

# Uni NEWS

March 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND



## PEOPLE POWER

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### STARFISH SICKNESS

A wasting disease is killing starfish around the world and now scientists here are concerned for the wellbeing of New Zealand species.

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### PRIME MINISTER OPENS UNLEASH

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern officially opens the \$9 million Unleash Space, an exciting new hub for creativity and smart ideas on City Campus.

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### SIMON SAYS

Schools Partnership Office adviser Simon Crook wishes he had met someone like him when he was deciding what to do with his future.

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# SNAPSHOTS

## NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to microbiologist Dr Siouxsie Wiles (FMHS) and Distinguished Professor Jane Harding from the Liggins Institute for being finalists in the 2018 New Zealander of the Year awards. Siouxsie was one of three up for Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year and Jane for Sanitarium Innovator of the Year. The supreme award went to equal pay champion Kristine Bartlett, while the University of Auckland Young New Zealander of the Year was David Cameron, founder and CEO of LearnCoach, which helps NZ teenagers with educational support.



## NEW DEAN AT EPSOM

The Faculty of Education and Social Work starts the year with a new Dean, Associate Professor Mark Barrow. Mark spent the past 10 years as associate dean at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. Starting his career as a teacher, Mark held senior appointments at Tangaroa and Tāmaki Colleges before taking on a development role at Unitec. He has also held key positions with the New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association. He's looking forward to returning to the education sector, saying it feels like "coming home and going full circle."



## HONOURS FOR MANYING IP

Emeritus Professor Manying Ip from Asian Studies was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in the New Year Honours. Manying is one of New Zealand's foremost experts and commentators on the experience of Chinese New Zealanders, and is the author of several critically acclaimed books. She received the honour for her services to the Chinese community and education. Also honoured were Professor Ed Mitchell and Dr Andrew Holden (FMHS), who are now Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).



## TREE TRIBUTE TO GRAEME

*E kore te tōtara e tū noa i te pārae, engari me tū i te wao nui a Tāne.*

*The tōtara does not stand alone in open country, but stands in the great forest of Tāne.*

A native tōtara has been planted in honour of Professor Graeme Aitken, Dean of Education and Social Work from 2008 to 2017. The tree, and a plaque with words in English and Māori, now stands in a grassy area near the Clock Tower on City Campus. It was grown from the seedling of a tōtara at the University's Epsom Campus.

*Left: A proud Graeme with his whanau.*



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COVER PHOTO: Dr Andrew Erueti from the Auckland Law School, a 2018 Fulbright Scholar.

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# MENTAL HEALTH TOP OF MIND

**A Government inquiry into New Zealand's mental health and addiction services will be chaired by University of Auckland law professor Ron Paterson.**

The Health and Disability Commissioner from 2000 to 2010, Ron will be joined by Pacific health expert Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, the acting co-head of the School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, and four others.

Ron believes this inquiry is a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity.

"It has very broad terms of reference, a diverse panel and a tight time frame, reporting in

October."

He's keen for the inquiry to listen widely, build a strong evidence base, and deliver a report with some fresh thinking that is "clear, pragmatic and implementable – with a focus on solutions at the national and local level".

He wants to "generate hope and set a clear direction for the future – for the Government, for people working in mental health and addiction, and for the whole community".

Existing services have been stretched from high levels of demand, with more than 170,000 people using them in 2016/17; 71% higher than a

decade earlier.

The other members of the panel are mental Health Foundation director Dr Barbara Disley, Māori health expert Sir Mason Durie, Māori consumer advocate Dean Rangihuna and youth development expert Josiah Tualamali'i.

Jemaima Tiatia-Seath is of Samoan descent and has a community and public health background.

Her research interests include: mental health, Pacific suicide prevention and postvention, youth development, Pacific health and wellbeing and inequities and inequalities in health.



## CREATIVITY UNLEASHED

**Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern officially opened the University's unique Unleash Space on 21 February.**

A creative hub, including a state-of-the-art maker space for turning ideas into real things, the space is student-led but supported by the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Switching on a light sculpture of the Unleash logo formed of rods inserted by guests, the Prime Minister issued a friendly challenge to students to use the hub not only to unleash economic potential, but to generate solutions to problems

such as climate change, child poverty and inequality. "My challenge to you is this: just as an entrepreneurial mind can embody Kiwi values, so can what you do with that mind."

Ahead of the launch, nearly 600 students had already signed up as members and been trained on the maker-space equipment, which includes 3D printers, laser cutters, electronics, sewing machines and other tools. Open to all staff and students, the space can also host events, workshops and meetings.

## NEW HEAD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Pioneering speech communication researcher Professor Suzanne Purdy is the new head of the School of Psychology. For the past 14 years Suzanne has led the Speech Science programme within psychology and says the school is "pretty exceptional" in terms of the quality of staff and diversity of its research and programmes.

She is convinced of the vital importance of clear communication as a key life skill and is particularly looking forward to supporting Māori and Pacific students to achieve their full potential and welcomes the Government's review of mental health services.



Right - Professor Suzanne Purdy meeting Barnaby Manaia, father of Roimata Manaia Haynes, a recent Speech Science (SLT) graduate, at her welcoming powhiri at Waipapa Marae.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ANNOUNCED

Luke Willis Thompson Photo: Charlie McKay

**The Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for 2018 will be honoured at a gala dinner on 9 March at the Old Government House Pavilion.**

The winners are: the UN Under-Secretary-General for Management Jan Beagle; philanthropic champion Jennifer Gill, ONZM, (Arts); New Zealand tax expert Rob McLeod, Ngāti Porou, (Law); world-renowned map maker William (Bill) Robertson ONZM; and Young Alumnus of the Year, artist Luke Willis Thompson, (Creative Arts and Industries). In 2014 Luke was the youngest artist to ever receive the highly-contested Walters Prize. Through his work, the Fijian-New Zealand artist tackles challenging subject matter such as race, violence and power. He recently spent a year in London on a residency with the Chisenhale Gallery and has been nominated for the prestigious 2018 Deutsche Börse Photography Prize.

