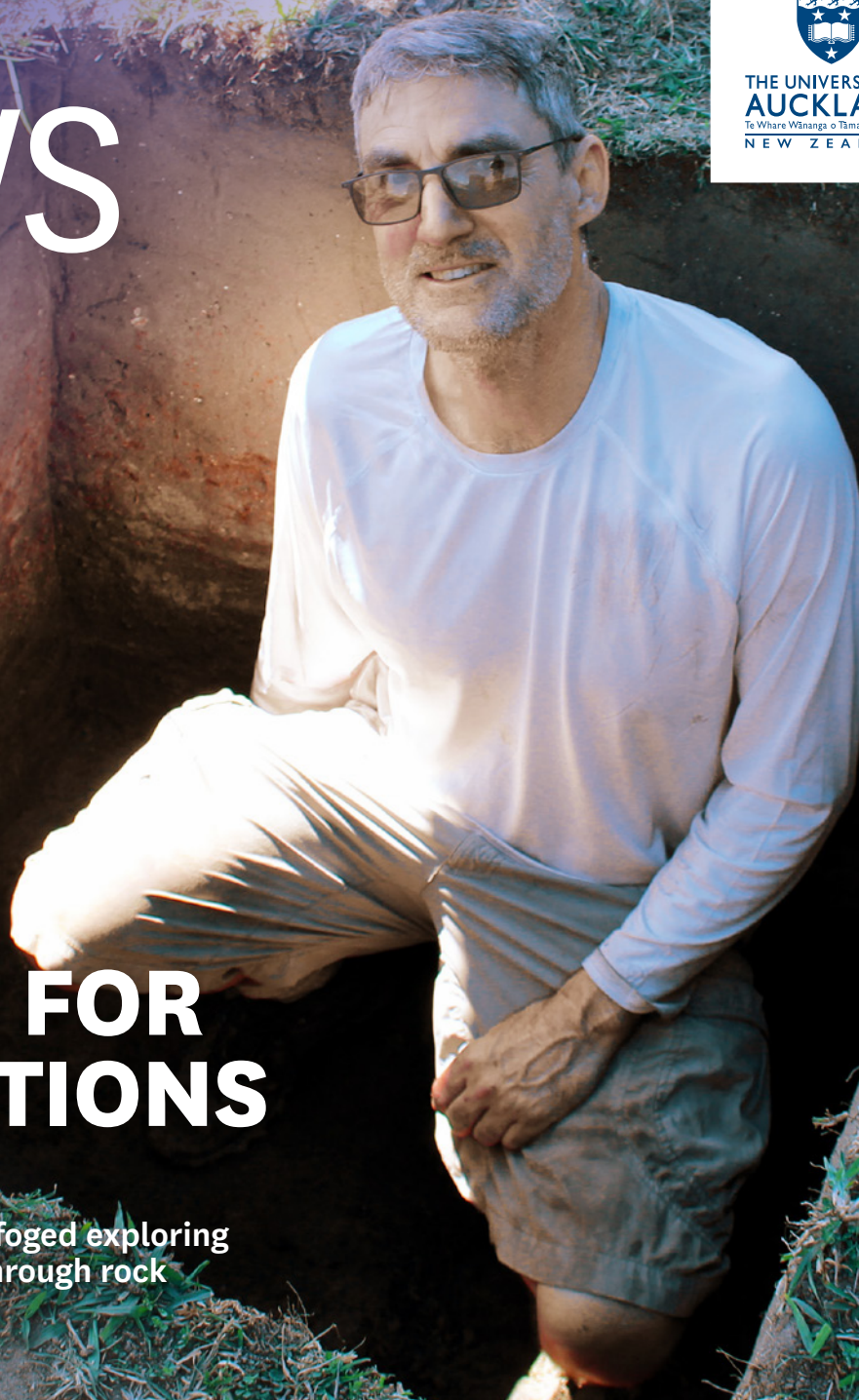


Uni NEWS

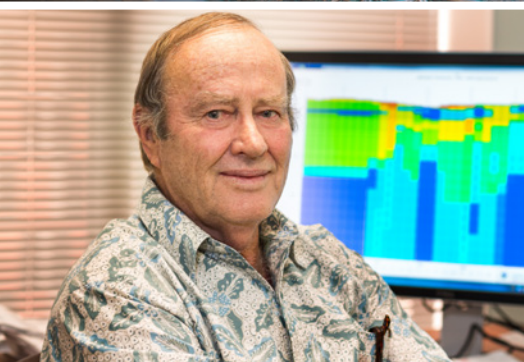
MARCH 2019



DIGGING FOR CONNECTIONS

Archaeologist Thegn Ladefoged exploring ancient social networks through rock

Page 6



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Professor Mike O'Sullivan reflects on hitting a half century in engineering at the University.

Page 5



PHILANTHROPY FOR PENGUINS

Staff raise enough money to buy 100 Auckland homes – for little blue penguins.

Page 4



HILARY CHUNG

Director of Global Studies on a personal mission: 'This is one thing I can do for my sisters.'

Page 3

95BFM 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH

Campus radio station 95bFM turns 50 this year. The first event to mark the milestone was 95bFM GOLD at the Powerstation on 15 February. Reflecting 95bFM's broad musical palette, the lineup included Beastwars, Miss June (right) and a showcase from the station's True School Hip Hop Show including Dam Native and SWIDT. "Community is so important to us," says general manager Caitlin McIlhagga. "So it was crucial for us to celebrate this milestone with our audience." Programme Director Sarah Thomson says the mood was joyous. "That's a testament to the station's listeners, its volunteer base and the music communities it lives to serve."



Photo: Peter Gedye

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The legacy of photographer Marti Friedlander (1928-2016) is being honoured by a newly established lectureship at the University. Dr Sophia Powers (left) is the inaugural recipient of the Marti Friedlander Lectureship in Photographic Practices and History. Originally from Massachusetts, art historian Sophia travelled from New York to take up the Faculty of Arts position in February and is teaching courses in Global History of Photography and Global Art Histories.

HONOURED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Three honorary degrees were bestowed at a ceremony in January. *Honoris Causa* degrees are among the University's highest honours, recognising individuals who have made a significant contribution to the University's own work and the communities they serve. Just 50 honorary doctorates have been awarded by the University since 1963. Dr Ian Parton received an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering, Dr Beate Schuler an Honorary Doctorate of Science and David Mace, Honorary Doctor of Laws. These were formally conferred by Chancellor Scott St John.

From left: David Mace, Chancellor Scott St John, Beate Schuler, Ian Parton and Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon.



