

# Uni NEWS

auckland.ac.nz/UniNews

OCTOBER 2019



## NEUROSCIENTIST CATHY STINEAR

Professor revolutionising  
stroke rehabilitation

Page 6



### HART AND SOUL

Trevor Richards, co-founder of Halt All Racist Tours (HART) in 1969, reflects on a transformational period in our social history and asks who's protesting now?

Page 12



### SECRET TO SUCCESS

The Vaotuuas are husband and wife and parents to seven. They've graduated together as teachers, have jobs at the same school and they're giving back to their community.

Page 5



### VAL'S PLACE IS OURS TOO

Valeria Vergara is manager of the Staff Common Room at Old Government House. She wants to pump life into the historic venue and get more people to check it out.

Page 3

## MOTIVATIONS OF A MOPHEAD

The latest book by distinguished poet Associate Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh is an insight into her extraordinary life. Called *Mophead: How Your Difference Makes a Difference*, the graphic memoir is written and illustrated by Selina and published by Auckland University Press. It's the story of 10-year-old Selina who is teased for her wild frizzy hair which leads to mean kids at school calling her 'mophead'. Selina does everything she can to tie her hair up and be the same as everyone else. Until one day when poet Sam Hunt visits her school... The book will be on the shelves from 17 October (\$24.99).



## SUCCESSFUL SDG SUMMIT

The second national Sustainable Development Goals Summit was co-hosted by the University with AUT in September, to much praise. The theme was 'Accelerated Action, Together' and included a debate by Auckland mayoral candidates on equality, transport and climate change. Video highlights are at [sdgsummit2019.org](http://sdgsummit2019.org). The event included a photography competition 'Showcasing Sustainability'. The winner was Dr Sylwia Kolenderska (Physics) with this photo (left) captioned 'Even a single small act can make a big difference'. See [tinyurl.com/SDGSphotos](http://tinyurl.com/SDGSphotos)



## WHAT A DAY!

The University Open Day on 31 August was a resounding success with a massive increase in potential students checking us out. The number of people trying out a lecture was up 11 percent on 2018, with thousands wanting to experience a taste of their possible future. There was a 30 percent increase in the number of people who travelled on one of 38 buses, from the likes of Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua and Northland, to attend Open Day. The day was run by staff from Marketing and Event Services, working with all the faculties, as well as around 200 student volunteers helping out as ambassadors.



## ASIAN CULTURE ON SHOW

If ever you've thought you work in the wrong faculty, this probably won't help. In September, the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) held its first Asian cultural festival and the food on show put muffins to shame. The event featured musical cultural performances by staff including a K-Pop dance and the Liggins Mandarin singing group. Along with delicious traditional food from Korea, Japan, China and Vietnam, there was a Japanese tea tasting and a demonstration of how to make Vietnamese spring-rolls. With exhibitions and games, we can think of worse ways to spend an afternoon.



My Story: Valeria Vergara	3
Spring Graduation	4, 5
Cathy Stinear	6, 7
What's New	8, 9
Culture & Events	10, 11
Classifieds	11
Māramatanga	12

## WILL YOU DO WIL?

**Applications for the University's Women in Leadership (WIL) Programme 2020 close on 31 October.**

The programme provides opportunities for staff to develop leadership skills with specific objectives that include increasing the numbers of women in senior positions and enhancing recruitment and retention of women in non-traditional areas. The programme includes mentoring by a senior academic or professional staff member and workshops through the year.

Details are on the intranet: search for Women in Leadership Programme 2020 or email [pod@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:pod@auckland.ac.nz).

EDITOR: Denise Montgomery  
[denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz)  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Elise Manahan, Billy Wong  
 DESIGN: Stephen Wang  
 PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland  
 Volume 49/Issue 8/October 2019  
 PUBLISHED BY: The University of Auckland  
 Communications Office  
 Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes Street  
 Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142  
[auckland.ac.nz/UniNews](http://auckland.ac.nz/UniNews)  
 Magazines that are posted are sent in certified  
 degradable EPI film not plastic.

## VALERIA VERGARA

Val Vergara is manager of the Staff Common Room at OGH.

### Where are you from?

I'm from Córdoba in Argentina and will have been living here eight years this month.

### What do you miss about home?

Family, the food and the night life. Things are different here socially. Over there you just call in on your friends but with my Kiwi friends I have to book them in advance! You can't just drop in when they're eating dinner – it would be like 'what are you doing here'? In Argentina that's normal and they'd just bring out another plate and you'd sit and eat. It's not better or worse, it's just different. And we love it here. That's why we stayed.

### How did you learn English?

A Kiwi called Lauren posted on the Facebook page "Latinos in Auckland". She'd been in South America and wanted to keep practising Spanish in exchange for teaching English. I met with her to practise English and we had 'language exchange' meetings twice a week for a month or so. Then we started sharing other activities such as library visits, walks at Cornwall Park, dinners, theatre and movies in Spanish at Rialto. The rule was that for one meeting our conversation would be all in Spanish and the following meeting in English. We've become very good friends. She's kind.

### Do you have a background in food?

I'm actually a nutritionist. When I came to New Zealand I managed a cafe and got their menu up to speed and then I started working for Flame Tree, Montana. For a while when I was studying nutrition in Córdoba I stopped eating meat and told my dad I was a vegetarian. He said 'don't be ridiculous!' Every time I go back, everyone wants to make me feel welcome so they cook barbecues and I just eat it – it's delicious.

### You've worked elsewhere on campus. Where?

I started at the Epsom campus running its cafeteria. Then I came here to Old Government House (OGH), then Short Street to do OGGB. That's when I met Craig Miller, president of the Staff Common Room committee. When Tim Biggs retired in February I helped with parts of Tim's job before taking his old job full-time in July. After a career in hospitality where the hours can be very long, it's great for me.

