



## IMAGE POWER

### TOP FESTIVAL LINE UP

Mark your calendars, the 2017 Auckland Writers Festival (16-21 May) has announced its impressive line up and there's a lot to get excited about.

### SWIMMING WITH THE TIDE

Graphic designer Dan Holt, who designed this issue, has had a parallel life as a professional swimmer who made the finals of the London Paralympics in 2012. He is profiled in My Story.

### STEVE'S WORLD

World-class UK *Guardian* cartoonist Steve Bell was in Auckland in March, giving the Faculty of Arts Hood Lecture among other events. He made some time to talk to Uni News.

## INNOVATIVE WOODEN PROJECTS RECOGNISED

Talented staff, students and recent graduates from the School of Architecture and Planning scooped 10 prizes at the 2017 NZ Wood Resene Timber Design Awards, including the Supreme Award. Professor Andrew Barrie received the Resene Supreme Award for the design and implementation of a timber classroom block for Cathedral Grammar Junior School in Christchurch. This project was produced in collaboration with Tokyo-based Tezuka Architects, engineering firms Ruamoko Solutions and Ohno Japan, and Contract Construction.

Image: Patrick Reynolds



## GRAD GALA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to School of Music students Joella Pinto, Sara Lee and Julie Park, who are the finalists in this year's 10th Anniversary Graduation Gala Concerto Competition on 4 May at the Auckland Town Hall. Each will perform a concerto with the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor Uwe Grodd. The three finalists will be competing for a total prize pool of \$15,000. [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/events/](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/events/)



## AUP GETS FOUR ON OCKHAM SHORT LIST

Auckland University Press is delighted that four of its titles made the 2017 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards short list. They are: *This Model World: Travels to the Edge of Contemporary Art* by Anthony Bryt, (Royal Society of New Zealand Award for General Non-Fiction); *This Paper Boat* by Gregory Kan (Poetry Award); *New Zealand Wine: The Land, the Vines, the People* by Warren Moran, and Peter Simpson's *Bloomsbury South: The Arts in Christchurch 1933–1953*, finalists in the Illustrated Non-Fiction category.



## NEW PAVILION PASSES TEST

The impressive new pavilion that hosted a number of alumni and other events in March had to withstand some of the worst rain Auckland's seen in a while, and it passed the test. Built from a combination of safety glass and sandwich walls, it has a floor area of 1100 square metres and a 1420-person capacity. Its purchase means the end of the 20-year-old former marquee which had passed its use-by date. This Pavilion is ours and can be hired out to offset its costs. Dismantled to allow the lawn and tree roots to recover, it will be back for May and September Graduation events.



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COVER PHOTO: Mandela Selfie by Steve Bell, 2013. This classic cartoon featuring world leaders and high profile people at Nelson Mandela's funeral first appeared in The UK Guardian. It has recently been on display in the General Library as part of the Steve Bell cartoon exhibition.

The Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition featuring Steve Bell cartoons, "Inked on Paper", runs until 22 April 2017.

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 DESIGN: Dan Holt  
 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](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews)

## TOP NAMES AT WRITERS FESTIVAL



An impressive line up of world-class writers, historians, scientists, radicals and thinkers will be part of the Auckland Writers Festival (16-21 May), which announced its programme on 15 March.

As a Gold Sponsor, a significant number of our staff and alumni are featuring in the festival; with two particular events to put in the diary.

In a year of surprises, 2016 saw Britons vote to leave the European Union and Americans elect Donald Trump as president. Many of us were left wondering what went wrong. An alarming rift seemed to divide 'us' from 'them' along political, racial, gender, socio-economic and geographical lines.

In *The Great Divide*, convened by alumnus Andrew Johnston, award-winning British writer John Lanchester (*Capital*), Australian journalist Stan Grant (*Talking To My Country*), Pulitzer-Prizewinning journalist Susan Faludi (*Backlash and Stiffed*) and our own Master of Creative Writing convenor Paula Morris (*Queen of Beauty, Rangatira*) will discuss yawning divides and propose possible bridges.

*The Great Divide: The University of Auckland Festival Forum*, on 17 May, is at the ASB Theatre in the Aotea Centre from 8pm to 9.30pm.

Earlybird tickets are \$35, standard, \$40, patrons are \$32 and students \$20.

Research suggests that Māori and Pacific poetry and fiction accounts for only 3% of all locally published literature. Other ethnic groups fare worse. New Zealand novelist Tina Makereti assesses the grim state of affairs and presents her vision of a vibrant Māori, Pacific and indigenous New Zealand literature in *Poutokomanawa - The Heartpost: The University of Auckland Free Public Lecture*. The event is on 17 May from 5pm to 5.45pm at the Heartland Festival Room in Aotea Square.

Among celebrated New Zealand writers appearing are Dame Fiona Kidman, Lloyd Geering, Apirana Taylor, Catherine Chidgey, Bill Manhire, Hera Lindsay Bird and Glenn Colquhoun. International guests this year include: top Scottish crime writer Ian Rankin; television director and satirical creator of *The Thick of It* and *Veep*, Armando Iannucci; US 2016 Man Booker Prize-winning novelist Paul Beatty and US feminist icons Susan Faludi and Roxane Gay. View the full programme at [www.writersfestival.co.nz](http://www.writersfestival.co.nz)

*Photo above: Dr Paula Morris (Faculty of Arts)*



## NEW DEAN GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Looking forward to building on Professor Greg Whittred's eight-year legacy of outstanding leadership, Professor Jayne Godfrey is the new Dean of the Business School, and the first woman to hold the post.