To book tickets to the alumni dinner or the Bright Lights 'chat show' event featuring all the distinguished alumni on 8 March, go to the alumni section of the University website.

## NEED TO KNOW

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN TOP TEN

The 2018 QS World Subject Rankings has rated archaeology (Faculty of Arts) at number ten in the world, up from 16 in 2017. Education is at 17 and anatomy 18, giving the University three subjects ranked in the top 20 worldwide.

### AUGMENTED REALITY

One of the world's pioneers in researching and commercialising augmented reality (AR) will join the University under the Entrepreneurial Universities programme established by the previous government. Professor Mark Billinghurst, who co-founded ARToolWorks

– one of the first AR companies, is the second appointee under the entrepreneurial programme to join the University's Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI). Mark will be conducting research on empathic computing;

### AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

Staff are being offered discounted tickets to a huge range of events in the Auckland Arts Festival (8-25 March). Among them is Dr Michelle Dickinson's *Nanogirl vs The Elements*, suitable for families, and *The Richter Residency*, featuring two shows by brilliant German-born composer Max Richter. For tickets, go to: [www.aaf.co.nz](http://www.aaf.co.nz)

## CHANGES AT UNINEWS

In 2018 we have radically reduced the number of print copies we send around the University in response to feedback that too many copies were going to waste.

We've created a new 'opt in' internal distribution list and your faculty or service division has now appointed someone to receive and distribute *UniNews* on your behalf. We believe this will bring us better into line with our sustainability commitments as a University. Don't forget to read *UniNews* online at: [www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/the-media/tm-publications/tm-uninews.html](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/the-media/tm-publications/tm-uninews.html)

# FIGHT THE POWER

**When the richest one percent now own half of the planet's wealth, (according to a 2017 Credit Suisse report), we've created a shockingly unequal world, especially for people struggling to achieve basic human rights.**

But despite the grim headlines there's encouraging news, believes 2018 Fulbright Scholar Dr Andrew Rueti, a Māori land law and indigenous rights expert.

He describes himself as "cynical but hopeful".

"I don't think there's enough emphasis on the progress that's been made on human rights. The situation in Egypt and Syria is dire. But in places like Tunisia for example, there're new laws on violence against women, and a newly established truth and dignity commission. No one hears about that."

Now on staff at the Auckland Law School, he spent four years (2009-2013) working for Amnesty International in London and Geneva as an adviser on indigenous rights.

"It was an interesting time politically, there was the Arab Spring for example. I was working with other researchers and policy makers who all had different areas of speciality: gender, sexuality, LGBTI, refugees and migrants, poverty. We were there to document violations, prepare research, interview affected people around the world."

He has focused on countries which are resource-rich and have uncertain land titles; and which in many cases, have no rule of law.

"These countries often have extractive industries like private mining companies coming in from outside to run a concession and who hire private security who're not answerable to anyone."

Fighting for human rights can be a dangerous line of work. According to recent story in the *Guardian Weekly*, 300 human rights defenders died last year around the world.

Working with activists trying to get their traditional lands back in the heavily militarised Chittagong Hill tracts of Bangladesh, Andrew saw this first hand.

"These are extremely brave people – they don't get to jump on a plane and return to a safe country; they risk their lives campaigning for international support. Since the Bangladesh occupation, many have been abducted and murdered."

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was drafted in Geneva in 1982 and completed in 2007, a 25-year mission.

Andrew says it took such a long time to be negotiated because indigenous advocates had an active role in its drafting and insisted it contain a right to self-determination.

Other key articles concern economic progress, protection of culture and language, access to education and health, land rights and protection of the most vulnerable.

It was adopted by 144 states, with four votes against, one of which was New Zealand. We finally signed it in 2010.

Andrew believes the declaration is a breakthrough for indigenous people globally.

"It's already had an impact in key New Zealand Supreme Court decisions and the reports of the Waitangi Tribunal."

The first in his family to be university-educated Andrew grew up in the South Island, attended Canterbury University, and later Victoria, where he was on the law faculty.

His father was part of an itinerant Māori workforce on big South Island projects.

An area close to his heart is the issue of Treaty land claims, specifically his father's Ngaruahine iwi (Taranaki region) claim, which he advised before the Waitangi Tribunal in relation to their claim to petroleum and in preparing for their negotiations with the government.

Settled two years ago for \$70 million, the claim focused on the confiscation of the iwi's land in the 1860s.

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***The New Zealand Treaty settlement process has featured some innovative breakthroughs; it was a combination of Māori and Pakeha agreeing from the beginning that there was a need to do something unique.***

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And while the claims process is often viewed as long and fraught, the fact that we have a system at all should be celebrated, says Andrew.

"People overseas were very interested in how we are managing that relationship. The New Zealand Treaty settlement process has featured some innovative breakthroughs; it was a combination of Māori and Pakeha agreeing from the beginning that there was a need to do something unique.

"Another difference is the fact that Māori in this country are a big minority, around 15%, as opposed to Canada, for example, where the Aboriginal people only make up about 4%."

He says people have never seen historical rectification stretching back 170 years.

"We've started something, achieved results.



*Dr Andrew Rueti "I don't think there's enough emphasis on the progress that's been made with human rights."*

I'm hopeful the new Government will deal more effectively than the previous one with issues like poverty, housing, urban setting, child welfare, criminal justice and child welfare in state care, where 60% of the kids are Māori; also the inquiries into the historical treatment of kids, living mistakes of the past."