### What does the role involve?

I'm the manager of the Staff Common Room



Valeria (Val) Vergara encourages staff and PhD students to try the Staff Common Room. Photo: Elise Manahan

at OGH and its associated club. I book out the rooms, organise events, look after the bar, the staff and the finances. I'm still learning about the history of the building. We're not a museum but it's such an interesting building with a rich history so I'd like to share that info with all our guests.

### What are you hoping to bring to the role?

I want to pump this place up and try different events to make it better for members. For example, we have Oktoberfest on Wednesday 9 October (you buy a ticket to get a meal, beer and pretzels), poetry readings, art exhibitions. Any staff member or PhD student can join the club by paying an annual fee or as a deduction from your pay. I encouraged some of my former workmates to come on a Friday afternoon and at first they turned up their noses because they thought it was 'too old'. Now they come every Friday and love it. They talk to interesting people about travelling or their different research interests. In Argentina, my mum's a biochemist and my dad is an accountant so we always had adults talking about politics. We get a bit of that here. It's such a good environment here.

### What's your style?

I'm still learning it. I want people to feel welcome. The main issue now is no one knows who I am, so we are working on getting up a new website so people can contact me directly.

### What do you do outside of work?

In my first year here I was trying to figure out whether I'd stay or go home. I went to Argentina for three months and thought about things that

would help me be happy back in New Zealand. I didn't speak a word of English so I didn't have friends because I couldn't express myself. During the Rugby World Cup here in 2011 it was cool because there were lots of Spanish speakers from South America, but after the World Cup ended, everyone went away. I was like, who do I talk to? All my life I've played hockey so Lauren helped me and I ended up playing hockey here. I didn't play myself this winter because my Eden Roskill team, with seven Argentinians, decided to play football. With hockey, it doesn't matter if I speak any English or who I am, pass me the ball and I'll show you how it's done. They say I'm passionate, but they mean aggressive of course! Once my English was better I even got a part-time job coaching hockey teams at Dio (Diocesan School for Girls).

### Do you enjoy coaching?

On the first day I was so scared. I was like 'what am I going to do with these kids?' 'Go! Run! Run faster!' Then I realised I was quite good at it. I love it and the energy working with kids is amazing. I've been doing it for four years and should have done it earlier. I coach Under 15s, years seven and eight and juniors. I always look forward to it, both the games and training.

### Important question: Auckland's best Argentinian restaurant?

El Sizzling Chorizo in Ponsonby Central is good. I also love Besos Latinos in Elliott Stables. It's really a Latin American menu but they do have a few Argentinian things such as delicious empanadas, and the restaurant vibe is excellent.

# SPRING GRADUATION

On 24 September, more than 2,000 students took part in Spring Graduation, ranging in age from 21 to 77. Here's a selection of their stories.



High note: medical doctor Louise Webster is now also a Doctor of Music.

## IN TUNE WITH HER PATIENTS

**Nearly 40 years after graduating as a medical doctor from the University of Auckland, Dr Louise Webster has become a doctor again – this time in music.**

Louise is the head of several paediatric teams at Starship Children's Hospital, including the palliative care and pain teams and one that provides emotional and psychological support to seriously ill children and families.

While her role requires her to support the mental health needs of others, she's careful to look after her own mental health as well. Louise is a composer, pianist and violinist who has found writing music has been beneficial to her own mental wellbeing.

"It's a varied job and a great team, but you do have to pay attention to your own support, resilience and ways of coping and managing the sadness and grief. That's the case for anyone who works in child health. Having outside interests is very important for doctors, to prevent burn-out," Louise says.

"Music is my place for replenishment, it's an

enormous support to me personally, both playing music and writing music," she says.

Louise received the only Doctor of Music awarded at the University's Spring Graduation, for an advanced composition and research programme equivalent to four years' full-time study. She completed it over six years, fulfilling a lifelong desire to master composition as well as medicine. "I had a debate with myself as a child whether I was going to go to medical school or pursue composition. In the end, I chose medicine because I naively thought if I go to med school I can still do music, but not the other way around.

"I also had very good bursary marks in music, which ironically got me into medical school because back then your entry was based on your bursary overall rather than specific subjects," she recalls.

But her passion for music never waned. Louise took a year off med school in 1975 to study piano performance with Judith Clark at Victoria University before returning to the University of Auckland to complete her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and to continue piano studies with the late concert pianist, Associate Professor Janetta McStay.

She established her career as a paediatrician and child and adolescent psychiatrist, and had four children before returning to the University in 2003 as an undergraduate in composition, beginning the course of study that would finally lead to her doctorate in music.

"I didn't need a doctorate as such to open any work-related doors, but it has been invaluable for my journey as a composer. Writing music can be

## GENETIC ENGINEERING

**Both nature and nurture probably led Katrina Browne to graduate with a Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering (with honours), the third generation of civil engineers in the family to graduate from the University of Auckland.**

Katrina's father Allen graduated in the 1990s, her grandfather Murray in the 1950s (when the school was based at Ardmore), her uncle Graham graduated in the 1980s. Her younger brother, Nathan, is in his third year of his BE, also studying civil engineering.

"I do wonder about it," says Katrina, of the nature versus nurture question.

"There are so many career options and my brother and I are very different personalities.

But with five of us all in the same family, you do wonder what the likelihood is of us all ending up in the same area of expertise."

Katrina is one of a growing number of women going down the engineering road.

"My grandfather didn't have any females in his class and Dad had around 10-15 percent." (Her father's 1995 class photo confirms only ten out of a class of 71 were women.)

"I do wonder if I subconsciously picked up on some of the things Dad was often talking about, even if I wasn't particularly interested in those things at the time."

She recalls a family holiday overseas and her father raising a "super complicated question" about how deep some piles had been dug into bedrock.

"Once you start thinking about things the way an engineer does, you never really stop, even on holiday.