PLANTING ART

Elam graduate James K. Lowe created *The Noble Ones*, a suite of images of Chinese plants displayed on large lightboxes in Britomart in February. Lowe's choice of plants was a riff on the concept of the 'Noble Four', the four plants traditionally depicted as representative of each of the seasons in ink paintings through Chinese art history: plum branches, orchids, bamboo and chrysanthemums. Creating the series prompted James, whose grandparents migrated here from China, to explore his own heritage and the origins of Chinese New Year. "My research for this project has helped fill in some of the gaps."

THIS ISSUE

Hilary Chung	3
News	4
Milestone	5
Thegn Ladefoged	6
Research in brief	8
In Memoriam	9
Art & Culture	10
What's on	11
Classifieds	11
Māramatanga	12

Main cover image: Photo of Thegn Ladefoged by Patricia Pillay.

REMINDER

AWARDS: Nominations for the five Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards close on 15 March. Find out how to enter by searching Excellence Awards 2019 on the intranet.

EDITOR: Denise Montgomery

denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY: Billy Wong, Godfrey Boehnke

DESIGN: Stephen Wang

PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland

Volume 49/Issue 1 March 2019

Published by:

The University of Auckland

Communications Office

Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes Street

Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142

auckland.ac.nz/universitynews



HILARY CHUNG: 'KICK-ASS RESILIENT'

Dr Hilary Chung would rather not have the light shone on her. But the popular founding director of the University's Global Studies Programme has agreed to share a very personal part of her life.

Hilary has metastatic disease. Her breast cancer – first diagnosed in 2015 and treated – returned last year and has spread through her body. She knows it's terminal but she's undergoing treatment with the drug Palbociclib – known as Ibrance – a drug that prolongs life but isn't funded in New Zealand by Pharmac.

"If you want to turn the spotlight on me, I feel incredibly uncomfortable doing it, but I'm doing it for the sake of everybody else," says Hilary.

A senior lecturer who has worked at the University for 20 years, she wants to convey her gratitude to people for the money donated through a Give-a-Little campaign that has allowed her to be treated with Ibrance. The other reason she's talking is because on 13 March she goes to Wellington to present to Parliament's Health Select Committee. She'll deliver a personal submission to the Minister of Health and Pharmac to fund two drugs – Kadcylla and Palbociclib – for metastatic breast cancer sufferers.

"Many women who have metastatic disease have to stop work and they want to be with their kids while they still can," says Hilary. "Any extra time they might gain, it's not valueless, it's utterly valuable."

"Maybe the reason the funding's not been considered important enough before, is because it's a bunch of women who are going to die anyway. What is overlooked in all that, is the contribution these women who are dying still make every day.

"You don't have to be *me* to be someone who contributes ... you can be making the school lunches or helping with the school gala.

"This is one thing I can do for my sisters. I'm a lecturer – I stand in front of big rooms full of people all the time. So for me it's not scary. I can do this."

The gratitude she feels to the University is deep. When she was diagnosed with metastatic disease, the Dean of Arts, Professor Robert Greenberg, insisted she set up a Give-a-Little page to raise funds to be treated with Ibrance. The page aims to raise \$66,000 for 11 months' treatment. So far it's raised enough for eight months.

"Robert has been so supportive," says Hilary. "I owe a lot to him. And HR. People always moan about the system but the University treats people like me really well.

"I feel so grateful. When the fundraising first started I was so overwhelmed I didn't know what to do. I was so emotional ... people had given me so much money. If I keep thinking about it I'll burst into tears right now.

"I also get lots of small donations from poor students and it breaks my heart, their kindness."

Meeting Hilary, you wouldn't know she was sick. She has cycled to the City Campus from Avondale and will make the return journey. She's an enthusiastic stand-up paddleboarder, a vegetarian and is very fit. "I know right, look at me! But if you look at my scan ... well it's everywhere. It's right through my body. In all my bones. Scapula, clavicle, down my spine, my hips, pelvis. And in my liver. I went for my first CT scan looking like this [in cycling gear] and the guy couldn't believe it. He said 'someone with a scan like you should be looking poorly'. But I'm feeling good because I keep

fit. I'm totally reconciled to this. I don't cry myself to sleep because that would be stupid. My whole attitude to life has changed for sure but I'm so glad I'm still working."

But she's finding it tough to reconcile the fact that because of the donations, she can afford treatment. "It's not fair. The reason I say it's not fair is because the only people who will be able to succeed through that route will be people like me who are resourceful and resilient enough to be able to do it. I had huge numbers of contacts to send the page to. I'm lucky."

When Hilary gets to Wellington she won't shy from telling her story – on what it's like to have metastatic disease. She says a personal submission needs to hit home.

"I want to go there and say 'mate, let's get one thing clear. I'm speaking on my own behalf. I will tell you what it feels like. On the days when it's horrible, it's a dark, dark place. I've learned to get out of those places. But having terminal cancer means you walk into your living room and you find your partner sobbing uncontrollably and there's nothing you can do about it'.

"Then you get punched in the stomach when they say you can't have the drug. Even though if I was in the US, Canada, Australia or the UK I would have access to it."

She's full-steam ahead with enrolments for the 2019 Global Studies programme – numbers have more than trebled on its inaugural year. She's also interviewing staff to teach on the programme.

"Because, get real, I'm not going to be here for very much longer. I don't know how long. If this drug works, a bit longer than I would have otherwise but I don't know when.

"The big thing for me is, I'm having the time of my life. Everything I wanted to do is happening. I'm not going to be able to do it for much longer but I don't think about that.

"Physical and mental strength can help you stay alive, if you really want to stay alive badly enough. I really want to. Just because I like what I do. I'm kick-ass resilient but I can't do what I do without fabulous support."

■ Denise Montgomery

See: tinyurl.com/HilaryGiveaLittle



WORLD FIRST

Karamia Muller, lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning, is believed to be the first Samoan woman in the world to receive a PhD in Architecture.

While that makes her a minority, Karamia says the Oceanic community would see architecture as part of their historical and cultural landscape. "Oceanic people were, and still are, architects, builders, artists and philosophers of space since we navigated our way and settled across the region," she says. "In Samoa there is a history of architectural practice in the form of a builders' guild who, according to creation stories are the descendants of the gods ... we do see ourselves as builders and architects. With the resources we have, we create the kinds of spaces we want to be in and we continue to do that."

■ Karamia (below) is one of the speakers at the Auckland Arts Festival event *The War Room* on 8 March, International Women's Day. Other University speakers are Professor Tracey McIntosh and the PM's Chief Science Advisor, Professor Juliet Gerrard. See: tinyurl.com/AAFWarRoom



Photos: Edin Whitehead

HOMES FOR PENGUINS

Pitching in to buy penguin homes has paid off.

