everyone – but I was her favourite. I know this because she told me last year when I was back visiting my hometown. By contrast my least favourite was Mrs Hastings whom we used to nickname "1066". She was a bit of a battle-axe. She loved using her ruler on everyone.

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

Alleviating financial pressures with the awarding of scholarships and ensuring students leave the University with a great impression as they graduate.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

In both areas the difference we make is absolutely tangible – every day is different and full. Graduation day is a really happy occasion. It's a lot of work but you really feel you're doing something to help students. By the end of this year I will have graduated about 100,000 students since I first started. Some 75% of our students graduate in person with a total of about 10,000 a year. Some of the posthumous awards in particular are very moving and poignant. And there are fun moments such as when the Vice-Chancellor hugged his graduating son on stage.

DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO CHANGES LIVES?

Without a doubt – we know this from the expressive thank you letters we get from scholarship students who would not normally be able to attend University. We've started initiating surveys for Graduation now and there is 95% satisfaction with what we are doing. We are trying to make that five seconds when someone walks across the stage really important.

WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED THAT YOU ARE VERY PLEASED ABOUT?

The first thing that comes to mind is a bit more personal. It's the day my daughter Laura graduated and I gave her her certificate. It was almost like the perfect coming together of work / life balance. I started in my job and then I watched her go through University and graduate twice with a BA in Art History and Sociology and then a BA Hons in Sociology. She now works for Teach First in London. It was also great to be in the role of parent on the day and understand the excitement that family members feel.

I am also very pleased that in my Scholarships role that we offer more scholarships than ever which means helping more students to finance their studies.

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

I love travelling and I enjoy a good walk – and in three weeks I will be heading back to my hometown to celebrate my mother's 89th birthday.

I also do boxing training at the University gym twice a week with a group from Academic Services. I love it.



Margaret (right) with her late brother Nick



OUR PEOPLE



Data-driven Denis on the move

The walls of Denis Agate's office are covered in a chaotic collection of charts and graphs with coloured lines, columns and mysterious notations.

They are the product of a lifetime's work by the University's Energy Manager who retired on April 8 after a working life of 46 years and three months, all of it either at the University or on various University design or construction projects.

Denis came into the University as a Mechanical Engineer in the Works Registry from 1980 to 1996. Beforehand, as a consultant, he had worked on several University-related projects including the Human Sciences Building 201, and as the on-site

engineer at the Primary and Secondary Teachers' Colleges construction site, (acquired by the University in 2006) and now known as Epsom Campus.

He was also on the University payroll as Building Services Clerk of Works on the University's School of Architecture site from 1977 to 1980 and continued to work on the project as a self-employed contractor up until he joined the University.

He became the Energy Manager in 1996 and thinks he was the first to be appointed in a New Zealand university. He credits his then-manager for his foresight in recognising the potential for further significant monetary savings as a result of reducing energy consumption.

Denis was encouraged to get a Diploma of

Energy Management and this taught him a great deal about normalising data, which basically means bringing a lot of relevant information together and adjusting it to create a realistic picture that takes into account all of the contributing factors.

His database of University buildings and their gross floor areas coming on stream, for example, leads to the space ratio of floor area per student. It shows how the m²/EFTS peaked in 1977 then reduced by 34 percent to our current position.

In 1979, there were 9,800 students compared with 33,700 students now, yet we are using less water now in absolute terms, down from 45.9 to 12.6 cubic metres per year on a per student basis. This equates to savings of \$4.6 million/year or a total of \$80 million in accumulated savings. During the same period, the cost of water has gone up from 24 cents to \$5 per cubic metre.

Adjusted figures show the University's total energy use – gas, electricity and steam – is down from 4715 kWh to 2800 kWh per EFTS despite the growth since the 1980s when the University hours were from 8.30 to 5pm, there were no summer schools, just one semester and no desktop computers.

It means a lot to Denis that his successor has been appointed and the work he has done will carry on.