Civil society, he believes, is watching to make sure these things happen.

"There are ways of looking at an issue in a human way. We all have kids, or many of us do, and this is a social justice issue, people must be held to account. And if they have no luck here, they can go to Geneva where there is a human rights framework that can monitor these different issues."

For his Fulbright Scholarship, Andrew will spend three months later this year at the University of Boulder, Colorado, working alongside a world renowned expert on indigenous people's rights, Professor James Anaya. While there, he plans to complete his latest book on the international indigenous rights movement.

"Some see the Declaration as applying only to indigenous people of the Americas and Australasia, excluding for example indigenous people of Asia and Africa. I argue for a broad application of the Declaration but one that recognises local differences – for example the importance of the right to self-determination for Māori in New Zealand."

His work references the position of American political scientist Mark Lilla who has challenged the recent trend, particularly in universities, to focus on "identity" politics; be that race, gender or sexual orientation, at the expense of a shared political view that will translate into action and bring positive change for everyone.

"Lilla's idea is that to really change things, we on the Left are better together, rather than fracturing into different identities which turn against each other. We need to reach out to one another to bring about the change we all want."

■ Julianne Evans

# MY STORY

## STAFF PROFILE



**Simon Crook is a senior schools adviser in the Schools Partnership Office**

### Tell us what you do?

We provide information, support and inspiration to students thinking about going from high school to university. Between us, we visit schools all over New Zealand, as well as Auckland, giving presentations and representing the University at events like careers expos. I also manage *The Inside Word*, the blog on our website featuring first year students' experiences at University. Read it at: [www.theinsideword.ac.nz](http://www.theinsideword.ac.nz)

### What are some of the challenges?

While we would obviously like students to choose Auckland, we're not really recruiters. We can't make that decision for them or 'close the sale' so to speak, but we can make the best possible first contact. As well as students, we talk to parents, teachers, career advisers.

Quite often, we get the 'negative' conversation from parents (not students) along the lines of: 'My daughter wants to study classics, but what can she do with that?' I love it when we can turn that around and say, 'Well, she'll learn problem solving and critical thinking skills that will be useful for any career she pursues.' Or lots of parents will say, 'My son wants to be a doctor', and we discover it's actually the parent who wants that, not necessarily the son. I always make a point of asking students, 'Is this what you want?' One of the biggest barriers for students from the regions is the perceived high cost of accommodation in Auckland. Of course it's not cheap but it's actually becoming cheaper to stay in our accommodation than other places around the country. So we can dispel some fears.

### Do you think you make a difference?

I'd like to think there are current students who made the decision to come here based on just the right conversation with me, but I can't be sure of that! I do wish I'd spoken to someone like me when I was trying to decide about my future as a school leaver. I wanted to know how my interests, which were English and media, could be turned into a career, for example, and there was no one like me to tell me.

### Where are you from and where did you study?

I come from Napier, and the Hawke's Bay is also the school region I cover, so that's great as it means I get to see my family, who I'm close to, quite often. My parents still live there. I also have a sister here in Auckland as well, who is a nurse. I did my BA at Victoria University.

### Favourite teacher?

Mr King, my media teacher at Taradale High School in Napier. He treated his students like colleagues, presented content in interesting ways and wasn't afraid to get stuff wrong. He taught us critical thinking skills, inquiry, analysis, interpreting things; he was hugely influential in me deciding to go to university and what I studied there.

### How did you come to work here?

I was half way through teacher training, which I decided wasn't for me, and I ended up spending six years working for Noel Leeming as a salesperson and then merchandiser. In the end, the job drove me nuts, it was all about spreadsheets. Then I thought, what can I do with my degree? A friend suggested I look on the University vacancies site and I was surprised to see so many jobs available and such a variety. I read the schools adviser job description and thought: That sounds pretty interesting. I've been

here for five years and never looked back. I think the Uni is an awesome employer, I so appreciate all the training and advancement it offers.

### What are your interests outside work?

I brew craft beer with some of my mates out of a garage; it's like a mad science lab. We're going into business together actually; IPA is probably my favourite style. I'm pretty good at pub quizzes (yes, I do use my degree) and I also do voiceover work. I did heaps of acting when I was younger – stage shows etc, but didn't want acting to be my full time job. It would mean never really knowing when you would have work. But when I was doing a sort of second gap year back in Napier I had the idea to record a voice demo and sent it to an agent who liked it but said, 'If you want to do this, you have to move to Auckland'. So I did, still working at Noel Leeming but doing the voice work as well.

### Would we recognise your voice on anything?

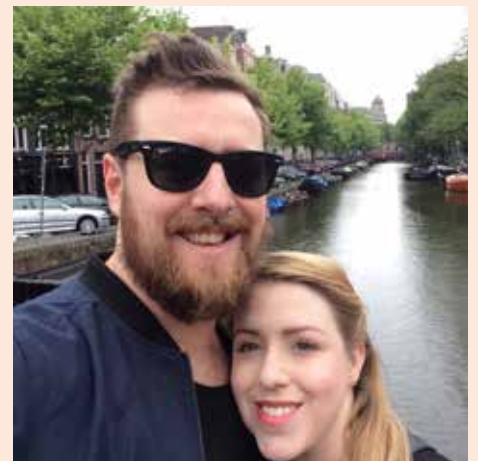
I've done lots of ads; everything from Vogels bread to Les Mills but my favourite job has been voicing a character in a popular video game *Path of Exile*. It was so much fun. Not only did I read the script but I got to make sound effect noises like the grunt you make when you hit someone with a weapon or the sound someone makes when they're hit.

### Favourite book?

I'm a comic book and video game nerd. My favourite comic book series is *Y: The Last Man*. It's a fantastic story about the only man who survives the simultaneous death of all other male mammals on Earth. The main character is kind of awkward and quirky but has to come to terms with an overwhelming responsibility. Plus, I grew up surrounded by a lot of very cool women so a story about a society where women are the focus is pretty awesome.

