

Uni NEWS

auckland.ac.nz/UniNews

DECEMBER 2021



VALERIE LINTON MAKES HISTORY

University of Auckland's first Provost talks
about the new role and what she brings to it

Page 6



HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

Diane Brand's move from professional architect to academia was liberating. Soon, she will have even greater freedom

Page 10



HEARING THE ISSUES

New AUSA President Alofa So'olefai knows what it's like to not be heard, so she's determined to amplify all students' voices

Page 3



TACKLING TABOO TOPICS

Ginny Braun says her lifetime of psychological research was shaped by being brought up in a hippy commune

Page 8

Just a few of the University of Auckland staff and student achievements in the media recently. Email: uninews@auckland.ac.nz



Professor Renate Meyer

MARSDEN \$3M MAKES WAVES

Professor Renate Meyer (Science) talked to *Stuff* and RNZ about the \$3m Marsden funding she and a group of space scientists have received to research gravitational waves. "Our main objective is to bring all the New Zealand experts together to work on the LISA Mission," Renate said. "We want to build a collaborative platform in New Zealand." The LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna) Mission is led by the European Space Agency (ESA), with contributions from NASA.

Link: tinyurl.com/renate-meyer-Stuff



Dr Chris Wilson

NZ'S RISK OF TERRORISM RISING

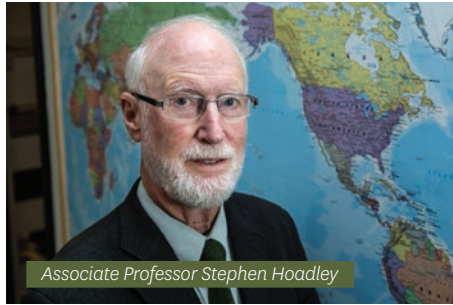
Following the protest at Parliament against lockdowns and vaccine mandates, Dr Chris Wilson, director of the Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies programme, told RNZ that some people who have had setbacks during Covid-19 lockdowns, such as losing their job, are at risk of being drawn into an anti-social movement, which could escalate into violent action.

Link: tinyurl.com/RNZ-chris-wilson

VACCINE PASS EXPLANATIONS

Dr Andrew Chen, a computer engineer and research fellow with Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures, explained to RNZ and other outlets how the Covid-19 Vaccine Pass will work. Andrew was involved in the testing of the pass and talked about its history and potential future functionality.

Link: tinyurl.com/RNZ-Andrew-Chen



Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley

RELATIONSHIP SHIP-SHAPE

Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley talked to the *Herald* about the visit of a US Navy ship to New Zealand, the first in five years. Stephen said in virtually every respect today, the US-New Zealand bilateral relationship is strong, following a period in the 1980s when then Prime Minister David Lange and US Secretary of State George Shultz couldn't agree on nuclear-free policies.

Link: tinyurl.com/Herald-hoadley



Dr Meghan Hill

INDUCTION ANOMALIES

Dr Meghan Hill (FMHS, Obstetrics and Gynaecology) spoke to *The Listener* (8 November) about New Zealand's approach to inducing births compared with the US. When Meghan, an obstetrician, arrived from the US she was surprised to find midwives and doctors breaking women's waters at the start of an induction rather than later. She tried to find proof of which was best, but couldn't. "When you've worked within one system for a long time, you don't always question the way things are done," she told *The Listener*. "For me, in my career, it's really important to know what I'm doing is evidence-based." Meghan is now running a trial of 500 women, with the two groups compared for how mothers and babies fare, including the incidence of infection of the placenta and amniotic fluid.

Link: tinyurl.com/listener-meghan-hill

THIS ISSUE

Alofa So'olefai	3
Good to Know	4, 5
Obituary: Michael Corballis	4
Provost Valerie Linton	6, 7
Ginny Braun	8
Best of 2021	9
Art & Culture:	
<i>Diane Brand</i>	10
<i>CAI Kairāhi, Wikuki Kingi</i>	11
Books	11
Māramatanga: Anne Bardsley	12



INGENIO MAGAZINE

The spring issue of *Ingenio* magazine is out. If you don't receive it, you can read it online by heading to the *Ingenio* website at auckland.ac.nz/Ingenio

SHORTCUT TO YOUR NEWS

If you want to read all University of Auckland news and research stories online, bookmark this link: auckland.ac.nz/all-UOA-news-stories

EDITOR: Denise Montgomery

denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY: Billy Wong, Elise Manahan

DESIGN: Stephen Wang

PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland

Volume 51/Issue 10/December 2021

PUBLISHED BY: The University of Auckland

Communications Office

Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes Street

Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142

Web: auckland.ac.nz/UniNews

Something to share? Email: UniNews@auckland.ac.nz. Copy deadline is the 14th of the month prior to publication. *UniNews* is published March to December.

When posted, *UniNews* is delivered in a certified degradable EPI wrap, in keeping with this University's sustainability goals.

NEW AUSA PRESIDENT 'PROGRAMMED TO HELP OTHERS'

This month Alofa So'olefai takes up her role as AUSA president. First up, boosting minority voices.

The new Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) president for 2022, Alofa So'olefai, is on a mission to amplify the student voice.

Alofa, 22, is studying for a conjoint bachelors degree in Commerce and Arts, and is a Tuākana tutor and mentor, graduate teaching assistant and has served as treasurer-secretary for the AUSA for the past year.