He and wife Raewyn are looking forward to moving from their home in Orakei to a home yet to be built on a waterfront section in the Bay of Plenty at Omokoroa, which used to be part of a farm owned by former Prime Minister Keith Holyoake's father. Denis is already plotting data – rainfall, shadows, sunshine hours, wind speed, the location of hospitals and supermarkets – the next graph in his life on its way.

WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

GIBBONS LECTURES

From 5th May

Level One, Owen G. Glenn Building

For this year's Gibbons Lectures at the University, some of New Zealand's leading scientists will discuss advances in one of the most exciting developments in medical science - medical applications of computer and information technologies. Speakers include Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter ABI, Professors Thomas Lumley and Jim Warren, University of Auckland and Professor Anthony Butler, University of Otago at Christchurch.

AUTUMN GRADUATION

6, 9, 11 May

Graduation will take place over three days and culminate in the Graduation Gala concert on Thursday evening, 12 May. Graduands, their families and friends are invited to attend a short Service of Thanksgiving at MacClaurin Chapel at 8.30 am on each Graduation day. The thanksgiving is for the gifts of intellect and learning, and for personal accomplishment in reaching the point of graduation.

We look forward to seeing you at the service.

SUNDAY@FIVE SERIES

15 May 2016, 5pm

Venue: Music Theatre - School of Music

The Karlheinz Company is the School's flagship contemporary music ensemble, well known for presenting strong programmes of NZ and international repertoire. This performance will include György Ligeti (1923–2006), Continuum for harpsichord (1968), Jack Body (1944–2015), Turtle Time (1968), Pierre Boulez (b. 1925), Notations for piano (1945).

SHOWCASING SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Last year, a team of University of Auckland social scientists were successful in gaining support from the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund for a series of 'research cafes' during 2016. The aim of the Engaged Social Science Research Initiative (ESSRI) is to showcase the social science research that is carried out across the University and to give our researchers the chance to connect with others from across our own University, as well as nationally and internationally. "It's all about interdisciplinary conversations, creating new connections and team building", explained the project leaders.

This week, the ESSRI project leaders (Dr Avril Bell, Melanie Milicich, Dr Rob Webb) announced the teams who have been successful in receiving ESSRI funding to host a research café. Each team will organise a series of events held between May and December, including public lectures by visiting international scholars.

The themes to be addressed in this series are:

- indigenous food sovereignty in the context of climate change (led by Associate Professor Manuka Henare, Business School)
- critical engagements with the 'war on obesity' (led by Dr Darren Powell, Education and Social Work)
- migration and inequality (led by Drs Francis Collins and Ward Friesen, Science, and Dr



Rachel Simon-Kumar, Medical & Health Sciences)

- bringing together research and policy to address the challenges of refugee communities (led by Associate Professors Louise Humpage, Arts, and Jay Marlowe, Education and Social Work)
- accessible transport and mobility in an age and disability friendly city (led by Professor Shanthi Ameratunga, Medical and Health Sciences)

LOGIC AT FIRST SIGHT

New Zealand's love affair with the Finns continues, but this time not with Neil or Tim Finn.

A Finnish thought leader on logic, Jouko Väänänen, certainly took the weather with him on his visit to Auckland in April. Jouko is a Professor of Mathematics and the Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Helsinki. He has made significant contributions to several fields of logic, such as set theory, model theory, computer science logic, and foundations of mathematics. The current emphasis of Jouko's work is best described by his books *Dependence Logic* (2007) and *Models and Games* (2011).

During his visit, Jouko gave a public lecture on "Dependence logic". The lecture provided a general introduction to his theory of dependence and independence, connecting seemingly unrelated subjects such as causality, bound variables in logic, random variables in statistics, patterns in data, the theory of social choice, Mendelian genetics, and even some quantum physics.

In honour of Jouko's first visit to New Zealand, his hosts, Sebastian Link and André Nies, organised a workshop entitled "Re-unifying logic" at the Research Centre Coromandel (see picture left), in which new results on independence in databases and computability theory emerged.