Professor Godfrey has a Master of Economics from the University of Sydney and PhD from the University of Queensland.

Her extensive research has focused on the impact of accounting regulation on firms' financing and investment decisions, the financing and investment implications of alternative contractual and reporting arrangements, auditor specialisation and water accounting.

Her past senior academic roles include President of the Academic Board of Monash University (2008 to 2010) and Dean and Director of the College of Business and Economics at the Australian National University (2011 to 2014).

## STAFF SURVEY AIMS FOR HIGH PARTICIPATION

Staff are being encouraged to complete the university-wide 6th biennial Staff Survey 2017, from 8-19 May.

The survey is an opportunity for permanent and fixed-term employees to express their views and experiences about their working environment and comment on life at the University.

Since the last survey in May 2015, a significant number of projects and initiatives have come about as a direct result of staff feedback.

Career development responses in 2015 gave impetus to the Academic Development and Performance Review (ADPR), an initiative which supports conversations about individual

development.

Another initiative was the introduction of Service Essentials in over 100 professional staff teams, aimed at improving team collaboration, communication and project tracking.

The past two years also saw an increase in leadership development programmes for academic heads and professional staff leadership teams. The survey is administered by Willis Towers Watson (WTW) online and requires about 25 minutes to complete. Staff will have a unique login provided by WTW with the sole purpose of measuring participation rates. Total anonymity and confidentiality of all participants

is guaranteed.

Responders are encouraged to be open and honest, which can only be achieved with a guarantee of complete privacy. Aggregate reports won't contain any information or data that allow people to be identified. Reminders for survey completion will be sent to all eligible staff, which includes fixed term and permanent staff who have been employed for a minimum of six weeks. The Vice-Chancellor will share the survey results from 25 July through to 3 August at each of the five campuses. For more information, contact the team at [staffsurvey@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:staffsurvey@auckland.ac.nz).

# WHAT'S NEW



Julian Robertson KNZM and Roger France ONZM at the ceremony last month.

## Two new honorary doctors

Two men whose generosity and community-mindedness have changed many lives for the better, Julian Robertson KNZM and Roger France ONZM, were awarded honorary doctorates in law in March.

American born, Mr Robertson is the founder of TigerManagement LLC, an independent investment and wealth management firm. Alongside such prominent philanthropists as Bill and Melinda Gates, he has signed the Giving Pledge, a vow to give the majority of his wealth to charitable causes.

In 1989 he started the Tiger Foundation which

has provided more than US\$150 million in grants in New York City, aimed at fighting poverty.

Mr Robertson is a generous supporter of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and the Centre for Brain Research. His Aotearoa Foundation has made a \$6.8 million pledge to the University's "For All Our Futures" campaign and he also established the Robertson Scholars Leadership Programme.

Serving as the University's Chancellor from 2009 to 2012, Roger France has offered his considerable expertise to a range of institutions, companies and charitable organisations.

He trained as a chartered accountant and is a former managing partner of Coopers & Lybrand, Auckland. Currently a director at several leading companies, he is also a trustee of the Dilworth Trust Board, a member of the Business School Advisory Board and a trustee of the University of Auckland Foundation. Mr France is also on the advisory panel of the NEXT Foundation, which supports educational and environmental causes. For services to business, he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2016 New Year Honours.

## IMAGE POWER



**Winner of multiple UK "Cartoonist of the Year" awards and a career spanning decades, UK Guardian cartoonist Steve Bell visited Auckland in March to give the Faculty of Arts Hood Lecture. Julianne Evans booked an hour in his packed schedule.**

Seeing Steve Bell striding towards me through the lobby of his hotel, hand outstretched, I immediately shelve any previous notion of what a famous – and formidably scathing – cartoonist might be like. (Fill in your own stereotype here).

He's tall, bear-like and twinkly-eyed, (is Hagrid-ish a word?) with a warm handshake and a ready laugh. In fact he laughs a lot, very often at his own jokes, which is rather endearing.

He's in New Zealand on the invitation of old friend, Emeritus Professor Michael Neill.

It's his first visit and he and wife Heather have spent a "lovely three weeks" exploring the South Island's most dramatic scenery before coming north.

Usually he lives in Brighton, "the only constituency in UK to have a Green MP"; although he's a Labour voter, and a very disgruntled one.

"Brexit was a shocking missed opportunity for Labour. Why would you turn on your own leader, [Jeremy Corbyn] when your opposition was in disarray and you had a chance to prove your unity?"

For someone whose follows British – and world – politics every day of his life with razor-sharp attention, 2016 must have yielded rich pickings?

"Yes it did. I must be unique in voting twice in an EU referendum and being on the losing side both times. Brexit, what a stupid word, was a coded thing for immigration. Leave voters blamed foreigners for their problems, which was misplaced blame and resentment. They were pissed off because the economy is shrinking and living standards and incomes have dried up."

And Trump? No conversation can avoid him. Steve's cartoon of Trump as a toilet with the Statue of Liberty being flushed away looks like becoming a classic.

"You can't exaggerate him, he does that by himself, and you can't ignore him. He's malignant. My Trump toilet really expressed my



An inspirational event in the University's new Pavilion in March saw from left, Dr Lance O'Sullivan, Erna Takazawa, Lisa Reihana, Carol Hirschfeld and Professor Ian Hunter made Distinguished Alumni for 2017.

## IN BRIEF

### ARCHAEOLOGY AND EDUCATION MAKE TOP 20

The latest QS World University Rankings by subject are out and the University features in the top 50 in the world in 16 subjects (up from 15 last year), including two subjects in the top 20; Education (20th) and Archaeology (16th).