"Now I drive past cuts in the side of the road where you can see the earth and I tend to 'nerd out', and think about what geological class the material is, or note down areas on long, windy drives where the slope faces aren't looking very stable."

When it came to getting a job, fate played a part. She was booked for an interview with the transport, geotechnical and environmental teams at a company but only the geotechnical team leader was available.

"So I worked with the geotechnical team for my first summer internship and I absolutely loved it," she says.

"There's just something about being able to combine design work with getting out on site and getting your hands dirty!"

Katrina says while technology and software is constantly developing to make our lives easier, there are other challenges for engineers.

very isolating and it was a way to have ongoing tuition, support and critical appraisal from people I really respected, such as Leonie Holmes and Eve de Castro-Robinson.”

Louise has composed for the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and her works have been recorded by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. She is also a member of St Matthew’s Chamber Orchestra and the New Zealand Doctors’ Orchestra.

Louise’s experiences in clinical settings often influence her work, with themes of grief and loss working their way into her compositions. One example is *Cries of Kathmandu* for six voices and string quartet, inspired by her time volunteering at Sir Edmund Hillary’s Himalayan Trust hospitals in the foothills of Nepal. It was performed by the Song Company of Australia and the New Zealand String Quartet at the Adam Chamber Music Festival 2015.

Other works include *Where Moons Circle and Burn* for soprano and orchestra, performed by Elizabeth Mandeno and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in 2015; and *In Hollowed Bone I Hear the Seas Roar*, a concerto for violin and orchestra performed by Helene Pohl and the St Matthew’s Chamber Orchestra 2016, and also recorded by Yuka Eguchi and the NZSO in 2017.

“Writing music was always something I did on the side,” says Louise. “I was a doctor first and a composer second, but now I can say I am both.”

■ Danelle Clayton

**You can see all the Spring Graduation photos at [tinyurl.com/SpringGrad2019](https://tinyurl.com/SpringGrad2019).**



Katrina Browne, centre, with from left: grandmother Mary, dad Allen, grandfather Murray, brother Nathan and mother Robyn.

“We’re now facing the issue of sustainable designs that will last longer and are able to withstand natural disasters.

“Adapting the engineering we know to meet the changes in technology and urbanisation, especially here in Auckland, is a priority for the industry.”

■ Margo White



The Vaotuua’s, from left: Cece, Athalia, Tamausu Fa’alepo, Teuila, Madhelyn (front), Jametta, Psalms and Maretta. (Another son Solomon is absent.)

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

**Graduate teachers Tamausu Fa’alepo Vaotuua and Teuila Vaotuua say sharing the same world view as many of their students is a real benefit.**

The hardworking couple both received their Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) on 24 September and already have jobs at De La Salle College, an integrated Catholic secondary school for boys in South Auckland.

“Being a teacher of Samoan descent at a largely Pasifika school (51 percent Samoan) means we know and relate to our students’ struggles and can recognise their strengths as genuine strengths,” says Fa’alepo.

“It means we don’t always have to employ all the ideals of Western pedagogy, but can use our cultural intelligence. As a teacher, it’s rewarding to be able to tap into our heritage and connections to the community to strengthen relationships and teaching within the classroom.”

Both have special connections to De La Salle, with Fa’alepo an old boy and Teuila’s father, Arthur Solomon, a long-serving teacher there. Both of their brothers were also former pupils.

Fa’alepo started at De La Salle as an itinerant music teacher (piano and voice) as well as being the campus minister, a role funded by the De La Salle brothers who encouraged him to enrol in part-time study at the University’s Faculty of Education and Social Work at Epsom. He is now the school’s permanent music and religious education teacher. He wants to be known as “a teacher who cares for his students”.

Teuila returned to study in 2017 with some graduate Arts courses, enrolling at Epsom in 2018 where she did her final placement at De La Salle. She started as a religious education teacher at the school this year.

She says it’s important to be an authentic role model for students and also “the kind of teacher who never forgets what it’s like to be a student”.

As well as studying full-time last year, the couple are parents to seven children. Two are working, one is a student at the University, two are at secondary school, one’s at primary and the youngest is a pre-schooler. Fa’alepo’s parents also live with the family.

“With 11 people living in our house, we are a modern-day village,” laughs Teuila, who admits juggling everyone’s needs during the past few years has been tough.

“Everything coming together was a huge mental, spiritual and physical challenge and mostly it was a matter of survival because so much was at stake for our big family.

“We knew if we couldn’t balance family, study, work and church during the final practicum [placement], we likely couldn’t pull off the real deal. We prayed a lot, and by the grace of God we got by.”

Teuila says returning to study was a way of honouring their parents and grandparents.

“It’s our responsibility to honour the sacrifice they made coming to New Zealand for a better education and quality of life for their offspring. Continuing our education is our way of saying thank you and of giving back to our community.”

The couple also want to raise the profile of all the good things that happen in South Auckland.

“Our South Auckland and Pasifika kids are super talented and we want to work in the education space where we’re able to contribute to breaking negative stereotypes and building a legacy of success for our people.”

■ Julianne Evans

## PREDICTING OUTCOMES

With a 40 percent increase in stroke expected in Auckland in the next decade, Professor Cathy Stinear's work is crucial.

**At Professor Cathy Stinear's inaugural lecture in July, she told a story about dropping out of school halfway through seventh form and 'running away with the circus'.**

She was 17 and had sworn she'd never go to university. The circus stint didn't involve trapeze or acrobatics – it was a summer job, helping seat the audience and assisting a clown, for an international circus that had come to town.

But acrobatics did come along a short time later. Over the next couple of years Cathy gained her commercial pilot's licence and worked as a flying instructor, which included teaching aerobatics.

"Knowing what I know now about brain maturation, that is totally irresponsible!" she told the audience at her inaugural lecture.

By the age of 23 Cathy had changed her mind on further education and started studying at the New Zealand College of Chiropractic.