"I know the University has a problem with AUSA turnover. So one of my goals was to negate that by staying on the AUSA for another year. Having been in meetings for the past year, I know what's going on. I won't waste time catching up."

Behind a desk in her bedroom are a wall calendar and a whiteboard with a neatly written list of tasks.

Fresh out of exams, she has already started the mahi of the AUSA presidency.

Alofa puts her victory, with more than 70 percent of votes, in part, to telling her "kids" in Tuākana to get out and vote. Tuākana means an elder same-sex sibling, and the position is a fitting role for the eldest of five children and 21 cousins.

"That's important – I grew up with my cousins. They were practically brothers and sisters. They were always at our house for sleep-overs and at the weekend."

Her West Auckland bubble is more than ten, thanks to living with her parents, grandparents and great-grandmother.

As a New Zealand-born Samoan, Alofa says she is "programmed" to help others. At church, she is a lay preacher, youth leader, Sunday School teacher and treasurer on various committees, putting her finance studies to good use.

As a woman of colour, Alofa has a good understanding of issues facing Māori and Pacific students as well as those from other cultures.

"I'm not Māori, but have been brought up alongside Māori and worked in various areas with them. I understand their needs are similar, but still different, to those of Pacific peoples'.

"It's one of the things you notice when it comes to being president. You sit on a lot of



"Māori needs are similar, but still different, to those of Pacific peoples." – Alofa So'olefai, 2022 AUSA president

committees and a lot of boards and you meet quite a few people, and it's very eurocentric.

"It's not necessarily a bad thing, but it is a bad thing when the minority voices are not at the forefront."

A big hope is for students to return to campus next year, starting with the AUSA Orientation Festival, to hype them up for 2022.

Alofa plans to continue AUSA's strategic focus on 'student voice', 'student experience' and 'student support', starting with listening and responding to students.

"If they want a dumpling day, we'll have a dumpling day."

AUSA announced in May it would probably be leaving the national student union, the NZ Union of Student Associations (NZUSA). A big reason was feeling they weren't getting value for their around \$45,000 a year, in terms of impact for Auckland students.

"In our minds, this money could be better spent elsewhere like our hardship grants, or boosting our period-poverty campaign among other things."

A decision will be made early next year about potentially leaving in June 2022.

She is also keen to ensure the revised Pastoral Care Code, coming into force in 2022, is more than just a 'tick-box' compliance exercise.

The code was reviewed after the 2019 death of Mason Pendrous in a University of Canterbury hall, and will make universities more accountable

for students' welfare as well as involve students in university decisions.

"I'm hoping that there's where the AUSA can step in, working collaboratively and in partnership with university leaders, to help them action the policies in a way that is student-friendly," Alofa says.

Alofa will also spend time talking to international students, especially those stuck offshore and learning remotely.

As a child of Samoan parents, Alofa knows what it's like not to feel heard and to struggle to understand. She attended a Samoan kindergarten, and learnt English when she was five or six years old, so empathises with the difficulties of studying in a second language and wants to help in any way she can.

"I grew up with the value of helping and the philosophy of being a servant leader."

■ Jodi Yeats

MEMBERS OF THE 2022 AUSA

Education Vice-President Alan Shaker
Engagement Vice-President Makayla Muhundan
Welfare Vice-President Ishie Sharma
Treasurer/Secretary Steven Wijaya
International Students Officer Varsha Ravi
Postgraduate Student Officer Kelly Misi
Queer Rights Officer Theo van de Klundert
Women's Rights Officer Folau Tu'inukuafē



Professor Linda Nikora. Photo: Grant Maiden

HONOURS WIDE AND FAR

It's been hard to keep track of awards and grants earned by our academics in the past month. Here's a small selection. (Full stories at auckland.ac.nz/all-UOA-news-stories)

The Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi announced its awards on 18 November, along with the Health Research Council (HRC) funding.

Professor Lesley McCowan and FMHS colleagues won the HRC's Beaven Medal for research reducing stillbirths. Dr Karen Brewer (FMHS) received an early career Te Kōpūnui Māori Research Award for a kaupapa Māori speech-language therapy resource for whānau with communication difficulties after stroke. Emerging researcher Dr Cameron Wells

(FMHS) was awarded HRC funding for his work on wearable sensors monitoring patients after surgery. Two early-career researchers won Rutherford Discovery Fellowships: Dr Sereana Naepi (Arts) and Dr Justin Rustenhoven (FMHS).

Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora was awarded the Royal Society's Te Apārangi Te Rangi Hiroa Medal for her work transforming psychology for Māori and decolonising the academy. Professor Annie Goldson (Arts) won the Humanities Aronui Medal for documentaries exploring difficult contemporary socio-political issues.

Associate Professor Alex Calder won a Marsden grant for his exploration of the literary and cultural history of taboo as did Dr Frances Hancock (Education and Social Work) for her Ihumātao project. Dr Lisa Darragh (Education and Social Work) won a Marsden Fast Start Grant and Professor Renate Meyer (Statistics) was awarded \$3 million from the Marsden Fund to lead a major multi-disciplinary project on gravitational waves.

Associate Professor Geoffrey Waterhouse (Chemical Sciences) was awarded a James Cook Research Fellowship and Dr Charlie Ruffman won a Rutherford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship.