### REGISTER NOW FOR ASPIRE

Registrations are now open for the ASPIRE Professional Staff Conference on 11 July. The theme this year is "Innovate". Keynote speakers are 2017 distinguished alumnus Dr Lance O'Sullivan and Qiujing Wong, business leader, filmmaker and social change expert. Register now at [www.aspireconference.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.aspireconference.auckland.ac.nz)

### GOLDEN GOLDIE

The Goldie Reserve Syrah 2014 has won its third Gold Medal and Champion Syrah Trophy at the Royal Easter Show Wine Awards 2017. Winemaker Heinrich Storm and his team are thrilled to be recognised by another of the country's most prestigious competitions.

### STRAIGHT TALK

Come and hear the CEOs of three of Australia's biggest banks talk with Mark Wilson, expat CEO of UK's biggest insurer, Aviva, about how they are dealing with today's climate of rapid change and uncertainty. The talk is on Tuesday 4 April at 6.30pm for 7pm start at the Owen G Glenn Building. Register to attend at [secure.business.auckland.ac.nz](http://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz)



Steve Bell working at his home in Brighton: he meets two daily cartoon deadlines.

utter rejection of Trump as president, and my misery. He's completely opportunistic. He makes Reagan and Bush look like statesmen."

Looking at his often grotesque cast of political characters, he's a genius at taking one defining feature, like Theresa May's penchant for leopard print shoes, and using it as shorthand from then on. Has it ever got him into trouble?

"I did have a falling out with former longtime *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger over my decision to draw former PM David Cameron with a condom over his head. Alan was really unhappy about that and we had a few discussions. I said that I saw Cameron as 'pink, shiny and smooth' and it just seemed to work. He told me not to use it. But then one evening Alan went out to dinner with the advertising agency who had the *Guardian* account, who were giving him shit about it, and he rang me up, a bit pissed, and said he 'revoked' his ban. So Condom Man stayed."

Steve's had a long and fruitful association with the *Guardian*, supplying it exclusively with the strip, 'If', and a larger single image every day since the early 1990s. He works in India ink, pen and watercolour on paper, meeting two daily deadlines.

"I get up, take the dogs for a walk. Then I come back and start listening to the radio, read the paper, look at the news. I always do the 'If' strip first – it has its own logic, then I have about four hours to do the big one."

Incredibly, he's never missed a deadline and

never had a day devoid of ideas. In the old days, he used to send his cartoons up to London by train and someone would pick them up from Victoria Station.

Will *The Guardian* keep its print version?

"*The Independent* came along and took some readers; it was new, modern, liberal. But it became an entirely online paper last year. I think it's important for a newspaper to have a physical manifestation."

*The Guardian*, he believes, has always had a great website, it went digital early and has a wide global reach, thanks to a lot of committed people.

Does he browse alternative news sites for ideas?

"I'm not that aware of alternative news sites, I mostly get my news from the radio and papers, although mainstream newspapers, in the UK anyway, are all skewed to the right and very hostile."

I wonder, in these days when cartoonists can be literally killed for their views, if he's afraid for himself or his family?

"I received one death threat in 1992 from the Ulster Volunteer Force after I'd what I thought was gently taking the piss out of something. It was on my answer phone. When I switched it on I heard someone with a Lancashire accent saying, 'We're going to kill you.' It's when they start mentioning your children that you begin to worry."

And one of his colleagues is currently

languishing in a Turkish prison

"He's been there for a 100 days because of some thin-skinned, dictatorial prat (Erdogan). "Ali Ferzat, a brilliant Syrian cartoonist, very powerful and symbolic, had to get out of Syria, which is a ruined place. He said, 'They know how to censor words, but they haven't worked out how to censor pictures.' I was sent to Syria by the British Council in 2007-2008; lots of cartoonists lived there in those days but supplied their work around the Middle East, to the Gulf and the Emirates."

He says there's no British equivalent of the French satirical weekly news magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

"On that day in January 2015 [the day of the massacre of 12 people, including five cartoonists, at the *Charlie Hebdo* office in Paris], I was having to struggle with my own response while getting everyone [British media] ringing me up asking me what I thought about it."

His cartoon ran in *The Guardian* the next day; three Arab men brandishing guns and shouting 'Allahu Akbar' with one saying, "Why are the fuckers still laughing at us?"

"It was really just a sense of 'fuck you'; terrorism is designed to intimidate and we're not intimidated. Although I didn't feel like laughing – I was numb with horror. The *Muhammad* edition of *Charlie Hebdo* [which came out after the massacre] I admired them for it, it was brave – these guys, like Tignous for example, were at the top of the tree, everyone knew them and they were incredibly popular."

Thinking of mentors, he remembers his predecessor at *The Guardian*, Kiwi Les Gibbard. "He was very witty, with a light touch, a great cartoonist...he was a genial lefty bloke like me." Genial is the perfect word for Steve. It wasn't a characteristic I was expecting in a political cartoonist; especially not in these dark times.

"There's always hope, although compared to the usual ups and downs of British politics, Trump is truly terrifying. Culture adjusts slowly. For example, gay marriage in the UK is widely accepted across all political parties, whereas it wasn't before. They won't roll that one back. I don't hold out much hope for the standard of cooking, when we get out of the EU though."





### Dan Holt is a designer in Communication and Marketing

#### What was life like growing up?

I'm the middle child of three boys, my parents run a design and printing business. I come from a very active, competitive family and was brought up in a very supportive environment, playing lots of sports – water polo, swimming, gymnastics, soccer, sailing.

When I was a baby, my parents were worried that I seemed to be bumping into tables and other things, and took me to an ophthalmologist to have my eyes checked.