Jouko also signed a Letter of Understanding with our Dean of Science, Professor John Hosking. This is another step to foster academic exchange and cooperation between the faculties of Science at the University of Helsinki and the University of Auckland.



Sebastian Link, André Nies, Jouko Väänänen, Alexander Melnikov, Miika Hannula, Tania Roblot.

SINGING COMMUNITIES



The Singing Communities project is a portfolio of research studies emerging from the creative practice areas of vocal performance and choral studies.

Singing activities feature prominently in a wealth of recent international studies into the neurosciences and music, physical and psychological health and wellbeing, social skill development and social inclusion, and cognitive development.

As there has never been a rigorous and comprehensive study focused on singing in New Zealand primary schools, I undertook a national survey of these schools aimed at collating relevant baseline data on a national level. The survey, "The State of Singing in Primary Schools", revealed the value primary school educators around the country ascribe to this component of the learning culture, and some of the obstacles they struggle with in creating, sustaining and maintaining singing programmes. The survey provides a snapshot of the contexts in which primary school teachers work. While the dilemma is complex and multi-faceted, passionate individuals across the nation, supported by the school community, senior staff and the local music community, are managing to create, maintain and sustain music programmes and extracurricular singing activities.

Most primary schools have someone responsible for school singing or group singing activities, and over half of the primary schools reported offering classroom music lessons that included singing. Multiple forms of singing were reported, with full assembly singing occurring in over 93% of schools and classroom singing occurring in 91% of schools. The frequency of kapa haka as a singing activity was reported

slightly more than that of choir. Some schools struggle to maintain quality programmes, and the obstacles most often reported in this survey fall into specific areas. Many non-music specialists lack confidence in teaching music, as they receive very little music training in their degree. Teachers are stressed with an overcrowded curriculum committed to the Ministry of Education 2010–2015 strategic objectives, which are designed to lift the performance of primary aged children's literacy and numeracy skills. Limited government funding is available to primary schools for the development and support of music and singing programmes that have been marginalised within an arts curriculum that includes fine arts, drama and dance.

Rather than entering the debate on the benefits and effectiveness of an arts-integrated curriculum, this project sought to understand the current issues primary school teachers face in presenting music programmes and to begin to look for potential solutions. With this in mind these findings for the most part align with international trends in primary school music education. The exception is the problem of an overcrowded curriculum, an issue that has created a generation of children who struggle to commit to any subject area, curriculum or non-curriculum, and have difficulty absorbing skills and knowledge beyond a superficial level of understanding.

Increasingly, empirical evidence shows that involvement with the arts leads to measurable cognitive gains, and music instruction in particular shows positive effects on verbal memory and spatial skills, verbal ability and nonverbal reasoning, better questioning skills, more focused periods of intense concentration, and greater understanding that problems can have multiple answers.

Singing can also facilitate and foster environments where relationships flourish and all children deserve access to such contexts, therefore, quality singing experiences should be an essential component of the primary school learning culture in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Dr Te Oti Rakena
Associate Dean Māori and Pacific Island
Head of Vocal Studies
School of Music
Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries

UNINews highlights some of the University research milestones that have hit the headlines in the past couple of months.

PANAMA TAX LEAKS

Professors Craig Elliffe and Michael Littlewood from the Faculty of Law have contributed to a vigorous media conversation about multinationals and tax evasion in New Zealand.

Professor Elliffe set the ball rolling with an opinion piece in which he noted that New Zealand's double tax treaties are the toughest nut to crack because they are being used in a way that significantly reduces the ability of New Zealand to tax New Zealand-sourced business profits.

This piece, published in both the *Dominion Post* and *NZ Herald*, was rapidly followed by the leaked release of the Panama Papers which has focused world attention on New Zealand's role as an international tax haven.

Entering the fray, Professor Littlewood noted that lax disclosure requirements for New Zealand foreign trusts make them a useful and legal vehicle for overseas parties to hold assets away from scrutiny.