Around 80 members of staff donated more than \$6,000 to the Friends of Leigh Marine Reserve Fund in the 2017 Christmas Appeal and the result was 100 new nesting boxes for little blue penguins. Little blue penguin populations are rapidly declining due to threats from introduced predators, habitat loss from housing expansion and drowning in commercial fishing nets.

But since the boxes were put in place, the penguins have been nesting and raising chicks in their new abodes. Marine Science masters student and avian research masters scholar Edin Whitehead says establishing nesting boxes helps protect penguins from harsh weather, boosts breeding rates and allows easy monitoring by researchers. "Because they're not birds we see every day, it's easy to forget about them, but they're a vital part



of our ecosystems. They bring nutrients from the sea to the land and enrich the earth. On seabird islands the whole ecosystem benefits from their presence, with richer soils. Plants flourish, invertebrates and reptiles thrive and land-based birds benefit as well.

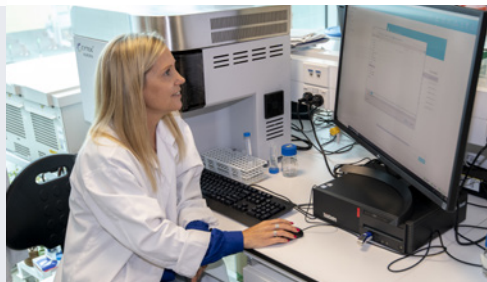
"By observing them, we can gain a better understanding of what is happening in the marine environment. They are our canary in a coal mine in terms of what is happening in the Gulf."

The appeal has seen the nesting boxes installed all around the Hauraki Gulf. Radio tags were also purchased, which means penguins can be tracked in the future.

See: giving.auckland.ac.nz/penguin

NEW RESIDENCE

The University's newest residence, Grafton Hall, has been rebuilt and re-opened and the first students moved in on 24 February. The hall accommodates 324 students and is on Carlton Gore Road, 15 minutes' walk from the City Campus and five minutes from the Grafton Campus. It was officially opened on 12 February with a dawn blessing led by kaumātua from Ngāti Whātua. A resident manager and resident advisers live on site, so a duty person is available 24 hours a day for students. Grafton Hall caters for first-year school leavers.



BIG FOR BIO

The purchase of a new-generation flow cytometer – a spectral analyser – will improve research outcomes for the Faculty of Science's Auckland Cytometry service. Housed in the School of Biological Sciences, the Cytek Aurora is the first of its kind in Auckland. "Flow cytometry is a fundamental biological technique for counting and examining microscopic particles, such as cells," says director of Auckland Cytometry, Dr Anna Brooks (pictured). The Cytek Aurora will be valuable for several Maurice Wilkins Centre projects, international clinical trials and many student projects.

PARKINSON'S RESEARCH BOOST

Liggins Institute researchers have received a \$226,000 grant from two US foundations – the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and the Silverstein Foundation for Parkinson's with GBA.

GBA is short for glucocerebrosidase beta acid – mutations in the GBA gene are the most common genetic risk factor for Parkinson's.

Associate Professor Justin O'Sullivan and his Liggins team will use the funds to work on their 3D genome-mapping tool to reveal the connections of GBA to other genes and the relationship to Parkinson's. He says the research will "look into whether 'switches' inside GBA mutations turn up or down the functioning of other genes they come into contact with".

The Liggins team will use a 3D gene mapping tool they devised which has already illuminated a previously unknown genetic driver in type 1 diabetes.



MIKE O'SULLIVAN

Photo: Billy Wong

Mike is a professor in engineering science. On 12 March he will have worked at the University for 50 years.

Where did you come from and what was your first role here?

I did a BE, ME and BSc at the University of Auckland between 1958 and mid-1963 and then went to CalTech (the top university in the world in some rankings) for my PhD. Then I went to New York University for my first academic job (late 1967 to the start of 1969). So my total time at the University of Auckland as student and staff member is 55 years.

What drew you back to Auckland?

I just wanted to come back and Cecil Segedin offered me a job in the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (now Engineering Science). I took up geothermal and other environmental fluids topics after I got back.

Do you recall which building your first office was in?

I was in the north-west corner of level 8 of the Engineering tower. I hope to return there in 2020.

You're an expert in computer modelling of geothermal fields – how does this play out, outside of the university?

My group does a lot of R&D outside the University. We have been part of three large MBIE grants and we work on commercial consulting projects for several clients. The two most significant are the running models of Wairakei and Ohaaki for Contact Energy Ltd and running models of Lihir for Newcrest Mining Ltd. Lihir is a gold mine in the middle of a geothermal field and our model has to predict the production of deep steam for electricity production and the cooling of shallow rock to be mined in the future. We have international research collaborations with Stanford University, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory

and a few others. Also we have put on courses on geothermal modelling in Iceland, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Can you pinpoint three things that have changed here in the past 50 years?

1. Student numbers. I taught all the engineers a subject called Engineering Maths 2 in 1969 to a class of around 230. Now there are more than 1,000. The EngSci class size in the 1970s was fewer than six. Now we have 75 in EngSci plus 35 in Biomedical Engineering.
2. Computers. Back in 1969 computers were just starting and through the 1970s we had to deal with punch cards and all-night sessions on the IBM 1130. Now my laptop has much more power, storage and memory than the old mainframes.
3. The management style for the University. Back in 1969 the University was run as a kind of gentleman's club by the power brokers who chaired the key committees of the University (e.g. Nicholas Tarling, Jack Northey, Jack and Keith Sinclair, Alan Titchener). Now it has a fully professional structure – I kind of liked the old version.

What three things have given you most satisfaction in your academic career?

1. Teaching large Engineering Maths classes. I think I taught them something, while entertaining them and keeping them almost under control. Many of the past students have complimented me on my lectures.
2. Supervising graduate students. I have been very lucky with the calibre of my students, with (now) Professor Peter Jackson, Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter and Professor Roland Horne being among the early group.
3. Having EngSci rated as the top Technology department in New Zealand in the first PBRF exercise while I was HOD.

What did you enjoy doing as a child?

Building things, particularly with Meccano, digging holes in the garden, swimming, playing rugby and cricket, arithmetic.

Where did you go to school?

Avondale Primary, Oratia Primary, Auckland Normal Intermediate, Auckland Grammar.

Any mentors?