But it was the neuroscience aspect that fascinated her so she enrolled in her masters at the University, then a PhD.



Now a top neuroscientist, she is deputy head of the Department of Medicine, a professor and embedded in the Auckland District Health Board's Stroke Unit at Auckland City Hospital where she translates her research into clinical practice every day.

Cathy's specialist field is stroke rehabilitation and with a 40 percent increase in the incidence of stroke predicted in the Auckland region in the next decade, her expertise is vital.

"That's a very big number and one of the reasons the ADHB is investing \$30 million in a new integrated stroke unit," she says.

Cathy says most strokes are preventable. "There are the obvious things like high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol and poorly managed diabetes. Those things can definitely increase your risk. Other things have nothing to do with your lifestyle. Certain heart conditions can put you at elevated risk even though you've lived an impeccable life."

Although the risk of stroke does increase with age, a stroke can occur at any stage of life.

"About a third of people who experience stroke are working age, under 65. But a stroke can happen before you're born, around the time you're born and throughout childhood as well."

When a younger person has a stroke, people often don't recognise the warning symptoms so may not follow the FAST test (Face, Arms, Speech and Time) because stroke isn't the first thing they think of. This can lead to delays in treatment.

"It can be devastating and also very surprising for younger adults, teens and children. I was chatting with a mum and grandma recently whose little boy was 11 when he had quite a nasty stroke and nobody cottoned on. I think an understandable sense of 'what if' results – frustration that it wasn't picked up a bit sooner."

### Research at the coal face

While Cathy does collaborate with other researchers at the University on stroke research, she collaborates most closely with the clinicians at the ADHB.

"The hospital is where we do most of our research and if we didn't have really good relationships with the clinicians and management there then it wouldn't be possible for us to do the work we do in stroke.

"What we're interested in doing is making predictions that clinical teams can use to help make decisions about a person's rehabilitation, and about where they're likely to go when they leave the hospital ... back home or elsewhere."

She's thankful for the generosity of people who have had a stroke, who agree to become involved in research projects.

"Our team of biomedical scientists and clinicians screen the ward every day to see who's

been admitted in the past day. They identify people who might be interested – and who it's appropriate to approach – in taking part in our stroke research."

She says most people are open to being involved. "They're amazing. I'd say 95 plus percent agree to take part. It's incredibly humbling and a constant reminder of how privileged we are to work with patients and families, within just a couple of days of what might be one of the worst things that's ever happened to them.

"It's an amazing thing to work with people at that tricky point in their lives. The research is hopefully going to help other people coming along behind them."

Cathy has several research projects running that look at outcomes for recovery following stroke.

"One of those is an algorithm that I'm working with various DHBs on, called the PREP2 algorithm. It's been developed and validated to predict hand and arm outcomes after stroke."

She says rather than being a computer-style algorithm it's a clinician's 'decision tree'.

"It enables a clinician to combine a simple measure of strength of the hand and arm and the patient's age, within three days of stroke symptom onset, and predict what the outcome will be for the hand and arm in three months.

"About a third of patients will need an additional test, using non-invasive brain stimulation to see whether the connections between the brain and the spinal cord still work. The patient has a better prognosis if these connections are still able to carry movement commands from the brain down to the body."

The reason the algorithm is useful is because it's a powerful predictive tool for recovery.

"It's the first prediction tool in stroke rehabilitation to be implemented in clinical practice in the world," says Cathy. "We've done the research around what happens when you use this in the real world. How do clinicians change their behaviour? They become more confident and they personalise people's rehabilitation ... that helps patients leave the hospital about six days earlier, which is good."

Other DHBs are interested in that and there's already a website up and running to support hospitals in North America, Europe and Asia to implement it as well.

"We're really busy helping other people use this knowledge, which is exciting," Cathy says.

Another algorithm, called TWIST, is being developed with a research fellow in the group, Dr Marie-Claire Smith.

"This is a really neat algorithm because it predicts not just whether someone will be able to walk by themselves after stroke, safely on their



Reflecting on the academic path she took, neuroscientist Professor Cathy Stinear tells students they don't have to follow the expected route. Photos: Elise Manahan

own, but also approximately when. Being able to walk safely on your own determines where you will live. If you can't walk safely, you can't live alone so you can see that it has massive implications for families.

She says knowing this in advance is very good for families. "If we can tell them 'in six weeks mum will be okay to go back to her own home', then they won't rush off and sell her house.

"Having some actual information about what to expect from the beginning instead of just 'oh we don't know, we'll wait and see' will help people as they redefine their lives."

As well as human observation, technology plays a part. Cathy is working with speech language therapist Dr Anna Miles on a mobile app to predict recovery of swallowing.

"It lets you predict the likelihood of someone needing temporary or permanent tube feeding, within a couple of days of the stroke. At the moment clinicians have to see what happens, but if the patients are nil by mouth they get weaker and weaker and it delays starting rehab.

"If we know at the beginning, it's much easier. For example, we could say 'let's put in a temporary tube just to get you through this little hump and keep your strength up while you start rehabilitation, and then it'll come out later'."

In 2020 the new integrated stroke unit will open at Auckland City Hospital and will provide a real focal point for excellence in stroke research.

"We're looking forward to being part of that. It's every clinical scientist's dream to develop something that people use in the real world.

"We have a huge amount of expertise here across those two organisations – the University

**'Clinicians become more confident and they personalise people's rehabilitation ... that helps patients leave the hospital about six days earlier, which is good.'**

**– Professor Cathy Stinear**

and the DHB – working together to identify the most promising tools, testing them in the real world and then rolling them out to other DHBs. I love the challenge of it.

"We can go from having evidence, to testing, to putting it into routine care here in just 18 months. That's really quick so people can benefit much faster from these new discoveries."

### Path to professor

Cathy says her recent promotion to professor was a proud moment.