I was diagnosed with albinism. [A condition affecting the pigment of my eyes hair and skin resulting in a sensitivity to light and low vision.] I have one tenth of the sight of people with 20/20 perfect vision. My parents encouraged me to find ways of doing things rather than finding excuses for not doing things.

#### How did your focus on sport develop?

I'd always liked swimming and in 2007 I went to America to compete in the Blind Sport Youth Champs, where the results were not what I had hope for. However my coach at the time could see my potential.

#### Was it hard to balance school with training?

Yes it was hard work, but worth it. When I got back to New Zealand from America, I decided to change to the North Shore Swimming Club to be coached by Gary Francis who now leads the PNZ (Paralympics New Zealand) national squad. At 16, I made my first debut at a para sport open-aged short course (25m pool) world championships. From this competition my dedication to my sport grew, and saw me training for around 22 hours a week most weeks, while balancing school; 4.30am starts were a norm for me. All while having my sights firmly set on the London 2012 Paralympic games.

#### How was being in the London Paralympics?

An unforgettable experience. I competed in four events; the 400m, 100m and 50m freestyle and the 100m butterfly. Paralympic sport has three categories for vision impairment; S11 (totally blind), S12 (those that can see shadows and

light) and S13 (my category of partial sight).

London was the first time the Paralympics had the same status and prestige as the Olympics.

I wanted the feeling of being part of the opening ceremony, so I went briefly, but then left because I didn't want it to detract from my strict preparation for the races.

#### How did you go?

I made the finals of all my races except the 50 metres free, and will never forget having 17,000 people cheering on as we left the blocks. I finished my main event in fourth but I gave it everything. My support team expected me to be distraught about missing out on a top three finish by two 100ths of a second, but not being able to stand after my race from fatigue, and knowing I had nothing left to give, I was at peace with the result.

#### Why didn't you keep going as a professional athlete?

A few months after the Paralympics, I developed an allergy to chlorine, which sadly forced me out of the pool. I decided to take up tandem cycling – it's pretty fun screaming around a track at 110km per hour! Then most recently I've been the co-driving in a national rally car series, doing the navigating.

#### You do a lot of charity work, especially with young people.

Yes, for the Blind Foundation and Blind Vision Network NZ, working mostly with schools, teachers and parents. During one talk with the parents of children with vision impairment, I had half the room in tears. Parents can have quite low expectations for their children and think more about their limitations than their abilities.

I talk a lot about what's achievable, and what's been achievable for me. How to use technology, how to integrate.

I also wondered why there were no services that are specifically relevant to youth with low vision. I'm working to develop a strategy to engage people aged 17-25, looking at ways to break down the barriers that are stopping them taking part and getting involved.

#### Was it hard to find a job in design?

At first I studied marketing at Massey University, but later decided the book work wasn't for me and ended up doing a course in graphic design at ACG Yoobee School of Design in Auckland. With design being mostly digitally-based these days, my vision was less of a hurdle than it would have been in the past. A side effect of my sensitivity to light means I have really good colour sense. After graduating, I looked around and had no issue with getting interviews. But when my vision was mentioned, the interview often changed its direction.

#### Until you got a job here?

Yes, it wasn't until I got to the University, which has clear policies about accessibility and equity of employment, that I was given the chance to grow and prove myself.

#### What does a normal work day involve?

I work with the rest of the design team to meet the University's design needs with range of work, from prospectuses, billboards and logos to websites like The Inside Word and staff publications like this one.

#### Do you think your job here changes lives?

I think what I'm learning in this job is carrying through to my charity work – it's benefitting young people who would otherwise feel isolated and limited by what they can't do rather than developing what they can do. If I can talk about what I've achieved at 24, and how I've done it, then I can help someone else take their lives forward and that's a great feeling.



Photo credit: Amanda Beaver

# DID YOU KNOW



## ... that Freda Stark worked in the University's main library in the 1970s?

Exotic dancer, key witness in a celebrity murder trial that gripped the country in the 1930s and gay trailblazer, Freda Stark seems a somewhat unlikely person to find typing away in an academic library.

But in fact she worked there for a number of years. Former Emeritus University Librarian Peter Durey remembers Freda's 'library years' in *Freda Stark – Her Extraordinary Life* by Dianne Haworth and Diane Miller (HarperCollins, 2000).

Coming from Britain in 1970 to take up the top library post, Peter says he knew none of the library staff before arriving and one of the first people he "met and liked" was Freda, who was working as a catalogue typist and still using her married name of Robinson.

"As I gradually got to know her I discovered that she had a wicked sense of humour and a very idiosyncratic way of expressing herself," Peter remembers in the book.

"As we became better acquainted, I found myself being invited to her birthday parties,

which were remarkable for the variety of people who went to them, and Freda was not exactly the 'grande dame' which sounds rather too stuffy, but certainly very much enjoying being the centre of attention."

Former deputy University Librarian, ballet enthusiast Ken Porter says in the book that he can't recall precisely how or where he and Freda first "clicked". But he does remember where he first saw her, at a ballet class in a Swanson Street studio in the 1940s.

"What I saw then was a sturdy little body in practice tights, a look of lazy insolence on her face that was no doubt a protective mask. The [big band leader Eric] Mareo trials of a decade before were still alive in Aucklanders' memories, and I thought her the epitome of the Scarlet Woman. It was hard to recall that person in the trim, gay gamine I got to know in the early 1970s."

During that time, Freda lived in the Brooklyn Flats close to Ken's flat in Shortland Street, and later moved to Ponsonby, where she transformed her home into a chic 'Parisian-style' retreat. After she retired, Ken remembers she came to his flat once a week where they would eat sandwiches, drink gin and tonic and watch a video, usually a ballet one, from his collection.