### Future plans?

I'm getting married to my lovely partner Lucy in October this year, so I'm pretty excited about that.



Simon and his partner Lucy in Amsterdam last year.

## ONLINE ADDICTION

How much time is too much on the internet? University PhD candidate Delia Cotoros-Goodall will be asking this question as widely as possible as part of her doctorate in Health Science.

Delia's study will be the first in New Zealand to look at Problematic Internet Use (PIU) and its relationship between existing psychopathology like depression, social anxiety and substance abuse.

PIU can manifest in different ways; spanning from General PIU (characterised by aimlessly surfing from website to website without a specific purpose) and Specific PIU (using the Internet for something particular like gambling, shopping, social networking, etc).

As a result, her measure will include a General PIU scale and three Specific PIU scales addressing three particular behaviours; online shopping, online gambling and watching pornography online.

She was drawn to the topic after discovering there wasn't much literature available to measure PIU or any appropriate tools for assessing someone's use of the internet.

"There hasn't been any agreement in terms of where to draw the line between what's okay and what's not," she says.

"That's one of the issues I have with previous research done overseas. Some older measures considered someone as 'addicted' if they spent 20 or more hours a week online but that was including work and/or school purposes.

"Our society has evolved so much that we have entire jobs dependant on the internet, so 20 hours total per week seems to be a very outdated number."

She says previous researchers have attempted to develop a scale and questionnaire based on observations of people's pathological use of the net.

As a result, measures often reflect what the researchers see as 'a problem' and many of the scales are rapidly becoming out-dated given the rapid expansion of the net and what we use it for.

"For example, a question from a previously developed measure was: 'I ask questions on the internet that I could easily find the answers to in the library'. Given the speed and wealth of information the internet can offer us, why should this behaviour be considered problematic?"

Delia has developed her PIU measure with the use of qualitative focus groups conducted with internet users.

She set up the groups with a random sample of 70 internet users and discussed extensively what behaviours would indicate someone who has a problem in this day and age.

The next step is to validate the measure in a New Zealand context and explore the relationship between internet use and various psychopathology scales: depression, anxiety, substance use and social isolation.

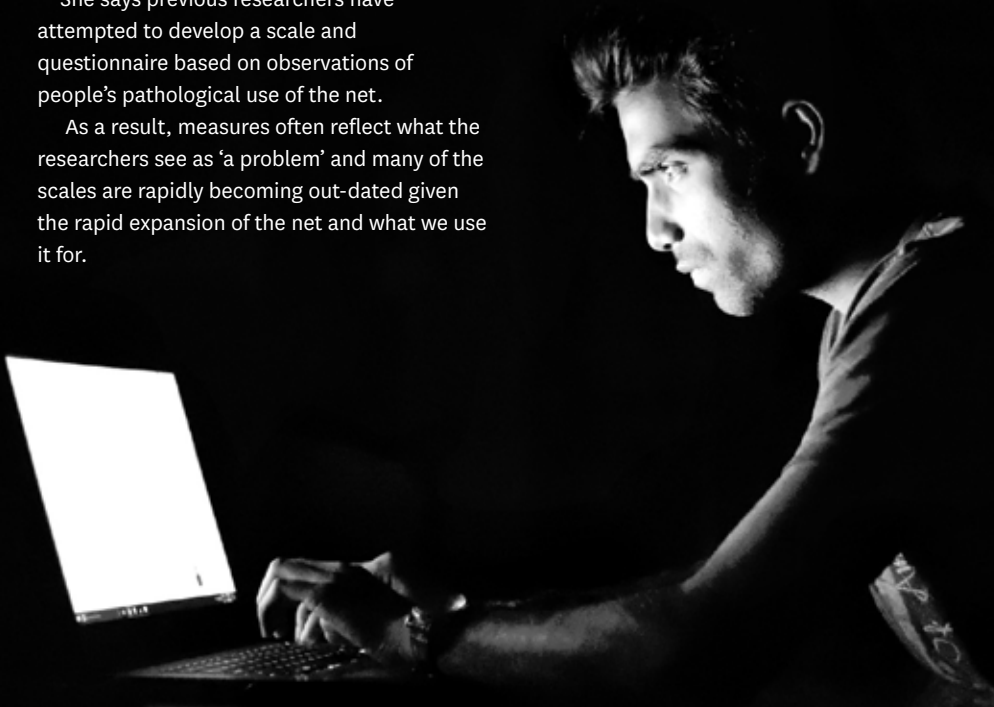
As well as creating a validated measure of PIU, she hopes the study will provide a picture of the issue in New Zealand: how common this is, who is affected and in what way.

### How you can help

Delia is looking for as many people as possible to fill out an online anonymous survey. The participants have to be over 18 but can be from anywhere in New Zealand.

People participating in the study will go in the draw to win one of 20 vouchers worth between \$30 and \$250.

Complete the online survey by typing [goo.gl/BVSVKX](http://goo.gl/BVSVKX) into your browser. This will direct you onwards to the survey.



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

### THE JACINDA EFFECT

Professor Jennifer Curtin (Politics and International Relations) was interviewed by the *UK Guardian* for a feature story on Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and baby mania in New Zealand; also writing in the *NZ Herald* about how Jacinda's pregnancy helps to normalise motherhood in politics.

### SUCCESSFUL IWI BUSINESS

Associate Professor Mānuka Henare (Management & International Business) as interviewed on Radio NZ's *Morning Report*, saying the burgeoning wealth of iwi businesses is not just increasing the tribes' assets also their wellbeing, and that he senses Māori are looking for a new partner for future business ventures.