As well, three of our graduates will now undertake postgraduate research at the University of Cambridge as recipients of the Woolf Fisher Scholarship: Miriama Aoake (Arts), William Cook (FMHS) and Florence Layburn (FMHS).

■ Marsden Medal winner Professor Virginia Braun, pg 8

GLOBAL LEADER

Professor Klaus Bosselmann, founding director of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law at the University, has been awarded the 2021 Carlowitz Sustainability Prize in the international category.

The award recognises Klaus' role in the "drafting and advocacy of the Earth Charter, the ethical and legal advancement of sustainability and the conceptualisation of 'earth trusteeship'.

The prize is named after the founder of the concept of sustainability ("Nachhaltigkeit"), Hans Carl von Carlowitz (1645-1714), and recognises outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of sustainability.

Previous awardees include EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, animal conservationist Jane Goodall and UN Climate Chief Executive Patricia Espinoza.

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/Klaus-award



OBITUARY

MICHAEL CORBALLIS

10 Sept 1936 – 13 Nov 2021

Emeritus Professor Michael (Mike) Corballis (ONZM) was born in the farming district of Marton and died in Auckland aged 85.

After completing a masters in mathematics at the University of New Zealand and MA in psychology at the University of Auckland, he complete his psychology PhD at McGill University in Canada. He then joined the faculty at McGill before returning to New Zealand with his family in 1977, where he joined the University of Auckland.

Mike's achievements include a Distinguished Career Award from the International Neuropsychological Society in 2013, becoming the University's inaugural Creativity Fellow in 2014, and a Rutherford Medal in 2016, for foundational research on the nature and evolution of the human mind. He told *UniNews* at the time: "I'm very happy that psychology is now so highly respected at the University and that its contribution to science is recognised around the world."

This was in no small part down to his research – he was one of the world's best-known and

most respected cognitive scientists. Mike was appointed Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002 and his many contributions were also recently honoured by the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society with a Lifetime Contribution Award.

He was a prolific writer over a long academic career, and published more than 400 scientific articles, reviews and chapters, and more than a dozen books. His writing was engaging, accessible and had a lightness of touch rare in academic publications. His last book, *Adventures of a Psychologist: Reflections on What Made Up the Mind*, published in 2021, is a memoir that includes the story of how cognitive psychology evolved and the controversies along the way.

Mike's interests were wide-ranging, and he made important contributions across an impressive range of topics – brain asymmetry, handedness, the split brain, language, evolution, mental imagery, mind wandering, and mental time travel – a term he coined with Thomas Suddendorf. His scholarship was remarkable in depth and breadth and continued until a few weeks ago.

Mike was an excellent teacher and an award-winning postgraduate supervisor. Many of his

students are now professors themselves in universities across the globe. He had a wonderful gift for engaging students and his audience in his own mind wanderings, using humour and anecdotes to illustrate scientific concepts. He stopped teaching a few years ago, explaining that, "At my age it is more of a chat than a lecture".

A knock on Mike's door would always bring a friendly reply and a helpful response to a question – regardless of whether the questioner was a first-year student or another professor. He was unfailingly generous with his time.

Across six decades of service to the University, Mike was also a supportive mentor, a constructive collaborator and a valued friend to a large number of colleagues in the School of Psychology and beyond. He will be sorely missed.

■ Faculty of Science colleagues



Mike Corballis in 2016.

LOUD AND PROUD

Dr Andrew Hall was feeling nervous, stuck in lockdown in Auckland on Labour Weekend.

Down in Waimate, a device he worked on with engineering technologist Gian Schmid and two mechanical engineering students, Aman Sagoo and Bevan Tucker, was being taken on its first test run, attached to the EV rally car of top Kiwi rally driver Hayden Paddon. To add more pressure, the car was making its competitive debut.

For months the engineers had worked with Paddon on a device to make it sound like a “real” rally car, but like nothing heard before, as well as to improve safety for spectators.

“Motor rallies often take place in forests, and cars suddenly race out from behind trees or over blind crests,” says Andrew. “The lack of noise poses safety issues for spectators, because they don’t hear the cars coming.

“For Hayden’s EV, we modelled our sound profile on a number of engines such as the V10 F1.”

On 23 October, Andrew, a big rally fan, would have loved to be in Waimate. Instead he received a report back from the track. “The prototype worked perfectly. It still needs improvement around its sound, but it held up well on the car.”

That was important. “We knew it worked, but we needed to test how robust it was.”

Some EV race cars have speakers on the outside of the car, but that risks them being damaged. “The main thing for us was to devise a mechanical system, rather than speakers which have an artificial kind of sound. We wanted to

make the device lightweight with no electronic components and directly connected to the throttle response.”

Further testing will be done to ensure the device can stand up to the harsh environment of a motor rally – dust, dirt and gravel.

Andrew says it’s been good to be part of the fast-developing technology being created for EV racing cars. He says in motor racing forums, fans seem mixed about the idea of fully electric racing cars.

“We need to help the transition. The cars can be faster and need to be just as exciting through noise, so that’s where we come in.”

Now there’s fine tuning to do and the University of Auckland engineers hope to develop their ideas further, in conjunction with Paddon Rallysport.

“We’d like to explore other avenues ...

Formula E, Extreme E and even E-scooters.

Hayden is pretty keen to look at patents.”