Cecil Segedin got me interested in mathematical modelling; Fred Orange was a great maths and physics teacher at AGS; Dennis Brown gave very dry but beautiful lectures on thermodynamics in my first year at University; and John Percy's lectures in structures out at Ardmore were great.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

The great outdoors, particularly tramping and swimming and a little bit of kayaking and fishing, raising and planting native trees, home carpentry, playing with grandchildren, getting involved with environmental and political issues. I used to go running most days with a group from maths and stats including Marston Conder, Alastair Scott and Alan Lee but the hips and knees have got a bit stiff. Best marathon time 3 hours 8 mins 59 secs.

If you weren't doing this job, what else might you have considered?

I quite like the idea of large-scale civil engineering works like building dams or major roading projects but maths was too seductive to allow me to go that way. I liked the idea of a people-oriented career and considered medicine but blood and needles put me off.

SHINE A LIGHT

Do you know of a staff member who has hit a milestone or has a personal achievement worth sharing? Or maybe just a great life story. UniNews would love to hear about it. Email uninews@auckland.ac.nz



Anthropology Professor Thegn Ladefoged says it's a myth there's not much to uncover in our archaeological history.

Photo: Patricia Pillay

TREASURE TROVE

Arriving home from archaeological field work on Ahuahū (Great Mercury Island) recently, Professor Thegn Ladefoged could barely contain his excitement.

“It’s probably the best archaeological site I’ve ever excavated. A really nice horticultural complex.”

While most people might not appreciate the innocuous-looking features, to an archaeologist, particularly one interested in how people adapted to a changing environment, they are beautiful.

Over the years Thegn has excavated heiau – Hawaiian temples – and elite residential sites in Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and surveyed ceremonial sites in Rotuma, Fiji. But his collaborative work on Great Mercury Island, off the eastern Coromandel coast, with University of Auckland anthropology colleagues Professor Simon Holdaway, Dr Rebecca Phillips, Dr Alex Jorgensen, Dr Josh Emmitt and Dr Louise Furey from Auckland Museum – enabled by Ngāti Hei, Sir Michael Fay and David Richwhite – is likely to spark widespread interest.

The team is investigating historic land use on the island, in part focusing on horticulture



and gardening activities. Their results will be published in the near future.

Thegn has also recently received good news about another arm of his research. Scientific journal *PLOS ONE* has accepted a manuscript on his work associated with the three-year collaborative project awarded \$705,000 in funding by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund in 2016.

“The Marsden project involves trying to track social affiliation as an indication of how Māori society changed and transformed over time. The way we’re doing that is by looking at the use and distribution of obsidian rock, which comes from 27 different sources in the North Island.”

The manuscript ‘Social network analysis of obsidian artefacts and Māori interaction in northern Aotearoa New Zealand’ presents the researchers’ initial methodology and findings.

“Essentially what we’re trying to look at is how groups of people become affiliated over time. So when you get colonisation of New Zealand, you obviously have smaller groups of people. Colonisation was probably by 200-300 people. And then by the time [Captain James] Cook rocks up, you have hundreds of thousands of people and very clearly defined iwi and hapū.

“So our project is looking at how you go from relatively small autonomous villages to relatively large chiefdom-level affiliations. The way we’re tracking affiliation is by documenting obsidian use as a proxy for levels of interaction.”

Put simply, the researchers explore the locations where obsidian is found and how far afield that type of obsidian travels – whether it’s exchanged within iwi rohe or skips certain geographical areas despite being available – perhaps indicating complex social processes.

As well as involving Dion O’Neale from Physics at the University, who is doing the social network analysis, Alex Jorgensen from anthropology, US archaeologist Mark McCoy from SMU who is an expert in landscape archaeology and obsidian sourcing, and Chris Stevenson from VCU, an obsidian hydration-dating specialist, the project includes a number of Māori and student interns who analyse the obsidian artefacts. “What they’re studying is whether those bits of obsidian are tools, such as little scrapers, or just the debitage. They also use pXRF (portable X-ray Fluorescence devices) to source them,” explains Thegn.

“The interns are doing the technological analysis of the artefacts and that enables us to start distinguishing how the obsidian was obtained. For example, ‘Whether I sailed my waka to Mayor Island (a major source of obsidian) and whacked off some obsidian – or whether someone else sailed their waka up to Mayor Island, passed it on to other people who used a little bit of it, who passed it to the next person and so on’.

“We use several technological metrics of artefacts to determine how people obtained the material. One simple measure is how much cortex or skin the artefact has. If it has high amounts of cortex on it, then it might signify direct access to the obsidian. Other measures, such as the platform angle of the artefact, provide additional information.”

On the day *UniNews* visits, interns Ariarne Davy, Olivia Thompson and Hayley Glover (see sidebar) are painstakingly analysing individual pieces of the glassy black volcanic rock, carefully measuring them and returning them to hundreds of small plastic bags.

The collaboration with other disciplines is important and “it’s definitely a team project,”

says Thegn. Teamwork is a bit of a theme in the Anthropology Department and Thegn says that contributes to archaeology regularly rating well in the QS international rankings, being the top-ranked discipline at the University.

“Archaeologist Simon [Holdaway] was head of department and had been promoted to professor and was super supportive of Peter [Sheppard], me and Melinda [Allen] all being promoted to professor too. Which is really special.

“Simon doesn’t see it as a zero sum game. It’s better if we all succeed. So we have that culture where we really do have each other’s backs and really do care about each other and think about it.”

Thegn has been in the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland for 25 years. He was born in England but moved to Southern California when he was young, where his father was phonetician Peter Ladefoged at UCLA. Thegn received his BA from UC Santa Barbara and completed his masters and PhD at the University of Hawaii. His doctorate explored agricultural, horticultural and sociopolitical development in Rotuma, a small island in Fiji.

He arrived in New Zealand in 1993, drawn by the strength of Pacific archaeology at the University of Auckland, including late Professor Roger Green, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Irwin, former Dean of Arts Emeritus Professor Doug Sutton and Emeritus Associate Professor Harry Allen.

Apart from some work on Motutapu, Thegn’s main focus until a few years ago had been his research in Hawaii and Rapa Nui. He’s now involved in three local projects – the social network obsidian project, the Great Mercury Island project and a Māori fishing project with Te Pūnaha Matatini.

“What I find so fascinating about Hawaii, Rapa Nui and New Zealand is you get really interesting social changes over a very short period of time. For New Zealand, it’s around 700 years. For Hawaii and Rapa Nui, about 800 to 1,000 years.

“My research is about landscapes and it’s about

agriculture and horticulture and how that was the foundation or the basis for socio-political transformations. In Hawaii what we’re looking at is how certain segments of society – basically the chiefs – manipulated things so that they were able to coerce and entice other people, commoners, to work their agricultural fields systems to create surpluses that could be used to fund all sorts of things like building temples, engaging in warfare and other activities that created and reinforced the social system.”