"I didn't realise it until I got there. It probably made me grow a few centimetres ... that endorsement from your peers, your colleagues and your institution means so much. I might not be right and I might not be agreed with but I feel more confident to say 'well this is what I think'."

She comes from a long line of teachers on both sides of her family and her father, James Stinear, did a PhD in neuroscience in his 50s, completing his doctorate just before she did. Now he's an associate professor in Exercise Sciences at the University.

Cathy describes herself as a non-conformist. When she was young, all her friends were

heading to university but she chose not to, despite her obvious intellectual ability.

"It's important for younger people to remember that actually you will always have choices in front of you," Cathy says.

"When I talk with parents and young people, I try to help them not to feel pressured to study certain things. I say 'remember that this isn't the last decision you're ever going to make'. You don't have to go the expected route."

In Cathy's case that also applies to her mode of transport. She rides a motorcycle.

"Yes, as a neuroscientist, I get sideways looks for riding a motorbike. But it's a lot of fun."

■ Denise Montgomery

### SHINE A LIGHT

UniNews welcomes your ideas on staff members to feature, and any news and research stories. We're also always looking for people to feature in our My Story, which is a Q and A.

Email your ideas to the editor:  
denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz

# WHAT'S NEW



by renowned deaf multi-percussionist and performer, Dame Evelyn Glennie, who feels music through her feet.

It has a “sensor bit” that gets placed on or plugged into a sound source such as speakers or an instrument and includes an audio jack, a contact microphone, a signal-processing unit and a wireless module. It also has a “display bit”, with a vibrotactile motor and LED lights encased in what looks like a watch. It is worn the same way as a watch and people feel the music through their wrist and arm.

“It is honestly life changing,” says Marama Bowler, who has been trialling the device. Marama (pictured right) lost her hearing three years ago and was invited to try the device by Suranga after meeting him at the Hearing House, an Auckland charity that helps the deaf.

“Suranga asked me choose a song on YouTube,” she says. “The first song that came into my head was ‘Uptown Funk’ by Bruno Mars. The minute it started with its first beat I started crying. It was like I was fully listening to the song.”

She says Muss-Bits has brought her a lot of joy, particularly when driving the car and she can turn up the stereo. It has helped her recall and

feel music she used to be able to hear.

“With Muss-Bits I’m able to ‘hear’ music again. I watch a lot of karaoke on YouTube and sing along. Now I can watch the video and the beats that come off it make me understand when the song starts without needing the karaoke version.”

Suranga and his team are using Marama’s feedback to adapt Muss-Bits, following their philosophy of creating human-computer interfaces that learn and adapt to people instead of the other way around. Their goal is to develop technologies to make life easier, especially for those who face challenges due to hearing or vision problems.



# WHAT A FEELING

**A wearable device developed by researchers at the University, which allows the hearing-impaired to feel music, has been described as “life-changing”.**

The Muss-Bits (Musical Sensory Substitution Bits) device was designed by Associate Professor Suranga Nanayakkara and his team in the Augmented Human Lab at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute. It was partly inspired

# HAERE RĀ TĀMAKI

**The Tāmaki Innovation Campus will end its 28 years of service to the University with a formal farewell event on 24 October. There will also be a display looking back at the history of the campus with posters, digital presentations and memorabilia.**



The campus is closing after being sold, with the University’s long-term strategy to consolidate activities at the City, Grafton and Newmarket campuses. Services formerly offered

at Tāmaki are already at new locations, such as Grafton where the Hearing and Tinnitus, Optometry, Nutrition and Dietetic and Speech Language Therapy Clinics are set up. The Health and Rehab Clinic is on the Newmarket Campus and the Psychology Clinic is in the Faculty of Science on the City Campus.

Emeritus Professor Mick Clout (pictured) has had a long career at Tāmaki, based there since joining the academic staff in 1993. The vertebrate ecologist, whose conservation efforts with the likes of kākāpō have seen him win many awards, recalls his early days at Tāmaki with affection.

“Shortly after arriving at Tāmaki, I was invited by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to establish and lead an international group of experts on invasive

species and conservation, the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG).

“Tāmaki became the world HQ of the ISSG from 1995 and several ISSG staff were based there over the years. It was a great team.”

He says over the years he has supervised many wonderful postgraduate students, studying the ecology and behaviour of introduced mammals (possums, rats, mice, stoats) and native birds including the kererū. “Several of these postgraduates have gone on to make great contributions to science and conservation.”

Although officially retired, Mick has had an office at Tāmaki and was there most weeks.

“I will miss it greatly.”



Just Water philanthropist Tony Falkenstein with the director of CIE, Wendy Kerr.

# JUST THE BUSINESS

**Philanthropist and entrepreneur Tony Falkenstein is sending our students to Silicon Valley.**

He has donated \$600,000 to the Business School to fund up to 14 top students to visit business hubs to observe and hone the skills required for entrepreneurial success. The gift, through the University’s Campaign For All Our Futures, consists of \$120,000 a year for five years to fund the Vanguard programme. From 2020 Business School students can apply for a place.

“I would love to see a day where every university student would spend a semester overseas,” says the Onehunga-raised chief executive of Just Water. “Whether it be experiencing another university, working in a large company or start-up, or seeing the collaboration of ideas in Silicon Valley.” See full story: [tinyurl.com/FalkensteinSilicon](https://tinyurl.com/FalkensteinSilicon)



# INNOVATIVE NEW BLUES AWARDS



A climate change activist, a sonic arts music producer and a Taekwondo champion were among the winners of the University's Blues Awards announced on 27 September.

Traditionally awarded for sporting achievements, this year they were extended to other accomplishments. The Blues Award is the highest accolade to be earned at a tertiary level for excellence in a sporting code, arts and culture, or service and leadership. A new category of Most Outstanding Contribution in Innovation was introduced for 2019 and was won by Rebecca Jelley, the co-founder of a new lawn bowls format televised to more than one million people in Australasia. Sportswoman of the Year went to Isla Norman-Bell, a silver medallist



Damon Salesa with Sivendra Michael and his mum, Tara.