Rather than boost noise, Andrew’s usual acoustic work is to reduce it. He is in the second-year of a three-year project exploring sound insulation, focusing on intertenancy partitions, that is between apartments and flats. Being a professional jazz saxophonist, he understands situations in which better sound insulation would be a benefit. “In New Zealand, most walls are plasterboard with wooden or steel studs. At low frequencies, such as the bass in music, they don’t block sound well due to a unique wall resonance.

“If you put more weight into the walls to counter that, it’s not ideal because, aside from the weight and added cost, it just shifts the resonance lower in frequency.”



Dr Andrew Hall is an EV enthusiast.

Photo: Billy Wong

Andrew’s group is devising bottle-like Helmholtz resonators with membranes placed into a wall system, to absorb multiple different frequencies. They are working with Winstones on the project and also looking at using the technology within double glazing in aluminium frames.

“The University is lucky to have excellent acoustic facilities in which we can do our testing – we’re one of three or four of the best in Australasia. It’s been a challenge with the lab being shut through lockdown, but hopefully things improve.”

Sounds promising.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Student support adviser for Science, Erica Farrelly, is dedicated to her work with refugee-background students, forming lasting bonds from their first year to graduation and beyond.

When the 17 August lockdown started, Erica contacted Science students to ensure they had laptops and an internet connection. She also organised daily interactive quizzes on Zoom to help students with a refugee background and others stay connected.

For some, the situation in Afghanistan has made lockdown doubly challenging. Distressing images on social media can be triggering for people who had to flee their homes.

“It’s important to have that awareness that these events affect our students,” Erica says.

She has been helping with applications for

extensions and compassionate consideration and says lecturers have been supportive.

One initiative that has helped Erica build relationships is a book-lending service she established in 2019, with a \$1,500 grant awarded every year by the Faculty of Science Equity Committee. Erica used the funds to purchase the three textbooks for the prescribed programme, Biomedical Science. She also created a few material grants to pay for the likes of lab coats and glasses. While this took financial pressure off refugee-background students, the chief benefit was it brought students into Erica’s office.

“The students now know that I am very chatty, and my office is a safe place to either talk about the heavy things or just pop in for a Netflix recommendation.”

Through the scheme, Erica was able to foster a buddy system and study group. She has photos of refugee-background students on her walls, so students see themselves reflected there and feel a sense of inclusion at the University.

Erica saw a need for a sense of community among these students and was pleased the

equity initiative grant helped bring this to fruition. She says she draws on her upbringing in South Auckland to understand the importance of connection and community for many migrants.

Erica volunteers at graduation and is proud to see refugee-background students there, knowing the challenges they have overcome. – Jodi Yeats

■ 10 December is International Human Rights Day



Erica Farrelly, right, with BSc graduate Karen Tour.

PROVOST VALERIE LINTON: WELDING THE VISION TOGETHER

UniNews meets the University’s inaugural Provost, Professor Valerie Linton, to find out what the role entails – and who she is.

Expertise in welding may come in useful as Professor Valerie Linton negotiates her new role as the University’s first Provost.

The role, second in charge to Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater, is to ensure strength in all parts of the University, including where faculties intersect and connect.

“As the Provost, I am working with the eight deans and the directors of the two large-scale research institutes, as well as the Dean of Graduate Studies, to build on the ‘joined-up thinking’ across the University. It’s important that we’re not a group of little universities.”

Valerie says the University of Auckland will become even more outward-looking as it maintains and enhances its place as a university of high standing in the South Pacific and globally.

“The Vice-Chancellor sets and leads the strategy, but she has many other things to do and has a strong externally focused view. My role is to ensure we deliver on that strategy.

“In a way, Dawn and I stand back-to-back. She looks out and I look in.”

Valerie, who became the Provost in July, has a PhD in metallurgy. Welding is her specialisation, and she has used that in the energy sector.

“Back in 1980, there was the disastrous collapse of the *Alexander L. Kielland* drilling rig in the North Sea that killed 123. The rig toppled over and the cause was traced back to some of the welds in the platform. My PhD focused on what went wrong, so it was highly topical.”

Her plan is to ensure that the many different parts of the University of Auckland that combine to give it a New Zealand and international edge have as few weaknesses as possible.

“A provost is kind of like the chief academic. My job is to make sure that in the academic side of the university, our guiding document, *Taumata Teitei*, is embedded in what we do. The strategy is divided up into five sections, and my priority is to deliver on the education and student experience focus. However, I need to ensure that each faculty is engaging with all parts of the strategy, not just the education piece of it.

“I’m here for the translation, roll-out and implementation of *Taumata Teitei*. And also to try to bring the faculties and institutes together to have certain conversations and get some

more ‘whole of university’ thinking happening.”

Valerie, her engineer husband and teenage son came from New South Wales where her most recent role was at the University of Wollongong as executive dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences.

As a metallurgist, Valerie has worked in the engineering industry as well as being a consultant. She has had roles in several universities and was also the CEO of a research funding agency for energy pipelines.

Like many women in male-dominated industries, she ended up in her field in spite of the expected pathway.

“I went to an old-fashioned all-girls school in the UK where you could be a doctor, teacher, nurse or secretary. Those were your career choices. I shunned a suggested career as a physics teacher. When an organisation called WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), came into the school, that changed my options.

“I was lucky to be picked to go on an experience out of school, to be shown what engineering looked like. I loved it.

“I started being interested in becoming a

That’s the way Valerie’s career has progressed – being able to engage with industry and academia, having knowledge of both.