He says although Hawaii, Rapa Nui and New Zealand were colonised at similar times, their trajectories are very different.

“In Hawaii you get relatively large populations in constrained areas. Chiefdoms were essentially developed to the state level. State-level society is of course all about surplus production, state religion and other criteria. But in New Zealand there’s the same central founding population of Polynesians and nothing like the level of social hierarchy here as there was there.

“The very simple explanation is people could vote with their feet here. There was much more land – so it was more difficult to constrain people’s options and force inequalities. Compare that with Hawaii – a pretty large archipelago, but actually it’s much more constrained and chiefs were able to restrict the options other people had.”

The situation in Rapa Nui, a tiny island around 22 kilometres across, meant options for inhabitants were constrained by a lack of resources in direct contrast to New Zealand’s vast landscape.

Thegn rejects any perception that there’s not as much to uncover in New Zealand’s anthropological history as there is, for example, in the UK. “Because it’s a much more restricted time period you can nail down the changes that are taking place and look at the specifics of it, versus somewhere like England or Europe where it’s just so complicated. So what we try

to do is create model systems. Our research can isolate variables to figure out the effects of certain things and the more you can constrain it spatially or temporally the better. So that’s why New Zealand is just awesome.”

The three locations in which Thegn has lived and worked have a unifying feature that keeps him entertained outside work. “I like to surf. That’s the connection between going to school at UC Santa Barbara, Hawaii and living here.”

Denise Montgomery



ROCK STARS

Student interns are contributing to the research on obsidian in the North Island – weighing, measuring and observing every piece. Olivia (above left) is Māori and excited by the obsidian project, which she joined a few months ago. “When you find a tool, it’s ‘oh my god, someone might have used this to prepare food’.”

“There are specific patterns to the rock pieces,” explains another intern Ariarne (above right). “It breaks in a patterned and uniformed way. The ultimate goal is to see how much the pieces have been used.”

Hayley (centre) says another aspect is studying whether the artefacts were broken during tool production or through taphonomic processes that have occurred for a couple of hundred years since the artefact was discarded.

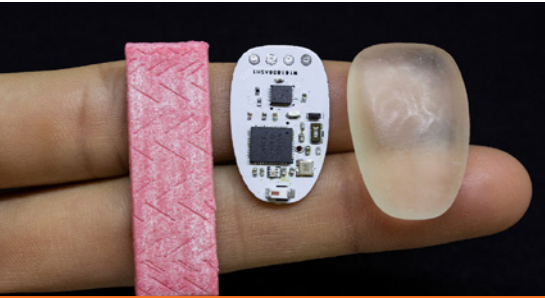


ANTHROPOLOGY VS ARCHAEOLOGY

What’s the difference?

“It depends where you are in the world,” says Thegn Ladefoged. “New Zealand actually follows the United States model. In the US and in Auckland, anthropology is the discipline and archaeology is the sub discipline. Other sub disciplines are biological anthropology, social anthropology and ethnomusicology. If you’re in England, some universities have archaeology as its own discipline. I actually got my BA in social anthropology. I didn’t get interested in archaeology until I was a graduate.”

RESEARCH IN BRIEF



BITS & BITES

A device you put in your mouth means you can answer your phone simply by biting.

It's Chewit – a gum-size gadget in flexible casing, developed by the Augmented Human Lab team at the University's Auckland Bioengineering Institute. You place it in your mouth and Chewit allows discreet interaction with your phone or smartwatch. For example, you could be riding a bicycle and cancel a phone call. It can also be used by people who don't have use of their upper limbs. The technology was developed by a team led by Associate Professor Suranga Nanayakkara. It's user configurable, in a similar way to which we configure a computer mouse. You don't have to remove it from your mouth when taking a call. "Our studies show that people can talk and do other things ... similar to what we do while chewing gum."

If you're wondering about the risks of swallowing Chewit, it's not an issue. "The size allows a person to swallow it and pass it out later."

Full story: tinyurl.com/ChewitTechnology

BIRTHING WITH A BALLOON

A balloon could ease the labour experience.

About one in four babies is induced – mostly using labour-inducing hormones. A University of Auckland-led study, the OBLIGE trial (Outpatient Balloon vs Inpatient Gel), is running in ten hospitals and looking for more than 1,500 women over the next two years. It will compare two methods of induction: a prostaglandin hormone preparation and a balloon catheter that gently stretches the cervix.

The main difference between the two is that hormone preparation can sometimes cause excessive contractions, so women need to stay in hospital until the baby is born. In contrast, unwanted contractions are unlikely when using the balloon, which means mothers are usually allowed to go home while the balloon softens the cervix.

"Induction is always started in hospital," says study lead Dr Michelle Wise (right), from the University's School of Medicine. "But studies



into women who spend part of the time of their induction at home suggest they feel less worried, get more sleep and feel more rested when they come into hospital in labour. The balloon catheter is a more natural way ... it encourages the release of women's own hormones to soften the cervix and prepare it for labour."

The OBLIGE trial is running at North Shore, Waitakere and Auckland hospitals, as well as seven others around the country. See: oblige.auckland.ac.nz.

Full story: tinyurl.com/balloonbirths

TRANSCRIBING MR BANKS

This year is the 250th anniversary of James Cook's 1769 voyage to New Zealand, and history masters student Jake Bransgrove spent part of summer adding to the trove of historical materials related to Cook and Joseph Banks' travels.

Jake received a summer scholarship from the Auckland Library Heritage Trust, under the supervision of Professor Linda Bryder, to transcribe botanist Joseph Banks' journals and correspondence, which are held by the library.

The project is a collaboration between the Trust, the Central City Library and the University. Jake was tasked with transcribing around 200 pages – 30 manuscripts. His transcripts of these handwritten documents will be published on the library's new heritage collections website, Kura Heritage Collections Online (kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/). The documents will be accessible to mark the 250th anniversary of the voyage of HMS Endeavour to Aotearoa and the first encounters between local Māori and the Europeans.

"I didn't know what was in the library collection



at the start," says Jake. "It's incredible. That's one of the big things to take away from this; having an awareness of the world-class materials, not just in the Central City Library but also in Special Collections in the University library."

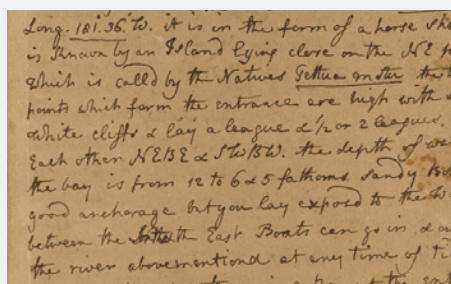
The Central City Library had taken pictures and digitised every page. "The handwriting was mostly legible. There were a couple of entries where Banks had really bad gout, towards the end of his life, so the writing there was a bit harder to read.