Left: Riley Phillips-Harris with mum, Suzanne.

Below: Major Māori Award winner Turuhira Hotene, centre.

at the Touch World Cup, and the Māori Major Award recipient was Turuhira Hotene, a member of this year's world champion kapa haka group.

The eight major award winners were:

**Riley Phillips-Harris** (Law) Sportsman of the Year and Most Meritorious Performance in Sport (Taekwondo); **Isla Norman-Bell** (Education and Social Work) Sportswoman of the Year (touch rugby); **Sivendra Michael** (Arts) Most Outstanding Contribution in Service and Leadership, and the Major Pasifika Award; **Turuhira Hotene** (Business): Major Māori Award; **Rebecca Jelley** (Science) Most Outstanding Contribution in Innovation; **Clovis**

**McEvoy** (CAI) Most Meritorious Performance in Arts and Culture. The full list of 130 winners and details of the major winners' achievements is at [tinyurl.com/2019BluesWinners](http://tinyurl.com/2019BluesWinners).



# WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THE SHADOWS

You've probably heard around the traps that the Shadows student bar will pour its last pint some time in the next six weeks.

We'd like to tell you when exactly, but it was unclear at the time *UniNews* went to press. We do know there'll be a Class of 2019 function at the Shadz on 25 October so that might be a good opportunity to file a few final Snapchats from the old venue for posterity.

Shadows has been in its current location for 36 years – its 36th birthday party was held on 27 September – and while it's a sad time for many, we doubt there'll be much love lost for the sticky carpet and the dilapidated surrounds.

And that's the rub. Shadows is in building 312 which, along with 314 (the Sport and Rec Centre), is the site of a multi-million-dollar campus development including a new Recreation and Wellness Centre. The Rec Centre itself is moving to 70 Stanley Street during the development.

But Shadows won't be fading away. Negotiations are under way for it to move to another location on campus, says newly elected AUSA President George Barton.

"Yes it's sad, but things need to change, so a new location is just a new chapter.

"We're making sure we keep the culture and positive attitude that Shadows is known for... we'll certainly bring that with us."

■ Keep an eye on the usual channels such as [facebook.com/ShadowsBarNZ/](https://www.facebook.com/ShadowsBarNZ/) to see if the end of Semester Two on 18 November might be your last chance to charge your glasses.

# ROCKET MAN HONOURED

September saw space industry pioneer and Rocket Lab founder Peter Beck named an adjunct professor in aerospace engineering.

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Nic



Smith (pictured), says appointing Peter as adjunct professor is a way of recognising someone who has achieved "the status of a professor" in their field. "Peter has created a lightning rod

for space research, opening opportunities for our young people that otherwise wouldn't exist."

Peter has had a long relationship with the faculty, opening up a world of space research and opportunities for students. The University's space programme is in full flight, with the Auckland Programme for Space Systems (APSS) attracting hundreds to enter its extracurricular Mission Proposal Competition since 2016. One winning entry, a CubeSat developed by Team QuakeTec, is on the manifest to launch on an Electron rocket from Rocket Lab's site at the Mahia Peninsula in the next few months.

Shadows will be moving as construction of a new recreation centre gets under way.



## CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS: TUIA 250

Under the banner *Critical Encounters Tuia 250*, Cultural Collections has developed a programme of exhibitions, playlists and talks that offers a range of perspectives and approaches to the 250th anniversary of meetings between Māori and James Cook's *Endeavour* crew in 1769-70.



Julian Hooper's *Vakaloa* (2017), part of the Art Collection exhibition.

### Archive of Māori and Pacific Sound: Te Whakawhiti Moana

Oral traditions have carried the knowledge of our ocean-faring ancestors through the centuries. This knowledge is embedded in taonga such as haka, pātere, karakia, lakalaka and pese. The Archive of Māori and Pacific Sound has selected several taonga to celebrate Moana histories of navigating across Te Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa before the *Endeavour's* arrival. These recordings include a karakia used when the tree that made the Tainui waka was cut down, and a Ngāti Porou haka embodying a portion of the ancient paddling song of the Takitimu canoe.

■ Available on the AMPS Listening Post, Monday 7 October – Friday 1 November, 9am-4.45pm, Special Collections foyer, Level G, General Library.

### Special Collections display: *Critical Encounters Tuia 250 – Shifting Values*

This display looks at Cook commemorations through time and the corresponding shifts in values and perspectives. Exhibits range from a book published in Auckland for the centenary to contemporary scholarly articles that critique the early encounters and their legacies.

■ Three curator talks will be held during the display, which runs Monday 7 October – Friday 8 November, Special Collections foyer, Level G, General Library.

### Art Collection exhibition: *From the Ship and from the Shore – Varying Viewpoints*

This exhibition features works by artists of Māori, Pacific and Pākehā descent from the University of Auckland Art Collection. The artworks were selected to highlight the different perspectives and narratives at play when considering the history of Aotearoa.

■ Curators will give two floor talks in October about the artworks, which are displayed on Levels G and 1 of the General Library until 23 December.

### Media Services: TV and Radio playlist

The TV and radio online playlist includes recent documentaries on Tahitian navigator Tupaia, who had a crucial role on the *Endeavour* voyage, Sam Neill's *Uncharted* TV series, and older news items relating to the 200th and 225th anniversaries. For full details, go to [news.library.auckland.ac.nz/2019/10/04/critical-encounters](https://news.library.auckland.ac.nz/2019/10/04/critical-encounters)

■ By Cultural Collections staff, Te Tumu Herenga



From left: Gaudemus members Rose Cooper, Dora Green, Margo Knightbridge and Hanna Wilberg.