“I think it’s really useful for universities to have people who can engage with industry; it doesn’t matter whether they’re career academics or not.

“To be able to speak the language of both sides and see things from all sides is extremely important.”

Valerie is a New Zealand citizen, stemming from her time living in Wellington in the 1990s. While there, she and her husband ended up spending a lot of time going back and forth to Australia for projects, so in the end it made sense to move there.

Valerie still keeps her hand in with research to an extent, to stay abreast of the changing face of the industry.

“I think even when you are in a role like provost, it’s natural to retain an interest in your foundation discipline. Also, engineering is often about problem-solving and trying to make the world a better place. That’s really relevant to what we’re trying to do here too.”

She says she is naturally thinking ‘whole of university’ rather than just engineering, of course.

“Yes, we have the huge faculties – Science, FMHS, Business, Engineering – but we won’t lose focus on Arts, Creative Arts and Industries, and Education and Social Work, which have a vital role within the University. Education, for example, is critical to getting the teachers we need out there into the pipeline of the future.”

One of the most important things Valerie is

“In a way, the Vice-Chancellor and I stand back-to-back. Dawn looks out and I look in.”

– Professor Valerie Linton, University of Auckland Provost

civil engineer, but then decided I was more interested in what we build with, rather than what gets built.”

She then took a material sciences degree at Sheffield University in England.

“Sheffield is the home of metallurgy in the UK and it’s where the steel industry is so I switched to a pure metallurgy degree. I got a sponsorship from British Steel and worked for them while studying.”

A project investigating the weldability of certain types of steel sparked her interest.

“That got me really interested in advanced welding, so I went to Cambridge to do an industry-orientated PhD with British Gas, looking at structural welding on offshore platforms.”

working on is the curriculum transformation project.

“One part of the project is looking at the teaching delivery mode,” she says. “How do we bring together different elements of our teaching delivery, the on-campus experience and broader education components, into a framework to make the whole learning experience engaging and relevant?”

She stresses that while the University responded well to teaching in lockdowns, there’s a difference between remote teaching and true online learning.

“We’ve been remote teaching via Zoom, but it’s not purposely designed online learning. We are an on-campus University and we’re not



Provost Valerie Linton amid poppies on a windy day in Albert Park. Photo: Elise Manahan

trying to be a wholly online university, although we do have those offerings in some parts of the University.

“We have great resources on our campuses. We want students to come and engage with them, with staff and with each other and to come for a good block of time. We need to make that easy and worthwhile.

“That also means we have to have good study spaces.”

The University has a team looking at the best use of space on its campuses, as well as people looking at all aspects of the education delivery mode. There are also staff considering ways to help upskill academics to use new technologies and teaching-delivery methods.

Valerie says at this time of year both teachers and students may be suffering exhaustion, perhaps exacerbated by remote learning and uncertainty, so it’s a challenge to think about the future.

“But it’s always important to look at how we can move things forward positively. In the curriculum transformation project, we are looking at the structure of the curriculum and how we deliver it.”

She says communication of any change or information in general is key and, in a huge organisation, is always a challenge.

“Dawn tries to speak to everyone through the all-staff Zoom, as an example, and I think the fact that you can ask anything, and get an answer, is really progressive. We also have communities of practice (COPs) who share ideas and information. Plus we work with students

“We have great resources on campus. We want students to come and engage with them.”

– Professor Valerie Linton, University of Auckland Provost

and make sure we engage properly with them, including the student consultative group.

“It’s crucial that we engage with the organisation at all levels. We can communicate top down and bottom up. But it’s also key to get in to schools, disciplines, business units and other places to talk to people. They’re all important.”

She isn’t averse to giving a guest lecture in engineering, perhaps on one of her favourite topics – large-diameter natural gas pipelines.

“I used to do talks on pipelines that the students enjoyed – largely because of the images. There was me standing by pipelines in the UK in a trench a foot-deep in mud in pouring rain. The Australian version of that was being in desert in 45 degrees!”

For now, what’s in the pipeline is planning for 2022 and beyond. “There are lots of highly engaged people here ... it’s an excellent University. The thing that most excites me is Dawn’s vision. It’s about that sense of the University in its place, engaging with its communities. That’s quite a change for the University from the way it thought about itself in the past.

“Modern universities need to build on tradition, heritage and excellence and engage with communities to show what we’re doing is relevant.”

“The world starts right here on our doorstep and with our communities. We need to make sure we help students no matter what their background. We want them to come back and do more research, and more training or qualifications. That’s what excites me about the direction the University’s moving in.”

While she has plenty of targets to achieve at work, she’s also aiming for another kind of target once lockdown levels ease.

“A few years ago, we did a fun archery course as a family. We all really liked it as something we can do together. It’s a bit like golf, you’re playing against yourself, but you can also encourage each other.

“You have to find a way of calming your mind, so the target is the only thing you’re thinking about. When you’re very busy at work, it’s important to take that stillness and clear your head – a bit like yoga, which I also like.”

She also enjoys the arts.

“I love the theatre and I’m really looking forward to being able to go to a show.”

Her other pastimes are gardening, cooking, and baking bread and cakes.

“I was baking bread long before lockdowns, but have baked plenty more in recent weeks!”

■ Denise Montgomery

TACKLING TABOO TOPICS

Professor Ginny Braun's lifetime of research has been honoured with the Marsden Medal.