"I went through all the papers, writing down what I could in the first rough transcription. I highlighted problematic words and went back a second time with a fine transcription. If I had any problems from there, I would talk to my supervisor and Georgia Prince at Auckland Library's Special Collections and Jane Wild who's in charge of the library's Heritage Collections." Professor Bryder says: "Jake did more than just transcribe, he read widely and contextualised what he found."

The manuscripts will sit alongside Jake's transcription online and five blogs he wrote based on the diaries will be at heritageetal.blogspot.com.

Jake will give a talk about the Joseph Banks transcripts at the Central City Library, Wednesday 20 March, 12-1pm, as part of the Heritage Talks series. See: tinyurl.com/JakeBransgroveBanks

Photo: Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections



OLDER MINDS



Dr Gary Cheung, from the University's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, led a study published in the *NZ Medical Journal* that reveals a distinctly different pattern of stressors and behaviours in middle-aged and older people who self-harm

or make suicide attempts. The study showed physical illnesses and depression were common factors in people 65+, while the stressors of relationship separation and financial trouble featured more strongly in the middle-aged.

Gary hopes the findings will help policymakers and health workers develop age-group targeted screening and treatment to prevent mid-life and late-life suicides. "As the baby boomers age, the issue of suicide and suicidal behaviours in later life will become even more pressing," he says.

Full story: tinyurl.com/GaryCheungSuicideStudy

ALLAN ARTHUR WILD

20 FEB 1927 – 11 FEB 2019

Professor Emeritus Allan Wild led the disciplines of Architecture and Planning for more than two decades.

The School of Architecture and Planning honours the life of Professor Emeritus Allan Wild, who served as Professor of Architecture, Head of the School of Architecture and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture (and successor faculty configurations) from 1969 until his retirement in 1993. He died shortly before his 92nd birthday.

Allan was born in Feilding and grew up in Lower Hutt. In 1945, he moved to Auckland to study architecture. He was part of a lively cohort, some of whom formed the Architectural Group in their second year, writing a constitution and a manifesto and publishing the first issue of a magazine.

From 1949, he and others extended one of the Architectural Group's aims by forming the Group Construction Company. With parental backing, they designed and built three modern houses on the North Shore. Media attention generated clients and the collective became the better known Group Architects, designing some of Auckland's most admired mid-century modern houses.

Allan remained with the Group until 1952. He then returned to Wellington, where he practised as an architect in both public and private capacities, including producing his best known urban building, Jellicoe Towers on The Terrace (1964-65). He moved back to Auckland in 1969, to take up his position with the University.

The first half of Allan's tenure was dominated by efforts to accommodate growing student numbers, culminating in the construction of the current Architecture and Planning Building and its low-rise administrative wing (now known as the Conference Centre), both designed by KRTA and opened in 1978 and 1982 respectively. The second half of Wild's time at the University coincided with an economic boom and a sharemarket crash. The faculty was influenced by the rise of postmodernism in architecture and planning, increasing diversity among staff and students, the beginnings of the digital age and emerging interests in sustainable design.

Allan was the last surviving member of Group Architects. He is also the only person, to date, with the stamina to lead the disciplines of Architecture and Planning for more than two decades.

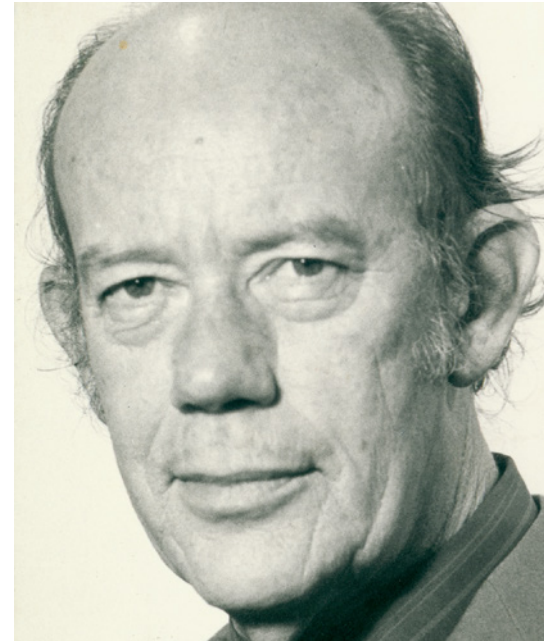
After his retirement from the University, Allan returned to architectural practice under the name Architects Wild.

He is survived by the seven children he had with his late wife Patricia (née Drawbridge),

13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His sons – Max, Bruce and Adam – are all architects, while daughter Jane Wild is a former CAI Faculty Librarian. Grandson Sebastian Clarke is the most recent family member to graduate from the School of Architecture and Planning.

■ Julia Gatley, Associate Professor, Architecture and Planning

Photo: APPFA collection, Architecture Archive



JAMES EDWARD (JIM) MILLER

9 JUNE 1942 – 8 FEB 2019

Professor Emeritus Jim Miller was an important mentor to Auckland linguists.

Jim Miller spent four years as Professor of Cognitive Linguistics at the University of Auckland from 2003-2007. Prior to that he worked, more or less continuously, at the University of Edinburgh starting as assistant lecturer in 1967 and rising to become a professor with a personal chair in Linguistics and Spoken Language. Subsequently, after retirement, he continued to serve as an Emeritus Professor at Edinburgh.

Jim was much published and particularly noted for his keen interest in the grammar of languages as actually spoken. He worked on English, Scots, Scots English, and discourse structure in various European languages. He was also a no-nonsense straight-talking kind of linguist who told it like it was. He brought new energy to courses at Auckland on discourse and grammar by using real data gleaned from snatches overheard in shops, on the street and in the university corridors, including deviant relative clauses and observations

on the use of "like" in Australian and New Zealand discourse. Jim also coined the useful concept of 'mega-syntax' being the complete grammar of a language throughout its lifetime, only a portion of which might be known to any single speaker.

Jim was an important mentor to many younger linguists, among them myself, Professor Miriam Meyerhoff and the late Scott Allan, to mention just a few of local relevance. At a more personal level, Jim and his wife Margaret were exemplary hosts, often asking students and colleagues back to their handy inner-city apartment for a glass of wine and a chat that inevitably became about linguistics in one guise or another, though both were also very well-informed on other matters. They also hosted many colleagues in their Edinburgh flat or 17th century house outside Edinburgh, where Jim kept an excellent library.