The two professors have continued to be forthright in their opinions, offering expert commentary that has been very widely reported by TV3, Radio New Zealand news, including John Campbell's Checkpoint, the *National Business Review* and an array of other publications.

CANCER SOCIETY

The Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre Open Day prompted an excellent series by the *NZ Herald* this week with in-depth articles on the cancer research underway and the potential breakthroughs that may result. These have featured interviews with Professors Bill Denny and Bill Wilson and Associate Professor Lai-Ming Ching. We have also had smaller stories about the Open Day in the Auckland central suburban newspapers.

SUGAR TAX

The health experts call for a sugar tax has featured in all media channels nationwide and has included a number of different angles from Professors Boyd Swinburn, Rod Jackson, Cliona Ni Mhurchu and Robert Beaglehole including a strong campaign about the health effects of obesity on adults and children.

FROM THE COLLECTION

ART COLLECTION



Purchased for \$270 directly from the artist (who had just been promoted to Senior Lecturer at Elam School of Fine Arts in 1972), *Touch* was the first sculpture acquired for the University of Auckland art collection. Like the *Bathers* series he worked on in the preceding years, it captures the warmth of a New Zealand summer, with a hand resting on a female shoulder where the strap of a

sundress is picked out in red paint. It is an unguarded moment of intimacy which alludes to a familiarity of relationship without being explicit. As a sculptor, Twiss says he labours to encourage his viewers to “extrapolate from indicators”.

Exemplifying Twiss’s concern with trying to replicate the kind of cropping that painters used to isolate and direct attention to body

parts, *Touch* is a life-size sculpture, designed to be viewed in the round and interacted with by many human hands. As the sculptor says, “I like my work ending up on mantelpieces, bookshelves and coffee tables, to be picked up and touched.” Each finger is rendered separately, designed to be stroked, and the smooth patina of the bronze gleams like oiled suntanned flesh.

Perennially a figurative sculptor in permanent materials at a time when few New Zealand sculptors manufactured their own work, Twiss travelled on an Arts Council grant in 1965 in order to learn the ancient technique of lost wax bronze casting at first hand in Europe. He visited foundries in Italy, meeting Sicilian sculptor Emilio Greco whose 1947 sculpture *Large Wrestler* had just been bought by the Auckland Art Gallery in 1962. Twiss ended his trip by working at the Royal College of Art in London and having the thrill of handling Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti bronzes as they were installed in an exhibition.

On his return he was appointed to a lectureship at Elam, becoming Head of Sculpture in 1976 – a position he held until his retirement 23 years later. He has subsequently been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services for sculpture in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2002, and in 2011 he received an Arts Foundation Icon Award for his outstanding lifetime of contribution to the

WHAT’S COMING OUT



RELIGIOUS WORLDS

An important gap in the literature examining the transition from Roman rule to post-Roman society has been filled with the release of Arts Senior Lecturer, Dr Lisa Bailey’s *The Religious*

Worlds of the Laity in Late Antique Gaul. In the book, Lisa argues that Christianity in the late antique world was not imposed but embraced, and that the laity were not passive members of their religion, but had a central role in its creation.

In advancing this argument, Lisa explores the role of the laity in Gaul, bringing together the fields of history, archaeology and theology. The book follows the ways in which clergy and monks tried to shape and manufacture lay religious experience. They had themselves constructed the category of ‘the laity’, which served as a negative counterpart to their self-

definition. Lay religious experience was thus shaped in part by this need to create difference between categories.

The book then focuses on how the laity experienced their religion, how they interpreted it and how their decisions shaped the nature of the church and of their faith. This part of the study pays careful attention to the diversity of the laity in this period, their religious environments, ritual engagement, behaviours, knowledge and beliefs.

MĀORI AND PĀKEHA HISTORIES

Tamsin Hanly is so passionate about sharing New Zealand history she mortgaged her house to fund the writing of six books into our past.