Growing up on a hippy commune shaped Professor Virginia (Ginny) Braun's research interests.

When we catch up via Zoom she is wearing noise-cancelling headphones on account of the City Rail Link being drilled outside her city-fringe home, a converted commercial building.

Behind her is a matt black wall, geometric painting and, on a cabinet, two white hands, from which hang a collection of Covid-19 facemasks.

"They are a couple of old glove-factory moulds for making rubber gloves. They're perfect hangers for masks."

She walks or cycles to work, when we can, and has a station-wagon for trips to the Hokianga where she grew up in a "hippy commune". Aged 12, she and her mother moved to Auckland and Ginny went to a Steiner School in Ellerslie. The Hokianga is still home and has had a huge role in shaping her adult life.

"That whole experience of living outside of societal norms, and experiencing abuse and marginalisation for being outside of those norms, has had a profound impact on me in terms of what I value and what I see as important in the world."

Ginny joined the University as a lecturer in 2001. She served as Associate Dean Equity in Science for many years and brought in initiatives such as grants to help researchers get back into their research programmes when returning from extended parental leave.

She says for a qualitative researcher who is interested in unpacking societal meanings and norms, the boundaries between work and life are somewhat porous.

Active on Twitter (@ginnybraun), she currently has the hashtag #PleaseGetVaccinatedNow. She sees this platform as a way of engaging with a wide audience on qualitative research methodologies and issues of health, equity and social justice.

"It offers a space for somewhat democratised information-sharing. I mean, there are so many ways that you could unpack that and it's not perfect but it can be a way of allowing access to your knowledge without it being like a formal 'I'm going to send you an email!'"

In November, Ginny was awarded the New Zealand Association of Scientists' Marsden Medal. The Marsden citation mentions her "global impact on the development of qualitative empirical



Professor Ginny Braun

Photo: Billy Wong

"That whole experience of living outside of societal norms ... has had a profound impact on me." – Professor Ginny Braun

methods and the generosity of spirit she expresses through this work". It notes that Ginny's 2006 paper, "Using thematic analysis in psychology", co-written with Associate Professor Victoria Clarke (University of the West of England), has had more than 100,000 citations on Google Scholar – a number that's still growing.

Ginny and Victoria did their doctorates together in Social Sciences at Loughborough University, in a department with many of the world's leading qualitative researchers. "It was like the beating heart for theorising and thinking about how you do research and what you do and know."

They maintained the methodological orientation gained there and recently published their second textbook on qualitative research, *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*, launched with a 17 November webinar where registrations closed at 3,500 people from more than 100 countries. It was live-streamed on YouTube and available afterwards as a recording.

Their texts have been widely read and used in many fields beyond Psychology.

Social worker @RichardDevineSW tweeted: "Braun and Clarke are extremely engaging, interesting, accessible writers, and would you believe, fun to read. A fun-to-read book on research methodology – now, that's impressive. They share an infectious passion for qualitative research that pervades their writing."

Ginny's masters research looked at New Zealand cervical cancer prevention policy, which segued into her PhD on the vagina. She was interested in surgical reconstruction.

"I thought I'll just go and look at what the vagina means and what we understand about it, so that we can make sense of the choices, the pressures

and the opportunities that are being offered. I found there'd been virtually no research done whatsoever. So, I ended up doing that."

The dearth of research harks back to paradigms, in this case patriarchy.

"It had been so taboo because of long histories of medical sexism and marginalisation of women's health. And just a huge amount of, within the Western cultural context, stigmatisation, shame, and lots and lots of pathologisation ... interpreting normal female experiences as diseases."

Ginny is interested in the paradigms that shape research and the construction of knowledge. She is grateful the Marsden Medal was awarded to a qualitative methodologist, and sees hope in the way we are starting to embrace and value diverse knowledge frameworks in Aotearoa, including mātauranga Māori.

She has developed her expertise through her own critical feminist health psychology research, examining gendered bodies and sexuality. Most recently, she has been researching the explosion of "wellness diets".

We could have talked for hours, such is Ginny's enthusiasm for sharing her research, but it was time for her to join a socially distanced Marsden Medal presentation to be livestreamed in a Zoom ceremony.

All this, but Ginny almost didn't get into Psychology at the University of Auckland. Due to an administrative glitch she wasn't pre-enrolled in psychology and had to queue to plead for one of the highly sought-after places.

"It probably increased my commitment to the discipline enormously, once it threatened to not be possible."

■ Jodi Yeats

At the start of 2021, expectations were high for a better year than 2020. UniNews' vote for the best thing to come out of 2021 is the Covid-19 vaccine. The worst was the lockdown from 17 August. This is just a sample of our highlights in 2021. **#rollon2022**

JANUARY

- Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond (Arts) received the highest recognition in our honours system, the Order of New Zealand, and Professor Juliet Gerrard (Science) and Professor Cindy Kiro (Education and Social Work) were both made Dame Companions. In May, Dame Cindy was named as the new Governor-General.



Professor Dame Anne Salmond

FEBRUARY

- Professor Andre Nies (Computer Science) received the international Humboldt Research Award.
- Auckland moved down to Covid alert level 2 on 22 February and Tai Tokerau to level one.