Jim's warm presence and positive influence will be missed by students, colleagues, collaborators, family and friends all around the world.

■ Areta Helen Charters, honorary research fellow



Photo: Cris Calude



BRINGING STRANDS TOGETHER

Nina Tonga, curator for the Honolulu Biennial To Make Wrong/Right/Now

Nina Tonga has spent the past two years working with the many artists participating in the Honolulu Biennial which will open on 8 March.

In its second year, the Honolulu Biennial (HB19) is known internationally for its approach to presenting contemporary art in a way that foregrounds indigenous creative expressions, perspectives and knowledge.

From the villages of Vaini and Kolofo'ou in Tonga, Nina lives in Wellington where she has been Curator of Pacific Cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa since 2014.

Her art history MA thesis at the University of Auckland in 2007 was a study of a Samoan painter living in Aotearoa, entitled 'The shock of the Niu: generational perspectives on migration in the work of Andy Leleisi'uao'. She is enrolled for a doctorate supervised by Dr Caroline Vercoe in art history, with her research investigating the relationship between art and identity following the surge of social media in 2000.

Nina has plenty of experience as a curator, having worked on *Home AKL* in 2012, the first major group exhibition of contemporary Pacific art

organised by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. In 2014 she curated *Tonga 'i Onopooni: Tonga Contemporary* for Pātaka Art + Museum in Porirua which was the first exhibition to focus exclusively on the work of artists of Tongan heritage living in New Zealand. Most recently at Te Papa she curated *Pacific Sisters He Toa Tāera: Fashion Activists* which opened at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki on 23 February.

To Make Wrong/Right/Now, the title for HB19, is taken from a poem *Manifesto* written by participating Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) artist Īmaikalani Kalahahele. The curatorial approach combines the spirit of that poem with "ideas pulled from the 'aha – a single sennit cord made of many strands that can be gathered together with a series of knots to form a networked carrier".

These thematic strands are borne by the artists and bound together by acknowledging the cord connecting past and future generations – indigenous knowledge, non-Western technologies of land use, creativity, materiality and awareness, decolonising spirits, mana wahine (female empowerment), ancient histories and mythologies and reverence for wahi pana (storied places).

"The curatorial approach doesn't presume all

POWERFUL PARDINGTON

A powerful presence is on show for all those who enter the General Library, in the entrance of Te Herenga Mātauranga Whānui.

It's Fiona Pardington's *Portrait of a life cast of Matoua Tawai, Aotearoa New Zealand*, hung by staff from the University of Auckland Art Collection on 7 February.

Another edition of this triptych features in the 2018-19 *Oceania* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, London and the Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. The work is from Pardington's series of photographs of 19th century life casts by Pierre Marie Dumoutier. A French phrenologist, Dumoutier accompanied JSC Dumont d'Urville on his 1837-1840 voyage to the Pacific and made more than 50 busts of people he encountered.

These casts, held in museum collections in France and Aotearoa New Zealand, clearly rendered the facial and cranial features of his subjects. Dumoutier used them to interpret character and intellect under the now discredited 19th century pseudo-science of phrenology.

Pardington first learnt of their existence around

2007 and was inspired to seek out the examples in the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. *Matoua Tawai* is a key work from the resulting photographic series, *Ahua: A beautiful hesitation, 2010*. The large images depict the cast of a young Māori man marked by the the grooves of Tā moko adorning his face. The triptych is part of a critical artistic process in which Pardington (of Ngāi Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Ngāti Kahungunu and Clan Cameron of Erracht descent), has reanimated dense historical and anthropological material and brought it back into the limelight.

Dumoutier's plaster casts of Māori are rare because tikanga Māori meant many refused to

endure the ordeal. As he did not systematically record the details of sittings, the identity of some his subjects is uncertain, including Matoua Tawai. Dame Anne Salmond has said: "Even though the casts have names attached to them, the question of identification remains vexed, and problematic."

Pardington's photos evoke an uncanny sense of a living person, long gone, and a powerful connection to the past. Her work takes these "documents" out of the museum and repositions them as portraits of power and beauty in the contemporary world.

■ Sam Melsner, University of Auckland Art Collection



of the kaona (meanings hidden out in the open) of 'aha, but is the beginning of making a Biennial of, for, and by this place by recognising it as a unique opportunity to gather, remember, share, learn and move forward together," says Nina.

Ten venues on O'ahu have been chosen. Central to these is The Hub – a 1,675 sq m site in Ward Village, a 24-hectare master-planned community developed by the Howard Hughes Corporation, HB19's major sponsor. Other venues include the Bishop Museum, the Honolulu Museum of Art and the John Young Museum of Art at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as well as historic sites in downtown Honolulu and some coastal venues.

"The selection of sites extends the Biennial beyond engagement with contemporary art, towards a deeper connection with the histories and stories of this place," Nina says.

Exhibiting will be 47 individual artists and collectives including New Zealanders the Mata Aho Collective, Natalie Robertson, Rosanna Raymond, Kalisolaite 'Uhila, Janet Lilo and Jeremy Leatinu'u. A third of the artists are from Hawaii and the rest from countries connected by the Pacific. The Biennial runs until 5 May.

■ Linda Tyler, Convenor, Museums and Cultural Heritage



HOMELY SHOTS

Artist Gavin Hipkins, Associate Professor at Elam School of Fine Arts, has an exhibition. *The Homely II* is a frieze of 80 photos taken on an amateur film camera during travels in New Zealand and the UK from 2001 to 2017. It's a sequel to his 80-photo frieze *The Homely*, shot in New Zealand and Australia. Core concerns link Gavin's works, including myths of national identity and colonisation.

Gavin Hipkins: *The Homely II* runs at Te Uru, Titirangi, from 23 February – 2 June.

WHAT'S ON



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE DEMOCRATS?

What: A talk by Professor Robert M. Entman, Professor of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University

When: Thursday 7 March, 6.30-8.30pm

Where: Sir Owen G. Glenn Building, Level O, Lecture Theatre 5. All welcome.

About: Communication deficiencies of centre-left Democrats in the US compared with right-wing Republicans helps explain a rise in inequality. Professor Entman (pictured) will explore how social democrats have failed to develop a coherent attack on the causes of inequality. How can the Left do better?

CANNABIS CONVERSATION

What: Public forum on medicinal cannabis legalisation

When: Friday 1 March, 11am-1pm

Where: AMRF Lecture Theatre, 505-011, Grafton Campus, 85 Park Road

About: The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences hosts Eric Costen from Canada who will present "Parameters of and the path towards non-medical cannabis legalisation in Canada from a policy-making perspective". The forum is hosted by Professor Benedikt Fischer, Chair in Addiction Research at FMHS and Hugh Green, Chair in Addiction Research, School of Population Health and School of Pharmacy.