She spent four years writing the six volumes, called *A critical guide to Māori and Pākehā histories*. She was inspired to write the books after teaching primary school students for 25 years and finding the curriculum failed to reflect the accurate story of events for both

Māori and Pākehā. “There are primary schools in this country who for the first eight years don’t teach any history of New Zealand.”

Tamsin says schools that do teach New Zealand history tend to stick to the ‘standard story’ or the colonial version.

Tamsin left teaching to complete her MA, called *Preparing students for a bicultural relationship: Pākehā primary teachers and the histories of Aotearoa*.

She used the work of historians Dr Ranginui Walker, Michael King, and Professor James



Belich to research her books, along with University of Auckland academics Professor Anne Salmond and Professor Alison Jones.

arts in New Zealand. His sculptural practice has been sustained for over 50 years, and grew out of a childhood facility for puppetry, where he staged his own theatrical productions. Twiss sculptures are characterised by wit, and are often politically charged, appearing as if on stage in a dramatic tableau. As he says, "I like works you can perceive in one go, as well as being able to move easily around and examine in detail without the world of reality getting in the way."

His own tuition for the Diploma of Fine Arts at Elam had been strictly academic, with drawing from antique fragments which had been in the art school collection since the nineteenth century. There is a vestige of a study of the hand and wrist of a Dying Gaul in *Touch*, which resonates with anatomical correctness while still appearing casual and modern.

Greer Twiss (born 1937) Touch, 1972, painted bronze, 170 x 210 x 140mm

COMIC SUPERHEROES

Comic superheroes have thrilled people of all ages for decades. Be it in a comic book, or on the big screen like blockbuster movie Batman v Superman. But have you ever imaged what these superheroes would be like as sovereigns over real countries and people?

In his book *Sovereignty and SuperHeroes* Dr Neal Curtis argues that we can arrive at a more rounded understanding of superheroes if we read them as meditations on the problematic concept of sovereignty. Studying superheroes in terms of sovereignty allows us to see how these characters represent very complex and nuanced considerations of a range of issues such as legitimacy, authority, kinship and community, the enemy and emergency powers.



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

FOUR-BEDROOM FURNISHED HOUSE in a quiet Chatswood cul-de-sac available from July 2016 to January 2017. The house has a pool (with solar heating), spa and a trampoline among kauri trees. All amenities of Birkenhead are in walking distance, while the university bus stop is 100m away. Contact k.vanwijk@auckland.ac.nz

FURNISHED ROOM TO LET, one stop from town in Kingsland, in brick villa with big garden. Share bathroom and kitchen. \$250 pw inclusive. Phone 630 5303.

MID-CENTURY TITIRANGI HOUSE situated high overlooking Auckland city, 4 mins walk to Titirangi village, buses, etc. Female flatmate wanted to share with woman artist owner, busy son and daughter (17 & 19 – studying, here only half the time). Bedroom is on the lower level and you would mostly have the 2nd bathroom to yourself, it is large & quiet, with own deck. \$180 per wk + \$25 expenses. Ph Anna (021) 1111 869.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ART HOUSE. Studio, apartment and homestay at Mangawhai Heads. Extremely private, idyllic weekend retreat one hour and 20 minutes from CBD. Kick back and listen to the tuis. Estuary access over earth-bridge to perfect spot for a sunset wine and swim. Contemporary and elegant. Contact Mandy on mandytt@xtra.co.nz or (021) 843 590, <https://www.airbnb.co.nz/rooms/9313298>.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

AT OCKHAM RESIDENTIAL we believe Auckland is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and a wonderful place to live. Founded by alumni of the University of Auckland, Ockham is committed to ensuring urban regeneration in this beautiful city is world class. See our stunning new project in Grafton, Hypatia, at www.ockham.co.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU ENJOY PHILOSOPHICAL CONVERSATIONS? If so, you might like to come and spend some time with other people who enjoy discussions on interesting, important and sometimes controversial matters. The group meets about once every three weeks. The topic for each evening is set in advance. For more information or to arrange to come email wayne@brittenden.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 600 0256 to discuss your needs, or email: nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.co.nz