## KEEPING CONNECTED THROUGH MUSIC

**Musical talent is to be found in all corners of the University, not just the School of Music.**

Take the ensemble Gaudemus, formed in 2018, which features two singers, a cellist and a pianist, all with strong connections to the University, and all with many years of performing experience.

"Our name was suggested by a friend who is a language scholar," explains mezzo-soprano Margo Knightbridge. "It's derived from a Latin word meaning 'we rejoice'. As we all rejoice in our music, we thought it appropriate."

Margo works as a metadata specialist in the University's General Library but is a life-time choral singer, performing in many choirs including notable ensembles such as the Dorian Choir and Musica Sacra. She is also a freelance soloist and organises many concerts for different groups.

Soprano Hanna Wilberg is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law. Singing has

always been a big part of her life and she has sung in choirs in Oxford, Toronto and New Zealand, sometimes as a soloist.

Pianist Rosemary Cooper studied piano at the University with Associate Professor Janetta McStay and continued her studies at the Guildhall School of Music in London. She is active as an accompanist and chamber music player.

As well as studying at Auckland, cellist Dora Green studied at Otago. She has wide experience as an orchestral and chamber music player, has toured overseas and these days works as a private cello teacher.

Despite their busy schedules, on Friday 18 October they'll get together for a lunchtime concert at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Symonds Street featuring vocal duets and cello and piano solos. "Our repertoire is varied," says Margo. "For this performance, we've chosen music from the Renaissance to the present day."

The concert is free, although a koha to the church's outreach programmes would be appreciated. All welcome.

**Gaudemus: 18 October, 1.10pm, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Symonds Street.**



From the exhibition: Jenna Packer's 'What is This Tree of Knowledge - Do We Not Also Have Trees?' (2018).

## SPEAKING OF SOLANDER

Three prominent University staff members will headline the Daniel Solander Seminar, an evening of discussion being held in conjunction with the touring exhibition, *Paradise Lost: Solander's Legacy*.

Daniel Solander was a Swedish botanist on board James Cook's *Endeavour* and the seminar speakers are Dame Anne Salmond, Distinguished Professor of Māori Studies and Anthropology; Damon Salesa, Associate Professor of Pacific Studies and Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific; and Kaiarataki Michael Steedman (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei).

Taking inspiration from the exhibition, they will provide perspectives on how exploration and encounters have helped shape our whenua, physically and culturally.

The *Paradise Lost: Solander's Legacy* exhibition is a collaboration between

Wellington's Solander Gallery and the Swedish Embassy. It is being hosted by the University of Auckland Art Collection in Old Government House Lounge from 16 October to 13 November. Marking 250 years since the arrival in Aotearoa of the *Endeavour*, the exhibition is a response by selected local artists to the legacy of Solander.

The free public seminar on Monday 21 October opens with short talks from the speakers, followed by informal discussion and questions from the floor. From 7-8pm, the exhibition will be open in the adjacent Old Government House Lounge, where refreshments will also be served.

**Exhibition: *Paradise Lost: Solander's Legacy*  
16 October – 13 November  
Old Government House Lounge**

**Daniel Solander Seminar  
Monday 21 October, 5.30-8pm  
Old Government House Lecture Theatre**

■ Register through 'Daniel Solander Seminar' on Eventbrite.com

## BUSINESS TALKS

### PROMINENT CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKER

British environmentalist Sir Jonathon Porritt, CBE, co-founder of Forum for the Future, will speak on 'The Role of Higher Education and Tertiary Institutions at a Time of Climate Emergency'. Sir Jonathon is chair of Air New Zealand's sustainability advisory panel and an eminent writer, broadcaster and campaigner on sustainable development. Registration is essential: [business.auckland.ac.nz/events](https://business.auckland.ac.nz/events)

**WHAT** Speech by Sir Jonathon Porritt

**WHERE** Sir Owen G Glenn Bldg, Room 5, Level 0

**WHEN** Wednesday 16 October, 5.30-7.30pm

### INAUGURAL LECTURES

**WHO** Professor Charl De Villiers

**WHAT** 'Understanding the influences on and of sustainability accounting'

**WHERE** Sir Owen G Glenn Building, Decima Glenn Room 310, Level 3

**WHEN** Thursday 17 October, 4-5.30pm

**WHO** Professor Leo Paas

**WHAT** 'Big data, what to do with it and where to from here?' This lecture will result in strategic insights into analytics and conclude with a brief speculation about a big data-driven future.

**WHERE** Sir Owen G Glenn Building, Decima Glenn Room 310, Level 3

**WHEN** Tuesday 29 October, 5.30-7.30pm

### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

**ITALIAN STUDENT NEEDS ACCOMMODATION:** I am a PhD student in management, from the University of Siena in Italy. I will be studying at the University of Auckland in semester one 2020 and require accommodation from 30 March to 22 June 2020 (ideally a single room at a location near the City Campus). Please contact Matteo Molinari. Email: [matteo.molinari@unisi.it](mailto:matteo.molinari@unisi.it)

**FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED:** Visiting Canadian professor with spouse and three children requires accommodation from January to August 2020. Children are aged 10, 12 and 14. Email: [sedavies84@gmail.com](mailto:sedavies84@gmail.com) Phone Sara on 001-587-351-1133 References available.

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**POINT CHEV ROOM AVAILABLE:** Sunny furnished single room in Art Deco home in Point Chevalier. Available now for a professional person, short or long term. Location is fabulous, home is recently renovated and you can walk to the beach. Option to share a second room. Rent is \$230 a week plus expenses. You will share the home with a self-employed woman and two cats. Email: [caryntrupp@gmail.com](mailto:caryntrupp@gmail.com) or call Caryn 021 158 9467

### SERVICES

**PRINTING:** Course books, conference, presentation and display, pull-up banners, posters and flyers. **Newcomb Digital** has amalgamated with Soar Printing to offer a wider range of quality printing. Now at 100 New North Road, Eden Terrace. Approved 'preferred supplier' to the University of Auckland. Contact Barny Hards: [barny@newcomb.co.nz](mailto:barny@newcomb.co.nz) or 027 482 6272.