Freda first hit the headlines in the 1930s when she was a crucial witness in the trial of famous Auckland big band leader Eric Mareo, who was accused of murdering (by a lethal dose of poison) his wife Thelma, who also happened to be Freda's close friend and lover.

The trial – packed with salacious details of celebrities, drugs, sex and glamour – fascinated parochial New Zealand, which at the time was emerging from the grim Depression years.

Then in the 1940s, Freda became known as the

'Fever of the Fleet', dancing in her famous gold paint at Auckland's beautiful Civic Theatre as part of the Wintergarden Cabaret and Nightclub, which was a favourite of American troops stationed in the city.

After the war she travelled to London where she met New Zealand dancer Harold Robinson, the first New Zealander to win a scholarship to study at the Sadler's Wells Ballet School in London. Theirs was an unusual but highly affectionate relationship and even after divorcing in 1973, they remained friends for the rest of their lives.

Freda returned from London to spend the last 30 years of her life in Auckland, becoming a familiar and beloved figure around the city.

She died in 1999 aged 88, and her ashes were buried with her beloved Thelma. *Photo left: A still enchanting Freda Stark at The Civic Theatre by Sally Tagg.*

■ Julianne Evans



*Stunning Freda Stark, exotic dancer, 1940s.*

## WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

### FAST FORWARD 2017

What: Fast Forward, a series from the School of Architecture and Planning

When: From now until 24 May

Venue: Various locations around City Campus, all starting at 6.30pm.

Auckland has decided to grow up. The new Unitary Plan allows increased density and height, and medium density living arrangements in terraced housing and apartments.

*Fast Forward* asks how can we do this well and ensure quality?

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full programme, visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward)

### NOTHING LIKE A DAME

What: Night of the Dames dinner event

When: 6 May 2017

Venue: The new Pavilion on Old Government House Lawn.

Some of New Zealand's most influential women are getting behind the Liggins Institute's focus on giving babies a healthier start.

Two dozen dames are expected to attend the dinner, where guests can enjoy a thought-provoking line-up of speakers addressing how Liggins is working to prevent diseases like obesity to optimise the health of pregnant women and babies.

Tickets are \$225. Book at [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

### IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT

What: Leaving Europe

The legal and political implications of BREXIT.

When: 6 April 2017 at 6pm

Venue: Stone Lecture Theatre, Level 3, Building 801, 9 Eden Crescent.

*Leaving Europe* is a Faculty of Law public lecture by Professor Paul Craig, Oxford University and Professor Alan Page, Dundee University, chaired by Professor Janet McLean. After more than 40 years of membership, the UK's withdrawal from the European Union presents unprecedented legislative and constitutional challenges. Hear two leading UK experts discuss the issues.

RSVP to [lawarevents@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:lawarevents@auckland.ac.nz)

# RESEARCH

## IN FOCUS

*The colourful images on the facing page were featured in the "Art of Bioengineering" exhibition held at the University's Gus Fisher Gallery in 2015 and sponsored by ABI. Initiated by Dr Peng Du, it was designed to promote biomedical and engineering science research to the public in a visually appealing and artistic way. These images appear in "Art Bio Eng: An exploration of the interconnections between art and biomedical engineering."*



## REVOLUTION IN THE LAB

**To enter any laboratory at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) is to be surrounded by enthusiastic graduate students. With around 100 postgraduate students among its more than 165 researchers, there is a predominance of young faces.**

"This," says Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter, director of the ABI, "is the most appealing aspect of the institute.

We have the ability to keep talented young people here in New Zealand, engaged in projects that include both basic and translational science, typically with clinical relevance, and to attract people to this country to do work that is of international significance."

### Medal winners

Peter was delighted when the Institute hit the limelight late last year with the announcement that its senior research staff had attracted not one but two prestigious New Zealand Royal Society Medals: the MacDiarmid Medal, earned by Professor Merryn Tawhai, Deputy Director of the ABI, for her research into creating anatomically detailed models of the respiratory system, and the Pickering Medal, presented to Associate Professor Iain Anderson "for developing and commercialising electroactive polymer technology".

He expressed great pride in the two medal winners – both pre-eminent engineering scientists well-deserving of the honour – and in the teams they lead.

However, he is also keen to emphasise the

multitude of other ground-breaking work being carried out right across ABI.

The institute, he says, has "a unique position worldwide in its ability to develop and integrate models of all 12 physiological systems of the human body – ranging from subcellular molecular pathways up to cells and tissues and to the physiology of organs and organ systems".

### Computer modelling

For example, its cardiac and cardiovascular systems research teams, led by Professor Bruce Smaill (Physiology/ABI) and Professor Martyn Nash (Engineering Science/ABI), are investigating new ways of using computer modelling and new catheter-based sensors to diagnose and treat atrial arrhythmias far more effectively than has been possible until now.



They are also developing models of heart failure and low-cost tools, based on portable ECG and ultrasound scans, to be used by cardiologists to assess their patients' cardiac risk – at lower cost and greater speed than before.

Gastrointestinal researchers, led by Associate Professor Leo Cheng, have succeeded in developing high-resolution mapping of the electrophysiology of the gut - and in designing medical instrumentation to validate the models. This provides a base for new ways of applying the models to clinical practice in treating various problems of digestion. Staff are also modelling nutrition by building models of transporters in the small intestines.