NOTARIAL SERVICES: I am a Notary Public with many years experience and can notarise documents to be sent overseas and provide my Notarial Certificate. I am situated at the Ground Floor, Princes Court, 2 Princes Street, Auckland, next to the Pullman Hotel. Phone Stewart Germann on (09) 308 9925 to make an appointment or email secretary@germann.co.nz



SEX, GENDER, AGE

Sex, gender, age, and the law: Challenges from the Opotiki case

In an Opotiki courtroom last month, five young men were discharged without conviction after pleading guilty to sexual connection with girls under the age of 16. The boys were 17 and 18 years old at the time. The girls were 14 and 15. Most commentators agreed the judge made the right decision.

We know few details of the events leading to these prosecutions. So it is important to preface any comments with respect for the witnesses ('victims') and defendants whose lives have no doubt been deeply affected by the prosecutions, as well, perhaps, as the events leading to them. Yet the raging contradictions in the story of the case raise important, and more general, questions about how to think about sexual consent and sexual violence at the intersections of age, gender, law and culture.

A confusing element in the case is that the girls who were the 'victims' of the crimes did not, reportedly, see themselves as victims. The judge, the boys, and reportedly the girls, all agreed the sex was consensual. While technically sex with a person under 16 is a crime, the law is rarely used to prosecute a young person for having consensual sex with a person a few years younger.

At the sentencing, one of the girls tearfully told the court that she did not see herself as a victim. Her boyfriend, she said, "never forced" her, and "there was never anything disgusting about us being together". By contrast, she implied she had been "coaxed" by police, saying the police

investigation made her "feel dirty and disgraceful".

This girl's account poses a serious challenge to the criminal justice system's handling of the case. The age of consent exists for good reason, to recognise the particular vulnerabilities of young people to sexual exploitation and abuse. But, in the name of protecting young people from sexual violence, it makes no sense to treat a young person in ways that mirror some of the very same dynamics of sexual violence that are so harmful.

One response to the mystery of prosecuting a seemingly victimless crime is to focus on the agreed facts that the sex was consensual, advocate revisiting our age of consent, and see no problem at all. After all, New Zealand research suggests nearly a quarter of 15 year olds have (ever) had sex; and that girls who have sex early are likely to have older partners.

But here is where things get murky and further complicated. Research consistently paints an uninviting picture of girls' early heterosexual experiences. Coercion is common, and girls sometimes feel they have no choice but to go along with sex to please males – even if it is unpleasurable, painful, or risky. Researchers who study sexuality and sexual violence make a distinction between nonconsensual sex and unwanted sex. It is possible for a person to consent to sex they don't really want. While the law must take a dichotomous view of consent, the fact that someone consented to sex does not mean it was necessarily egalitarian or ethical.

The sentencing judge in Opotiki referred to the boys' actions as wrong, yet the result of "human

nature". He said they made mistakes, but implied no-one was harmed. This is confusing. And it invites black and white interpretations of what went on: Either the girls really were victims and the boys (led by their unruly natures) perpetrated sexual crimes. Or, the girls were fully consenting to egalitarian sexual relations and the prosecution was totally off target.

Both alternatives paper over the possibility that the reality was probably more complicated. And to the extent any real wrongs were committed (which remains an open question), they would more likely have been fuelled not so much by human nature as by sexist cultural norms supporting male sexual entitlement and portrayals of girls and women as bodies to please. Our courts of law are not always the best place to right such social and ethical wrongs. But when that is the case, the answer is not to do nothing or call for the law to retreat. Instead, we would do better to challenge the normalisation and naturalisation of the stereotyped gender norms for sex. Because not only do they produce their own harms, they contribute to the conditions of possibility for sexual violence.

Abridged from: <http://www.sexualpoliticsnow.org.nz/sex-gender-age-law-challenges-opotiki-case/>

Nicola Gavey is a professor in the School of Psychology. She is currently working on a new edition of her 2005 book *Just sex? The cultural scaffolding of rape*.