### SUPERMARKET JUNK

On *Radio Live*, Professor Boyd Swinburn (Population Health) commented on a new University study that's encouraging supermarkets to ensure healthy foods are part of their weekly promotions. He said only one in four New Zealand supermarkets has at least 20% of their checkouts free of confectionery and other unhealthy food.

### FOUR-DAY WORKING WEEK

Professor Tim Hazledine (Economics) was quoted across Fairfax media outlets on how low wages and a weak union movement could work against New Zealand businesses looking to implement four-day working weeks.

### EXPENSIVE TELESCOPE

Professor Richard Easter (HoD, Physics) and other scientists questioned the investment of millions of dollars by the New Zealand government in a major radio telescope project that they say might not have the benefits to the country that would make the investment worthwhile; *Morning Report* and in the *NZ Herald*.

### PEST ERADICATION

Associate Professor James Russell (Statistics, Biological Sciences) discussed new attitudes to conservation and addressed arguments by anti-eradication advocates that scientists should accept we will never be rid of invasive species responsible for killing our native wildlife: *Dominion Post* and the *Taranaki Daily News*.

# OBITUARIES

## David Mayes - 'elegant in every sense of the word'

**Professor Norman Wong, HOD of Accounting and Finance and Associate Professor Maureen Benson-Rea, Europe Institute, pay tribute to their friend and colleague Professor David Mayes who died unexpectedly in November, 2017 after a short illness.**

Professor David Mayes, Professor of Banking and Financial Institutions in the Department of Accounting and Finance, was a highly valued member of staff.

He was also a wonderful human being and a gifted scholar who still had plenty to give academia and the community, especially in the area of music and the opera.

Hard-working and committed, he was also a superb raconteur and a generous soul with a deep sense of fairness and humanity.

David always had interesting stories to tell and could see the humorous side of any issue, making quick-witted remarks that brought welcome relief to a dry subject or spice to a controversial discussion.

Beginning his connection with the University

as a visiting professor, he then became an adjunct professor and director of the Europe Institute between 2006 and 2010. He then joined the Department of Accounting and Finance in 2010 as the BNZ Professor of Finance and later became the department's Professor of Banking and Financial Institutions.

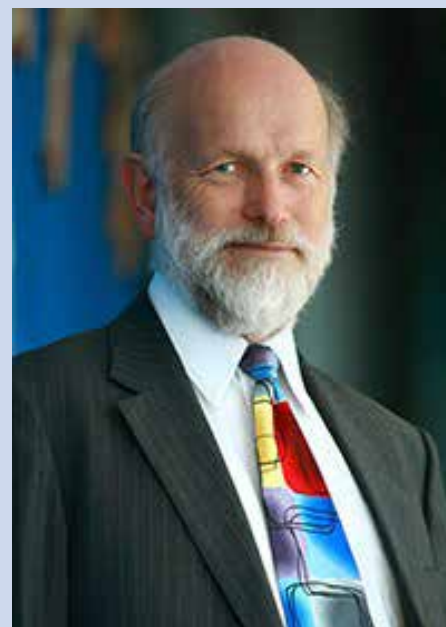
Trained in economics at the universities of Oxford and Bristol, where he received his PhD, he was the consummate academic who had a wealth of knowledge gained from many years of conducting research.

His research interests focused mainly on banking and financial institutions in the New Zealand and European environments. He was also one of the first at the University to look at digital currencies such as bitcoin and how they might affect the banking sector.

Something of a polymath, David contributed substantially to New Zealand and international research on the European Union, successfully negotiating substantial funding for the Europe Institute. He also had vast practical experience, having worked, advised or consulted at places such as the Bank of Finland, the International Monetary Fund, the OECD and a number of central banks throughout Europe.

David was extremely dedicated to his teaching and generous with the time he gave to his students.

He was elegant in every sense of the word and will be deeply missed by his colleagues in the University, and by his many friends, here and abroad.



## Heather McAllister - 'kind and supportive'

**Associate Professor Nuala Gregory, Deputy Dean, Creative Arts and Industries, remembers her friend and colleague Heather McAllister, who died in December, 2017.**

I first met Heather in 2009 when she became head of the Student Centre at Creative Arts and Industries. We worked together on a series of special initiatives before she became the

faculty's development manager.

Heather adapted quickly to different projects, and was always focused and professional. She was able to draw on her unique mixture of corporate experience allied to her love and study of philosophy, art and, particularly, music. This proved to be a perfect fit for us so-called "creative people". Heather kept us "on message" while also offering thoughtful solutions. From 2013 she began to work more closely with Dean Diane Brand and others, particularly at the School of Music, in the area of private philanthropy.

It's a very specialist field and I could only admire Heather's success in linking people together to enable projects satisfying to everyone, partly due to her remarkable ability to stand back and assess the best way forward.

Her approach was to enable rather than persuade people. Heather attended some glittering events; a highlight was travelling to Venice to support artist and colleague Michael Parekowhai who represented New Zealand at the prestigious Biennale in 2011.

Heather loved doing such glamorous work but took the same professional approach to more mundane projects.

She had a rare ability to calm people when

things were difficult and never allowed work problems to become too serious. She helped us see the funny or absurd side and reminded us of the importance of perspective.

After a highly successful business trip to London in 2016, she and the Dean came back buzzing with the foundation of a wonderful new design project that will impact on our students for generations to come.

Heather also worked on ways to support our students in most need, with five new scholarships approved recently as a direct result of a project she established in 2013. In quieter moments, she spoke a lot about her family and friends, and she loved to hear about mine.

She was great fun to be with outside work and we often went on shopping and market trips together, or had dinner out with friends.

Heather was one of the kindest and most genuinely supportive people I've ever worked with. We trusted each other implicitly and I was so fortunate to have known her for as long as I did. We can't believe she's not here anymore. We'll miss her so much.