See: tinyurl.com/FMHSCostenEvent

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

PARNELL: FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE CLOSE TO UNIVERSITY Available for five months while owner is overseas. Available 17 May – 24 October 2019 and would suit single person or couple. Very reasonable rent (\$270 a week) for careful tenant. Phone Mary 021 0409 499

SABBATICAL ACCOMMODATION Three-bedroom furnished house in Mt Albert available for 3-12 month period. Family friendly fenced large yard with trees and gardens. Modern kitchen, two bathrooms. Easy (20 min) travel to City Campus by train or bus. Close to primary and secondary schools, parks and shopping. Email: pat.neuwelt@gmail.com

THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE PLUS SEPARATE SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENT Stunning rural/sea location. Our modern, comfortable house is situated 50km north of Auckland city, with easy commute by park-and-ride. Available second semester (from 3 July for minimum of 3 months). \$550 a week. See: tinyurl.com/MahurangiSabbatical

SABBATICAL RENTAL IN MT EDEN Walk to Uni. Furnished three-bedroom townhouse in Mt Eden available 15 July – 31 Dec 2019. Sky Tower views and great location near both Kingsland and Dominion Roads. 10 min buses or 3km walk to campus. Rent dependent on length of stay. Email: alison.zahynacz@gmail.com

FURNISHED HOUSE IN BIRKENHEAD, NORTH SHORE Three bedrooms + study, available July 2019 – January 2020. Peaceful home amidst native trees. Suitable for visiting academic/s and families. Open-plan living area, wifi, heat pumps, decks. Eight-minute walk to direct bus lines to city centre/universities/ferry. Walking distance to primary school, village and beaches. \$600 a week. Email: lisasamuels@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

FACULTY MEMBER AND FAMILY (partner + 2 kids) coming to Auckland for sabbatical, and are looking to rent a furnished house (July to Dec 2019) in area with good schools. Also open to house-swap: four bedroom house in Delft, the Netherlands, near universities in Delft, The Hague, Leiden, Rotterdam, Amsterdam. Email: thijsbosker@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

RARE CHANCE TO SHARE IN 423HA QEII COVENANTED Brynderwyns bush property, 10 mins Mangawhai Heads. Sunny building site. Enjoy joint ownership, privacy, clean streams, walking tracks. Kiwi present so no dogs or cats. Active conservationists sought. Very affordable. POA. Phone (09) 376 4069. Email: marunui.share@gmail.com

TO ADVERTISE

To advertise in UniNews for 2019, please email uninews@auckland.ac.nz. Cost is \$20 for 50 words, to be paid online. Details will be sent when your advertisement is received.



LANGUAGE LEARNING AN 'AT RISK' ACTIVITY

Martin East draws on Brexit to argue that the learning of additional languages is at risk in contexts where it is often assumed that everyone speaks English.

The people of the United Kingdom are hurtling towards uncharted waters. Based on current direction, the UK is set for imminent departure from the European Union. This reverses almost half a century of membership.

At times the world has watched with incredulity the unfolding events of Brexit as presented in the media. Earlier this year, the deal that UK Prime Minister Theresa May had struck with the EU after lengthy negotiations, and that EU negotiators had described as “the only deal possible”, was spectacularly rejected by UK MPs. It subsequently received support on the understanding that May would go back to the EU to re-negotiate the deal’s one crucial sticking point – the backstop that would prevent a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. But the EU’s reaction was swift and unequivocal. The agreement is not re-negotiable. What part of ‘only deal possible’ do you not understand?

What is troubling about these recent events is that they appear, to me, to reflect an entrenched, almost jingoistic, mentality – ‘of course the EU will re-negotiate with us ... we are British, after all.’ More troublesome for me was the reaction of one particularly staunch Brexit MP to an announcement by the German CEO of Airbus. This CEO spoke of the genuine possibility of relocating UK operations in the event of a

no-deal Brexit. Tearing up a piece of paper containing this business leader’s warning, the MP accused him of “Teutonic arrogance” and added, “my father ... was a D-Day veteran. He never submitted to bullying by any German and neither will his son”.

But isn’t the arrogance on the other foot? As one British freelance journalist tweeted, it is “pretty rich to accuse Germany of “teutonic arrogance” when we’re the ones thinking we can upturn [a] complicated web of governing and trading arrangements, and come out with a settlement that is tilted entirely in our favour”.

For me as a linguist with a keen interest in the promotion and learning of languages other than English, the unfolding events of Brexit have other serious implications. The UK is renowned for its already ambivalent attitude towards additional language learning. The numbers of students studying an additional language to any serious level have been steadily declining, to the extent that language learning in the UK is genuinely at risk. Moreover, it would seem from media accounts that Brexit has become a significant contributing factor in this decline. When links with Europe become severed by Brexit, this makes the myth that ‘surely everyone speaks English’ even more appealing.

We might be inclined to think that here in New Zealand we must be doing so much better on the languages front. We are, after all, a bicultural (indeed multicultural) nation; we value te reo Māori as the language of tangata whenua; by implication we value language learning.

However, it appears often the reality is that we too hold on to the ‘surely everyone speaks English’ mantra. As Lincoln Tan reminded us several years ago in a *Herald* article entitled ‘Fewer Pupils Learning Languages’, only one

in five high-school students is studying an additional language – the lowest since 1933.

At the end of last year, National’s education spokesperson Hon Nikki Kaye won the backing of the Labour-led government’s Education Minister to progress a bill that would see language learning strengthened in New Zealand’s primary and intermediate schools. The bill would support both international and Pacific languages and would ensure universal access to te reo Māori.

Kaye is reported to have said at the time that “speaking more than one language has enormous cognitive, cultural, social and economic benefits so this bill is a big opportunity for our country”.

Closer inspection reveals a proposal that is likely not to move students beyond the most basic language competency. The oft-lamented reality of insufficient teacher supply alone would be enough to stifle progress.

As the UK navigates its future relationship with Europe, language learning, it seems, continues to take a hit. As the New Zealand government navigates a new law to support languages in schools, the reality overshadows the rhetoric. In both contexts (indeed, in all contexts where English is the majority language) we need to continually challenge circumstances that might thwart efforts to strengthen language learning. Such learning must be seen not only as a means towards mutually more beneficial and respectful interactions with others across the globe, but also as a vibrant component of education that is worthy of solid and on-going investment.

Martin East is Professor of Language Education in the School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, at the University of Auckland. The views on this page reflect personal opinions and are not necessarily those of the University.