**International recognition**

The ABI's musculoskeletal research group, led by Associate Professor Thor Besier, has won international recognition: from the US Food and Drug Administration for developing the Musculoskeletal Atlas Project (a software framework to virtually test orthopaedic devices and streamline the process of FDA regulation); from New Zealand industry for the part it has played in speeding up the manufacture of 3D-printed titanium hip implants through patient-specific modelling; and from sporting organisations such as the Australian Institute of Sport, for its wearable devices used to monitor sporting performance.

**Getting fit, preventing problems**

Dr Jenny Kruger in the ABI is contributing to women's health and wellbeing through a simple device that helps deal with a common but rarely-discussed condition. For 80 percent of the one in three women who suffer from urinary incontinence, the "fit-bit" device for the pelvic floor, created at ABI, will resolve their condition, allowing them to get out and about freely without embarrassment. Dr Alys Clark is also creating models of the key organs of pregnancy to better understand the progression of pathology with the aim of predicting and preventing problems.

This breadth and depth of expertise in every level of physiological functioning lays the base for ongoing development of innovative medical devices and has helped establish the institute as host for the new national Medical Technologies Centre of Research Excellence (the MedTech CoRE).

Not only the Biomimetics Lab led by the Pickering Medal-winner but also several other labs within the ABI are creating instruments for a variety of medical purposes. For example, in collaboration with MIT in Boston, Associate Professor Andrew Taberner from ABI's Bioinstrumentation Lab has developed prototypes for a method of taking blood samples and injecting drugs beneath the skin – without needles or pain.

**Cardiac life support**

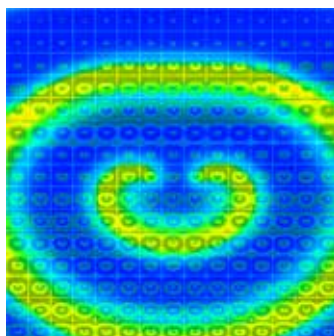
Another group, led by Associate Professor David Budgett, is working on implantable devices and methods of inductively charging electric heart pumps for cardiac life support. These can be charged overnight – leaving patients to live, work and exercise through the day without cables and connections – and without wires through the skin, which can often cause infection.

**Growth curve**

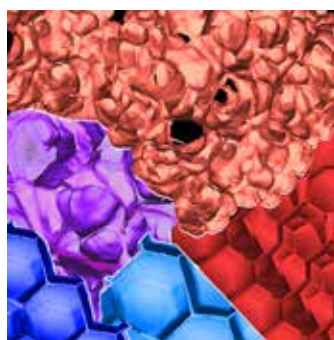
As one might expect, the Institute's income (\$15 million in 2016) is on a strong growth curve; staff and students between them create one or two new medtech companies each year, offering employment opportunities to the 20 or so ABI students who graduate each year.

Says Peter: "With such a talented stream of graduate students, the future is bright for ABI – and for the medtech industry in New Zealand."

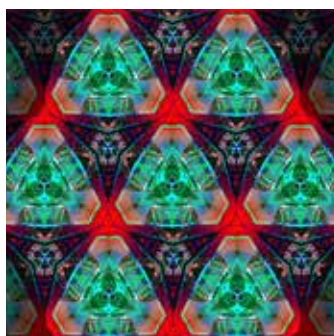
■ **Judy Wilford**



"A Perpetual Motion" by Dr Peng Du (A study of the gastrointestinal system).



"Rat Alveoli" by Karthik Subramaniam and Dr Haribalan Kumar (A study of the lungs and respiratory system).



"Kaleidoscope 3D!" by Amir Haji Rassouliha, Anna-Lena Schell and Sam Richardson (A study of bioinstrumentation).

UNINEWS highlights some of the University's people and stories that have made the headlines in the past month.

**Sex matters**

Associate Professor Katie Fitzpatrick (Faculty of Education and Social Work) has been speaking extensively on the need for better sex education in our schools, following the news that Wellington College is investigating some of its students over comments made on Facebook about taking advantage of drunk girls.

**Generational warfare**

Professor Alan France from the School of Social Sciences did several interviews with the *Dominion Post*, *stuff.co.nz* and Radio Live on the 'generational warfare' debate, following the Prime Minister's announcement to raise the retirement age to 67. He also wrote an opinion piece for the *Dominion Post* on why the notion of 'generation wars' should be confined to the political scrap heap.

**Fonterra partnership**

Professor Brent Young, Head of Chemical and Materials, discussed a research programme that is a partnership with Fonterra and DairyNZ and has been invaluable in helping develop young researchers, including PhD Irina Boiarkina, who is now a lecturer in the department.

**Kea make each other laugh**

Senior Lecturer Alex Taylor from Psychology talked about fascinating new research involving the communication skills of New Zealand's most high-profile bird, the kea, on Newshub.

**Urban housing dilemma**

Senior Lecturer Bill McKay (Architecture and Planning) was interviewed on Radio NZ's Nine to Noon about our city's urban housing issues including what to look for in quality terrace housing and apartments.

**Issues for women in Papua New Guinea**

As part of National Women's Day, Law student Mary Kints was interviewed by the ABC Australia show *Pacific Beat* about her research looking at the issues facing Papua New Guinea women including gender inequality and sorcery-related violence.

# FROM THE ART COLLECTION



*Autumn Landscape* by Herbert Ivan Babbage (1915). Photo Sait Akkirman

*Autumn Landscape* by Herbert Ivan Babbage (1875-1916) was gifted to the University by retired computer scientist Bob Doran and his wife Joyce.

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of Babbage's death. Although he was born in Australia, he spent most of his life in Whanganui

– the city marked on his tombstone.

Babbage comes from a long line of male relatives doing all sorts of interesting things. If you enter his great-grandfather's name, Charles Babbage (1791-1871), into Google you will get more than 400,000 results.