*Heather and her family greatly appreciated the support of the University and its community during her illness.*



## SEEN ANY SICK STARFISH LATELY?

**A wasting disease is killing starfish around the world and now scientists are concerned that a change in sea temperatures might mean the disease could start to have an effect on New Zealand starfish species.**

Professor Mary Sewell from the University's School of Biological Sciences and Dr Ian Hewson from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, who is currently visiting New Zealand, are asking the public to report sick starfish.

Called sea-star wasting disease or SSWD, the virus thought to be the cause of the disease has affected millions of starfish on the west coast of North America. It appears to be related to a viral infection but also changes in environmental conditions, in particular warmer ocean temperatures.

"Since waters of the Tasman Sea and surrounds have been anomalously warm over the past few months, it's possible that this wasting disease is affecting species around the New Zealand coast and we are asking anyone who sees a sick starfish to contact us," says Dr Hewson.

New Zealand has many species of starfish (also known as sea stars or asteroids) but only one instance of the disease has been documented here and that was in 2015.

The disease begins with changes in behaviour including lethargy and curling of limbs, followed by development of lesions on the skin surface, loss of arms and deflation of the body until the starfish eventually dies.

Professor Sewell says a photograph of any starfish exhibiting symptoms, along with the date it was taken and the location, including GPS co-ordinates if at all possible, would be very useful.

Finding out early when and where SSWD might be in New Zealand and whether it is already affecting starfish here will allow us to sample both healthy and diseased specimens to help us research this disease," she says.

Anyone who wants to report seeing a starfish affected by SSWD can go to the Starfish SSWD New Zealand Facebook page, or email: [m.sewell@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.sewell@auckland.ac.nz)



*A healthy reef star, Stichaster australis, from Piha Beach, West Auckland. Photo: Charlotte Johnson*

## WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

### STAFF COCKTAIL FUNCTION

**What:** Staff cocktail event open to all

**When:** Wednesday 7 March from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

**Where:** Old Government House pavilion  
Celebrate the start of the academic year by reconnecting with colleagues and meeting new ones.

The Vice-Chancellor will give an update on 2018 enrolments and other activities such as the IRiS research support programme.

Please register at 'All Staff Reception 2018' on the staff intranet.

### COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

**What:** 2018 Commencement Service

**When:** 15 March, 2018 from 10.30am to 11am

**Where:** Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes Street.

All are welcome to celebrate Easter and a new University year, with a blessing of the recent Maclaurin Chapel renovations, followed by light refreshments.

Speaker: Rev. Dr Hirini Kaa - Kaiarahi, Faculty of Arts

### SPEAKING OUT

**What:** LGBTI panel discussion

**When:** 19 March, 6-8pm

**Where:** General Library Basement, 21 Alfred Street.

Free and open to all staff and students.

A panel discussion with four members of the LGBTI community, talking about their lives, careers and challenges. Featuring: Michael Boulgaris (businessman and realtor), Robbie Manson (world-class rower), Possum Plows (musician), and Louisa Wall (Labour MP for Manurewa). Register at: [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/speaking-out-tickets-42519999463](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/speaking-out-tickets-42519999463).

## AMBIGUOUS IDENTITY

**Opening on 1 March at the Gus Fisher Gallery, 'Third Space: Ambiguity in the Art of Graham Fletcher' will explore how the contemporary New Zealand artist has been developing his multi-faceted view of the world from the beginning of his creative practice.**

Contemporary New Zealand artist Graham Fletcher is very familiar with the concept of ambiguity. Of Samoan and palagi ethnicity and now living in Dunedin, he frequently navigates



Graham Fletcher, *Untitled (Wish-Landscapes)*, 2005. Acrylic on canvas, 230 x 230mm. Artist Collection. Photo: Sam Hartnett.

two vastly different cultural spheres.

Placing the artist into a singular category of cultural heritage – as has been done in certain exhibitions – is limiting to his practice and undermines the ambivalence which he has carefully constructed around his identity.

In the artist's first exhibited series, *Mistints* (1998), mistinted enamel paints are blended together in blurry swirls and borders, allowing the lines of the medium to visually merge and separate. Fletcher continued to play with ambivalence in *Quarantine* (2000), where he painted microscopic strains of European diseases over Samoan tapa cloth.



Graham Fletcher, *Untitled (Situation Rooms)*, 2011. Oil on paper, 1230 x 880mm. Artist Collection. Photo: Sam Hartnett.

Technically, this constituted an act of cultural desecration at odds with the artist's Pacific heritage. In the *Wish-Landscapes* (2005), Fletcher painted a seemingly abstract body of work which in fact represents a bird's eye view of the landscape, concealing messages about colonisation and imperialist cartography.

In 2007, the artist's forays into national and international museum collections led to *The Eternals*, which featured disembodied and unexpected indigenous objects masked by the shadowy light and the reflective glass of the display case.

This series demonstrated the strangeness of



Graham Fletcher, *Untitled (The Eternals)*, 2007. Oil on canvas, 1060 x 1060mm. Artist Collection. Photo: Sam Hartnett.

## WHAT'S COMING OUT

### ISLAND TIME: NEW ZEALAND'S PACIFIC FUTURES

The task of living in modern New Zealand is not just to understand how to live with different peoples, but how to adapt to the future that has already happened, argues Associate Professor Damon Salea (Pacific Studies) in his new book. New Zealand is a nation that exists on Pacific Islands, but does not, and perhaps cannot, see itself as a Pacific Island nation.

Yet turning to the Pacific enables us to grasp a fuller understanding of what life is really like on these shores, he writes.