MARCH

- The University performed strongly in the QS subject rankings. Of the 43 ranked subjects, we ranked first in Aotearoa in 36 of them.
- Auckland moved to Alert level one on 12 March.
- Professor Marston Conder was awarded the Euler Medal for a life career in mathematics.
- Six staff became Fellows of the Royal Society Te Apārangi: Professor Deidre Brown (CAI); Professor Andrew Hill (FMHS); Professor Robin Kearns (Science); Professor Janet McLean QC, (Law); Professor Julian Paton (FMHS, Manaaki Mānawa); Associate Professor Damon Salesa (Pacific Studies and Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific). In November it was announced Damon would become the new Vice-Chancellor of AUT.
- A new bilingual feature was launched on the University website, with te reo Māori and English featuring in partnership on the main menu, part of the University's revitalisation of te reo Māori.
- Council approved the University's new vision and strategy *Taumata Teitei*, the Strategic Plan 2025 and Vision 2030.

APRIL

- The University co-hosted the Times Higher Education (THE) Innovation and Impact Summit, with Pennsylvania State University. During the summit we learned the University had retained its place in the top ten (9th equal) of the international University Impact Rankings, measuring performance against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAY

- More than 7,000 students graduated, aged 19 to 78, with around 5,000 of them attending in person and celebrating with whānau and friends.
- An Auckland University Medical Students Association project to produce name badges that included pronouns was so popular that they needed to crowdfund production of a further 300 badges for medical and pharmacy students. See: auckland.ac.nz/pronouns-101

JUNE

- Staff acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours included Judy Kilpatrick (Nursing) who was made a Dame Companion of the NZ Order of Merit and Distinguished Professor Bill Denny (medical research). Companions of the NZ Order of Merit were Dr Eve Coxon (Pacific education); Professor Suzanne Purdy (audiology); Professor Emeritus David Richmond (health and education); Dr Simon Rowley (paediatric and neonatal care). Darien Takle (performing arts) became an officer of the NZ Order of Merit.
- The QS World University Rankings confirmed our position in the world Top 100 universities (85=), the No. 1 ranked university in Aotearoa.

JULY

- The formal Waipapa Taumata Rau gifting ceremony was held at Waipapa marae. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei had earlier gifted our new Māori name, 'Waipapa Taumata Rau'.
- A 'Know Your Stuff' drug-testing pilot on 19 July during Re-O Week saved lives, when it uncovered the harmful synthetic cathinone, eutylone, among other dangerous substances. Read more: tinyurl.com/craccum-KYS



Chancellor Cecilia Tarrant and Dawn Freshwater at the Waipapa Taumata Rau gifting ceremony.

AUGUST

- The financial forecast for 2021 showed a surplus of \$43m, up from the \$10m expected. This was helped by around 2,000 more student enrolments in 2021, 6 percent above budget and 4 percent higher than the past two years.
- Dr Te Oti Rakena (Music) and Dr Brendon Dunphy (Biological Sciences) won National Tertiary Teaching Awards. Te Oti's was for sustained excellence in the Kaupapa Māori category.

SEPTEMBER

- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 showed an improved position with the University climbing to 137= up from 147=, an outstanding result.
- The Vice-Chancellor announced a one-off recognition payment to all eligible academic and professional staff to be paid in December.

OCTOBER

- Professor Boyd Swinburn (FMHS) won the Gluckman Medal for his medical research.
- Dr Emma Willis (Drama) won a University teaching award for sustained excellence; early career excellence awards were won by Dr Laura Ann Chubb (EDSW), Dr Marcia Leenen-Young (Pacific Studies) and Megan Clune (EDSW). Professor Richard Easther (Physics) won for leadership in teaching and learning.



Dr Marcia Leenen-Young

NOVEMBER

- The University announced a vaccine mandate to keep staff and students safe on our campuses, to take effect from 4 January 2022.
- Nine academics made the global list of most highly cited researchers: Professor Andrew Allan (SBS); Emeritus Professor Roderick Brodie (Business); Professor Brent Copp (Science); Professor Alexei Drummond (Science); Adjunct Professor Ed Gane (FMHS); Associate Professor Ajit Sarmah (Engineering); Dr Kevin Trenberth (Science); Dr Tommi Vatanen (Liggins); Associate Professor Geoffrey Waterhouse

15 DECEMBER

Nothing needs to be said about this highlight.

■ Read about all these highlights and so many more at auckland.ac.nz/all-UOA-news-stories



Professor Diane Brand says teaching design is like designing 20 buildings a day.
Photo: Billy Wong

HOME AT THE HEART OF A CAREER

Diane Brand says the move from professional architect to academia was liberating. Now she's taking an even bigger step.

Professor Diane Brand, who is retiring as Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (CAI) in December, can trace her attraction to architecture and urban design back to the house in which she grew up, in Wellington's Lyall Bay.

Her parents had commissioned the modernist architect, Erwin Winkler, to design the house she remembers "for the light, the natural timber finishes, the courtyard that was the centre of the house".

It was different from most houses she visited as a child. "It was open plan and it didn't have a front or backyard, it had a courtyard which, whatever the weather, was a nice place to be."

Growing up in an architect-designed house evidently had an enduring impact. As a student at the School of Architecture at the University of Auckland in the late Seventies, Diane's nickname was Miss Mondrian (after Dutch painter Piet Mondrian), in reference to her rectangular designs as well as her use of primary colours.