In fact, if it weren't for him, Google may not

exist today. Charles Babbage is the famous mathematician who created the difference engine, the progenitor of today's programmable, digital computer.

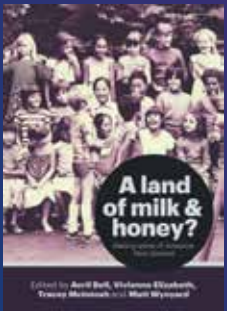
Charles' son and Herbert's grandfather, engineer Benjamin Herschel Babbage (1815-1878), was commissioned by Patrick Brontë (father of the famous writing sisters) to inspect the sanitation of Haworth, a West Yorkshire town then known for its high rate of mortality.

The *Babbage Report* resulted in the Board of Health instituting remediation measures instantly. Benjamin Herschel Babbage subsequently moved with his family to South Australia to conduct geological surveys. He established the route for the Darwin-Adelaide telegraph – Mount Babbage and Babbage Peninsula in South Australia are named after him.

Benjamin Herschel's son and Herbert's father entered the world in 1842 and was promptly also named Charles. Unfortunately for the Babbage name, Charles Whitmore Babbage (1842-1923) was convicted of forgery and embezzlement and sentenced to seven years in an Adelaide prison on these charges. His wife and three sons, Herbert (was the youngest), fled to New Zealand to escape the scandal, settling in the small river town of Whanganui.

From 1899 to 1904, Herbert studied painting under the South Kensington system (designed

## WHAT'S COMING OUT



### Land of Milk and Honey? Making sense of Aotearoa New Zealand

Since colonisation, New Zealand has been mythologised as a 'land of milk and honey' – a place of

natural abundance and endless opportunity. But does it live up to its promise?

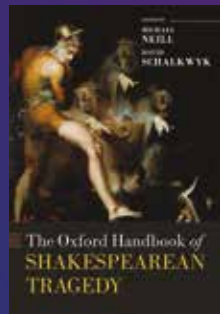
In this introductory textbook for first year sociology students, edited by senior lecturer Avril Bell, associate professors Vivienne Elizabeth and Tracey McIntosh, and Dr Matt Wynyard, all from our sociology department, some of New Zealand's leading sociologists look at crucial issues that affect us all.

They take on identity and constitution; our Māori, Pākehā, Pacific and Asian peoples; problems of class, poverty and inequality; gender and sexualities; and contemporary debates about ageing, incarceration and the environment. They find 30 years of neoliberal

economics and globalising politics have exacerbated inequalities that are differentially experienced by class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and age.

Published by Auckland University Press, 2017.

### The Oxford Handbook of Shakespearean Tragedy



Edited by our own Emeritus Professor Michael Neill and David Schalkwyk, director of Research at the Folger Shakespearean Library in Washington DC, the Handbook is a collection of 54 essays by a range of scholars

from all parts of the world. It brings together some of the best known writers in the field with a strong selection of younger Shakespeareans. Together, these essays offer readers a fresh and comprehensive understanding of Shakespearean tragedies, as both works of literature and as performance texts written by a playwright

who was himself an experienced actor. The collection is organised in five sections covering Shakespeare's past inheritance, current textual issues, critical readings, performance history and finally, an awareness of his global reach. It traces histories of criticism and performance across Europe, the Americas, Australasia, the Middle East, Africa, India, and East Asia. Offering the richest and most diverse collection of approaches to Shakespearean tragedy currently available, the Handbook will be an indispensable resource for students at both undergraduate and graduate levels, and required reading for teachers. Published in hardback by Oxford University Press, 2016.

### The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics

Edited by Yan Huang, a leading expert in the field and Professor of Linguistics here at Auckland, this impressive volume brings together distinguished scholars from all over the world. It presents an authoritative and accessible survey of current issues in pragmatics; a subfield of linguistics that looks

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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**NEW APARTMENT WALKING DISTANCE** from City Campus and FMHS. Two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, stylish furniture and fittings, fast internet. Dramatic views over city. Undercover carpark. Close to restaurants and cafes. NZ\$600 per week. Contact: maria.iva.radic@gmail.com

**ROOM, FURNISHED,** for self-catering female boarder in sunny seaside St Heliers. Buses handy, half hour from city centre, shops nearby. \$250 including power, internet, offstreet parking; share with owner. pkstar@gmail.com

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## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**TO LET:** Waiheke Island, executive, fully furnished 3-bed/2 bath Lockwood house available to rent for visiting academics for second semester. Walking distance to village, ferry, bus. Views over sea and bush reserve. Very quiet. Sharing with one timid cat. Free fibre WiFi. Cleaning and linen change included. \$700/wk. For more information phone 021566330

**WRITING RETREAT:** Peace and seclusion in a rural Swanson valley, only 30 minutes from Auckland city. Write, relax & restore, or energise in an oasis of green. Studio ensuite, balcony opening onto expansive lawn. Wifi and breakfast included. Non-smoking NZ\$70.00/night (2 night min. stay) or \$450.00/week. Contact Lois 021716020 / lhannahbiz@gmail.com

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## MISCELLANEOUS

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:** Merge Café, located on K Road, has a goal to end homelessness in Auckland city. Every dollar spent at Merge Café goes towards support for people experiencing homelessness. We are currently in need of volunteers to help us support our community. For more information, please email maddy@lifewise.org.nz

**PROOFREADING AND COPY EDITING.** Do you want your words to work for you or be riddled with "speling mitsakes" and gramatical errors? I have almost 40 years' experience in proofreading, copy editing and writing for various publications. I offer swift, accurate clean-up services for manuscripts, theses, essays and papers. For a schedule of fees email Words Work: rosashiels21@gmail.com or phone 021 251 7299.