Salea highlights the racial segregation of Auckland's suburbs, where the city's Pacific population is concentrated into areas with high rates of deprivation; poor housing; high rates of respiratory conditions and other illnesses linked to damp, crowded houses; and



insufficient community services. But despite these conditions, Pacific people have sparked a national change in New Zealand life and culture, he believes.

He argues that Pacific people have been innovators who have led a Pacific social, cultural and economic transformation of the country but for those outside of 'Pacific New Zealand' much of this has been missed; and that we haven't valued or made the most of Pacific innovation and potential.

What would it mean, he wonders, for New Zealand to recognise its Pacific talent and finally act like a Pacific nation?

*BWB Texts, 2017.*

### PASTURE AND FLOCK: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

Uneasy nights out with dead Russian poets, dalliances with German gasfitters and emotionally fraught games of badminton are brought together for the first time, along with a brand new body of work, in this time-spanning

selection of University alumna Anna Jackson's poetry.

Local gothic, suburban pastoral and answerings-back to literary icons are all enhanced by Jackson's light hand and sly humour.

Pastoral yet gritty, intellectual and witty, sweet but with stings in their tails, the poems and sequences collected in *Pasture and Flock* are essential reading for both long-term and new admirers of Jackson's slanted approach to lyric poetry. *Auckland University Press, 2018.*



### BRITISH FLAG OFFICERS IN THE FRENCH WARS, 1793-1815: ADMIRALS' LIVES

In his latest book John Morrow, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, considers the professional lives of a range of well-known and

experiencing dislocated objects packed into a single building, separated from their original functions.

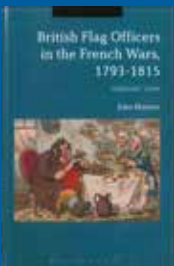
Ambiguity reached its peak in the artist's most well-known series of work *Lounge Room Tribalism* (2009). In partial fulfilment of his doctoral degree at Elam School of Fine Arts, Fletcher made a series of paintings of modernist interiors, filled with an assortment of appropriated indigenous objects from across the world.

Each carefully constructed interior symbolises the 'third space', a term first coined by post-colonial theorist Homi K. Bhabha, in which cultures from across the globe co-exist, interact, contradict and juxtapose, devoid of any real-world politics or history.

Curating these lounge rooms finally allowed Fletcher to reconcile the two facets of his cultural heritage, incorporating many of the themes and concerns in his earlier work.

■ Hannah Burgoyne

*Hannah Burgoyne is an MA student in art history. Her thesis 'The Third Space: Ambiguity in the Art of Graham Fletcher' is the basis for the exhibition at Gus Fisher Gallery, opening on Thursday 1 March at 5.30pm and continuing until Saturday 28 April.*



now obscure British admirals, vice-admirals and rear-admirals in the Royal Navy during the French wars. Using a wide range of correspondence and other contemporary primary material, he

examines the demands of naval command, flag officers' understanding of their authority and their approach to exercising it, their ambitions and failures, their personal and professional conflicts, and their lives ashore and afloat.

While a great deal has been written about admirals' roles in naval operations, other aspects of their professional lives have not been explored so thoroughly. *Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.*

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**HOUSE SWAP, BIRMINGHAM UK:** 12-13 months from November 2018. Large 4/5 bed family home in Kings Heath, friendly Birmingham suburb within easy commute of University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth hospital and city centre. Kings Heath has a great community feel, ideal for young families. Great schools in the vicinity as well as nurseries and play groups. Well set up for young children and all mod cons. We're looking for a home in Auckland for our family of five, commutable to Middlemore Hospital. Email: ruthdonnelly151@gmail.com

**COMING TO AUCKLAND FOR LONG STAY OR TO LIVE?** Need an exceptional living environment for a few weeks or months? Self-contained 1-bed furnished apartment annexed to main house in Waitakere Ranges with bush and beach views. Short drive to Swanson train station, 45 mins to CBD and easy walk to Uni, or 45 minutes by car. Email Lyn: www.bushsandandsea@gmail.com or call +64 98109584.

**SUNNY FULLY-FURNISHED HOME IN KINGSLAND:** 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, renovated villa. Great location, 15 minutes from University and City; on bus, train and cycleway routes. Suit visiting academics or professional families. Available 1 October to 25 Jan. Rent dependent on length of stay. Use of car negotiable. Email: rachelfanshawe@yahoo.co.nz

**PARIS APARTMENT TO RENT:** Located on the Left Bank, near the Latin Quarter, the apartment is light, quiet, on the fifth floor with a lift and an open view over Paris. It is fully equipped with TV with over 100 channels, Wi-Fi, kitchen with fridge/freezer, oven, microwave, bathroom with bath and shower. The apartment sleeps 3, is near a Metro station and several buses, providing easy access to the main tourist attractions. It is rented by the week. November to March, \$900, April to October, \$1200. Email: kotlar@ihug.co.nz

**FULLY-FURNISHED CHARACTER BUNGALOW:** 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen/lounge/dining. Central heating, quiet, private north-facing deck. Sub-tropical gardens, 10 min. bus to University, one min walk to shopping mall. \$850 p.w. incl. water, internet, excl. electricity/gas. Available for 7-10 months. Contact: anita@levering.co.nz

**BRAND NEW APARTMENT IN AMSTERDAM:** Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, level 5 with elevator in Oostpoort. Near train/tram/shops, \$975 per week incl. utilities. Summer \$1200. Contact Anita for info and pics: anita@levering.co.nz or phone 021 677178

**WAIHEKE ISLAND:** Characterful, sunny and compact cottage. Perfect for sabbatical, writing retreat or holiday. Coastal views and walks to beaches. Bus stop right outside property. Fully-equipped kitchen. WiFi provided. Maximum four guests. Minimum one week. Shorter stays by arrangement. For information, rates and photos: pat.neuwelt@gmail.com

**ECO-FRIENDLY RESORT IN THAILAND:** Faasai Resort in the south-east of Thailand is notable for its spacious, fragrant gardens, sparkling pool fed from springs, delicious food (grown mainly on the resort's own organic farm) and the feeling of being in a small and welcoming community. Very reasonably-priced, it is ideal for a holiday or as a retreat for writing, meditation or yoga. What makes it special is that it is family-owned; Bronwen is a New Zealander and her husband Surin is Thai. See [www.faasai.com/home.php](http://www.faasai.com/home.php)

**APARTMENT TO LET:** Spacious, sunny, fully furnished and quiet, one bedroom apartment in character Brooklyn Apartments. Emily Pl. 5 minute walk to Auckland University library. Long term tenancy preferred. Suit couple or single. No carpark. Resident parking available on street upon application). \$520 p.w. Contact: Shirley on 021 674946.