**CITY LEGAL SERVICES:** Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm 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 senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 600 0256 to discuss your needs or email: [nchristie@rainey.co.nz](mailto:nchristie@rainey.co.nz). Website [rainey.co.nz](https://rainey.co.nz).

**PRINTING: Auckland University Bindery** is your one-stop print shop. We have the latest digital printing technology for leaflets, booklets, cards and invitations produced to a very high standard. We can do it all – print, bind and deliver. Print and collect on the same day. Call 278 2456 or email: [unibindery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:unibindery@auckland.ac.nz).

■ If you'd like to place an ad in UniNews, email: [uninews@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:uninews@auckland.ac.nz) Payment is \$20 for 50 words.



***‘Ugliness can be transformational. By 1990, we were anti-apartheid and anti-nuclear.’***

– Trevor Richards

*Fifty years on from the formation of HART, co-founder Trevor Richards says the timing of its arrival was critical. Photo: Billy Wong*

## HART AND SOUL

**In 1994 *Guardian* editor Peter Preston wrote: ‘When you stand on the steps of the President’s office, on the hill overlooking Pretoria, the sense of imperial permanency is overwhelming. Great lumps of stone tower over a city devoted to the business of ruling. Nothing, says the bulk of Pretoria, can ever change.’**

In 1969, the year the Halt All Racist Tours movement (HART) was formed at the University of Auckland, I had never been to South Africa. Consequently, there were no such feelings of awe. I was 22. I loved university. We were encouraged to be sceptical, to question, to value compassion and, above all else, to think. We felt immortal and invincible.

The timing of HART’s birth was critical. We were baby boomers. We had enjoyed the benefits of full employment. User-pays tertiary education and student loans were 20 years away. These were the ‘glory days’ of student life. Had 1969 been blighted with 1989’s economic realities, we would have been too busy trying to survive to form HART.

As the movement grew, we grew with it. Three very Sixties qualities kept many of us going: confidence, optimism, and belief – the Sixties were not only about drugs, sex and rock ‘n’ roll.

If New Zealand couldn’t make the right call on the sporting contacts issue, it seemed to us that it couldn’t make the right call on anything. It was a political issue, but even more than that, it was a moral issue. It affected the way we viewed the world, and the way in which the world viewed us – and the glue that held all the strands of the issue together was race. In 1970, Eric Gowing, the Anglican Bishop of Auckland, had said ‘what

we think about sporting contacts with South Africa depends on what we think about racism’.

Few New Zealand politicians in 1969 understood just how important an issue race was becoming. Internationally, opposition to apartheid was growing. At home, a huge gulf was developing between assimilationists who wanted Māori to be quiet and behave, and increasing numbers of Māori, whose cultural renaissance was demanding and insistent. Ngā Tamatoa and the Polynesian Panthers were unlike anything most pākehā had seen before. Ngā Tamatoa told New Zealand there was no Māori problem – ‘what we have is a problem with pākehā’.

National identity is built substantially on myths and easy generalities. In the 1950s and early 1960s, I grew up being told by politicians, the press and our next door neighbour that New Zealand’s policy of racial assimilation meant that we had the best race relations in the world. To most pākehā, assimilation meant telling Māori that if they behaved like pākehā, they would be treated like pākehā. To Māori, it meant discovering that this was a lie.

At the 1921 farewell dinner to the Springboks, Prime Minister William Massey had remarked that as far as Māori were concerned, ‘they and the pākehā were one in this country’, yet until the protests of 1958-60, most pākehā were content to allow South Africa to dictate the racial composition of the All Blacks.

Robert Muldoon, prime minister from 1975-84 and chief advocate for a virulent set of racist, populist policies, was one of the few politicians who had understood the power of race as a political issue. Dawn raids on suspected Polynesian ‘overstayers’, strident attacks on Māori ‘radicals’, enthusiastic support for playing sport with white South Africa and cries of ‘acts bordering on treason’ against HART,

following Africa’s walkout from the 1976 Montreal Olympics, were all part of appeals to ‘Rob’s Mob’, his base. He was Trump before Trump.

The 1970s was an ugly decade, but it was also the engine room for social change. In 1960, New Zealand excluded Māori from that year’s All Black tour of South Africa and welcomed the *USS Halibut*, the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, into Auckland. Homosexuality and abortion were illegal. Women knew their place. They brought ‘the plate’.

Ugliness can sometimes be transformational. By 1990, New Zealand was another country. We were anti-apartheid and anti-nuclear. Māori had been recognised as tangata whenua, homosexuality had been decriminalised, safe abortions were available and Sian Elias was less than ten years away from becoming Chief Justice. What a difference 30 years and a helluva lot of campaigning can make.

Where are today’s transformational groups? Will they emerge out of student protests over climate change? Has one emerged already in the shape of SOUL (Save Our Unique Landscape), campaigning to protect Ihumātao?

Wherever they are, they are needed. They will always be needed.

■ The writer is distinguished alumnus Trevor Richards (BA, history/political studies, 1971). He is part of the Society Salon event ‘1969 to 1985: Sixteen years of protest that changed NZ’ to mark 50 years since HART (Halt All Racist Tours) was formed. It’s on **Wednesday 30 October at OGH Lecture Theatre, 5.30-7pm** and will be chaired by Professor Jennifer Curtin from the Public Policy Institute. Other speakers include writer and cartoonist Tom Scott, David Wickham, former HART Auckland organiser, and distinguished alumna, singer Moana Maniapoto. **More details at [tinyurl.com/HARTEventUoA](http://tinyurl.com/HARTEventUoA)**