**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

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to promote art for industry) at Whanganui Technical College. The influence of David Edward Hutton (1866-1946) had an impact on his style and he produced landscapes in the early English tradition: small dabs of paint, rounded strokes and a fondness for working in watercolour.

Only the light is different: Hutton's works are dark and moody whereas Herbert's tend to be vibrant and better saturated, as in *Autumn Landscape* (1915).

Herbert pursued further studies in the United Kingdom (where this work was likely completed) first in London and later Paris, at the Académie Julian, where Charles Goldie (1870-1940) had earlier got his grounding in academic figure painting. Herbert admired the fresh, bright style of fellow Whanganui artist Edith Collier, and urged her to pursue art study in England, where they met up again.

In 1909 Herbert returned to Aotearoa and spent the last seven years of his short life between here and the United Kingdom.

Too old for active service in World War I, he joined the Royal Defence Corps, where poor conditions in the Cornwall area where he was stationed led to his death in 1916 at the age of 41.

■ Jessica Douglas, Gus Fisher Gallery assistant

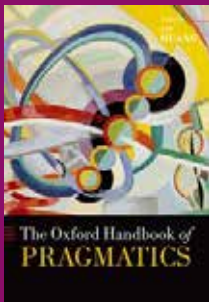
at the ways in which language use and context contributes to meaning.

It's one of the most vibrant and rapidly growing fields in linguistics and the philosophy of language.

Areas explored include foundations and theories, central topics in pragmatics, cognitively, and socially and culturally-orientated macro-pragmatics, and interfaces.

This Handbook will be an indispensable reference for scholars and students of linguistics of all theoretical stripes, as well as a valuable resource for scholars and students in other fields.

It is Professor Huang's sixth book published by Oxford and Cambridge University Press.



## UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE

**From the relative stability and prosperity of New Zealand, it's easy to forget that in many areas of the world, ethnic and religious groups frequently fight for power, resources, land, or simply for their own security, writes Dr Chris Wilson, from Politics and International Relations.**

In many areas, state institutions fail to provide basic services or do so partially, favouring one group at the expense of another. In extreme situations, the result is tribal warfare, riots, civil war and even mass killings and genocide.

The Syrian civil war is the most destructive and visible example of this form of war, claiming 400,000 lives since it began in 2011. Recent years have also seen civil wars of a similar size and ferocity in Sudan, the new state of South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Insurgencies continue in Yemen, Xinjiang in western China, and in southern Thailand. Even in the advanced democracies of the United States and Western Europe, a growing white nationalism is leading to a rise in the number of violent hate crimes against minorities.

Violent conflict within states is now far more common – and far deadlier – than war between states. In our region of the Asia Pacific, the past two decades have seen serious ethnic and religious conflicts in the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, several regions in Indonesia, the southern Philippines, and southern Thailand. These conflicts are devastating for local communities, destroying clinics, schools, gardens and infrastructure, deterring investment and tourism and tearing apart the social cohesion between communities necessary to rebuild.

Societies become trapped in a 'conflict poverty spiral', unable to break the cycle of violence

and deprivation. Terrorism can thrive in such contexts, with each atrocity leading to greater animosity, new recruits and further brutality.

As can be seen in Syria and a host of other wars, these conflicts can spill over borders and threaten regional and global stability.

If we are to prevent such violence and destruction, understanding why it occurs is crucial. My research examines the causes and dynamics of civil war, riots, insurgency, mass killings and other forms of collective violence within states.

My goal is to understand how and why some societies experience violent conflict while others do not. I have a particular interest in violence between indigenous and migrant communities in the Asia Pacific: why does large-scale migration sometimes lead to violence while in most areas of the region locals and migrants coexist peacefully?

To answer these questions, I conduct in-depth field research in post-conflict zones where I interview participants and observers of conflict, members of ethnic militias and mobs, security personnel, politicians, religious leaders, internally displaced persons and the victims of violence. Through my research, I hope not only to advance our knowledge of why such group conflict occurs, but also to provide practical policy recommendations to governments, and international agencies on how to prevent it.

So what explains violent conflict? Every conflict is complex, involving a mixture of hatred of an ethnic other, anger at political and economic inequality and persecution, outright criminality and the manipulation of tensions by elites.

But while each civil war, riot or mass killing is

unique, we can identify some common patterns.

First, ethnic and religious identities remain important: they provide individuals with a sense of solidarity, a link to the past and future and, in many areas of the world, remain the main route for aid and personal advancement. Second, despite this, we never have to look far to find the role of politics in causing conflict.

Time and again, conflicts are preceded by provocative rhetoric by political leaders who perceive ethnic tension and violence as crucial to their own political fortunes.

In many cases, they don't realise the full risk of using inflammatory speech until it's too late. Third, when communities with a real sense of injustice can't seek redress through institutionalised channels they invariably turn to non-institutionalised action like protests and violence. Last and most importantly, violent conflict always comes back to a society's institutions.

Strong, transparent and equitable institutions of governance can depoliticise ethnicity and moderate rhetoric, can reassure all groups they are being treated fairly and can enable the cohesion necessary to create a strong and stable society.

When institutions are weak and corrupt, and managed for the benefit of one group at the expense of others, ethnic violence can be impossible to prevent.

*Dr Chris Wilson and colleagues recently established the Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies in the Faculty of Arts. Go to [www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/programmes/master-of-conflict-and-terrorism-studies.html](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/programmes/master-of-conflict-and-terrorism-studies.html)*