**FAMILY HOME, CENTRAL AUCKLAND:** Short-term rental 1 April - 30 June 2018. Fully-furnished 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with swimming pool in Grey Lynn. Secure off-street parking for 2 cars. \$1500 per week covers all utilities including gardener and swimming pool maintenance. Suit visiting academic, family relocating or renovators looking for short-term rental. Contact: roseyw@xtra.co.nz or 027 4718719

## SERVICES

**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 call our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 600 0256 to discuss your needs, or email: [nchristie@rainey.co.nz](mailto:nchristie@rainey.co.nz). Visit [www.rainey.co.nz](http://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 on 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](mailto:secretary@germann.co.nz)

**DIGITAL PRINTING:** Course books, presentation and display prints, conference printing, pull up banners, posters and flyers. Barny Hards is our specialist university print adviser. Contact him at [barny@newcomb.co.nz](mailto:barny@newcomb.co.nz). Newcomb Digital, 2A Augustus Terrace, Parnell. Phone 303 2878. Approved 'preferred supplier' to the University of Auckland.

**EDITORIAL AND PROOFREADING SERVICES:** Providing excellence in assistance with all aspects of thesis preparation, abstract, formatting, editing. Conference papers and getting your abstract accepted. I am interested in providing support to energetic students in all academic fields. Published author and graduate. Contact: [Editorial0021@gmail.com](mailto:Editorial0021@gmail.com) 022 090 1513

## OUR PAST MATTERS



**New Zealand history expert Dr Felicity Barnes takes exception to the idea that New Zealand's past is somehow "too small, too parochial" to compete with bigger, global stories.**

News site Newsroom recently published a passionate call for more of our history to be taught. After travelling to the battlefields of World War One, former MediaWorks CEO Brent Impey discovered a past that had, until then, seemed to be hidden from him.

"As I toured these important places, I felt a simmering anger at the failure of our education system to teach us our own history. Yes, Gallipoli is now being treated with the respect it deserves. Anzac Day is now observed appropriately. But this is a relatively recent phenomenon. Still today, our history is not taught with enough depth," he wrote.

He's right. We need to know more about our own past. And it's true that there has been a curious obsession with the Tudors in the education system, sometimes at the expense of knowing our own histories better.

Our past, as he suggests, does explain 'who we are and what we have become'.

But perhaps because this was a battlefield epiphany I think he might be shooting the messenger.

Historians like me can undoubtedly continue to do better, but we don't deny our past. Indeed, it's more than half a century since academics like Sir Keith Sinclair and Bill Oliver wrote the first books that helped make the idea of New Zealand history respectable.

Research on colonial life, on race relations and on a neglected (at least by Pakeha) document known as the Treaty of Waitangi preoccupied these scholars, along with a coterie of graduate students and other historians, as they worked to forge a national story out of archival fragments.

The initially slim shelf of books they furnished about our past has grown exponentially; ironically, war history is one of the most prolific areas of research. Now alongside those first forays into our past we have histories of New Zealand's teenagers, its cities, music, department stores and baches.

The work of the Waitangi Tribunal has generated thousands of pages of history. Māori history, both its content and its practice, has also begun to reshape the wider field.

All of this has made its way into classrooms in school and universities, into the exhibition spaces of our museums and galleries, and onto the shelves in libraries and bookstores.

So it is odd that our past still seems so elusive. In the classroom, New Zealand history struggles to compete with students' interest in other times and places.

United States history outcompetes history made in New Zealand at our University at Stage 1, and the Tudors still give us a run for our money.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with a global outlook. But there is lingering sense that our history is too small, too parochial to be worth attention in our connected world.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Every aspect of our past has been touched by great globalising forces like migration, capitalism, and

as the fields in Europe dotted with cemeteries show, war.

Though commemorations of World War One still rely on tired appeals to its nation-making legacies, newer histories uncover more wide-ranging stories that remind us of the imperial, regional and local dimensions of the conflict.

We don't have to buy the old, nationalistic, myths of New Zealand as two tiny islands at the bottom of the world.

Our history tells us otherwise. This view, and the corrosive and outdated emphasis on STEM subjects as economic panacea, are greater obstacles to understanding our past than teachers in schools.

If anything is worth a bit of simmering anger, this is. Still, the tide might be turning. The centenary of World War One may have reanimated national mythmaking, but it has also rekindled many New Zealanders' interest in their own, very personal, pasts.

And it was school students who brought the petition to have the New Zealand wars taught in schools. It's just possible that we may start to commemorate these wars with the same sort of respect shown for those fought in the twentieth century. So yes, we need more of our past. And we need more of it to be valued. For as long as we keep supporting it, historians will keep on reading, writing and teaching our stories.

*Dr Felicity Barnes is a senior lecturer in New Zealand history in the School of Humanities, Faculty of Arts, at the University of Auckland. A version of this piece was published on [www.newsroom.co.nz](http://www.newsroom.co.nz)*