She graduated from the University in 1979,

"Designing and making things by hand energises me in a way that nothing else does." – Professor Diane Brand, Dean of Creative Arts and Industries

completed her post-professional masters at Harvard in 1986 and her PhD at Auckland in 2001. In between, and alongside her studies, she practised professionally in New Zealand and Australia, but the shift to academia was liberating.

"At university, I was responsible for my own teaching and, if I taught well, the results were tangible in evaluations and excellent student work. No one can interfere with the pedagogical relationship you develop with students."

Also, as a designer in a large practice, she was often assigned "uninteresting projects that were poorly resourced". She believes that was much to do with being a woman in a man's professional world. This was another reason academia appealed.

"Academia has been a relatively comfortable place for women since I was a student, but it's a profession that has had trouble promoting women into positions of real influence and leadership."

She recalls working in the power division of the Ministry of Works in Wellington in 1980, the first woman to work in an engineering-dominated office dedicated to designing power infrastructure. On her first day she was introduced to the draftsman assigned to the project she was leading, a Scotsman, who wore a kilt. When he said, "I'm not working for a woman", she said, "well, I'm not working with a man in a skirt".

Her male colleagues eventually got used to

the idea of a woman in the office, one who kept tearing their Penthouse pin-ups off the walls.

"It was a very old-school masculine Ministry of Works kind of environment, but there was a nice camaraderie."

Her professional experiences helped equip her for the managerial role in an academic context.

"When you're managing people on a building site or in a design office, you're managing a range of people with different skills, so you have to tune into what motivates them. It's no different from being a teacher or a manager in a University. You're dealing with people and finding ways to help them to do their best work."

Her research interests have focused on large-scale projects; the development of blue space (coastal urban design), earthquake resilience in Christchurch, colonial and New Zealand urban history, and hydro towns. "That's a genre of towns that were all built up and down New Zealand in the late 20th century, which had largely escaped researchers' interest."

She has missed designing but says teaching design is like designing 20 buildings a day. "You're going from one student to the next, looking at the idea, how it can be improved – it's like being a designer, but on other people's projects."

There have, of course, been difficult periods since being appointed Dean of CAI in 2013, many arising from structural changes in the wider university, and which were not popular.



A couple of examples of Diane's jewellery.

"In a leadership position you often have to implement things you don't agree with, but it's the job, and it's important to remember that the discontent directed at you is most often not personal but a consequence of your position."

There have been many satisfactions as well, including "innovative curriculum transformations collectively made" in the Schools of Architecture and Urban Planning, Music, in Elam, the Dance Programme, and the introduction of the Design programme in 2020. She says the faculty is now offering more interesting, inclusive, and relevant programmes that are being delivered despite the stresses and demands of Covid-19.

"People in CAI are creative, and they have done some amazing things to keep students engaged and to keep the programmes running. The downside is knowing that people have been working longer hours, often because they're teaching their own kids at the same time."

There is much she'll miss, although she will be working one day a week in a new role as Director of Academic Programme Reviews for the University. But 2022 and beyond will mean more time for sailing, and also to actively commercialise the jewellery she's been designing and making in recent years, mostly using inexpensive, utilitarian materials. "The value of a piece for me is in the design ... I like to make beautiful things from very ordinary elements."

She says making jewellery is therapeutic and cathartic. "Designing and making things by hand energises me in a way that nothing else does."

■ Margo White

See Diane's jewellery at dianebrand.nz

BOOK DESIGN AWARDS



Auckland University Press (AUP) books were well-represented in the recent PANZ Book Design Awards.

The PANZ Award for Best Typography went to *Billy Apple®*:

Life/Work by Christina Barton (AUP) designed by Arch MacDonnell and Alexandra Turner of Inhouse Design. Billy Apple® was also joint winner of the Booksellers Aotearoa New Zealand People's Choice Award, decided during the online ceremony by vote, with another AUP book, *Karl Maughan* (designed by Hannah Valentine and Gabriella Stead).

The overall winner was Jane Ussher's *Nature – Stilled* (Te Papa Press, Inhouse Design).



NEW BOOK
Hei Taonga mā ngā Uri Whakatipu Treasures for the Rising Generation

Subtitled *The Dominion Museum Ethnological Expeditions 1919–1923*, this book is co-edited

by Professor Dame Anne Salmond (Arts) with contributions from others including Dr Billie Lythberg (Director of South Auckland Studies). From 1919 to 1923, at Sir Apirana Ngata's initiative, a team from the Dominion Museum travelled to tribal areas across the North Island to record tikanga Māori that Sir Apirana feared might be disappearing. This illustrated hardback book tells the story of these expeditions, and the determination of early 20th century Māori leaders, including Sir Apirana, Te Rangihoroa and James Carroll.

Editors Dr Wayne Ngata and Dame Anne Salmond, Te Papa Press, \$75

CARVING A NEW CREATIVE PATH

Wikuki Kingi, a tōhunga toi ake and master carver, is the new Kaiārahi for the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (CAI).

The kaiārahi role is new for CAI but is an important appointment. The faculty has a growing Māori academic workforce, student body and research projects being done in collaboration with hapū and iwi.

"Mātauranga Māori encompasses knowledge that Māori ancestors brought to Aotearoa New Zealand and have passed down to the present generation," says Associate Professor Nuala Gregory, acting Dean of CAI after Professor Diane Brand's retirement.

This includes the knowledge and creation of toi (art), haka, whare (architecture), design, waiata and dance. "These are the arts and industries of CAI and we're so excited to have Wikuki take on this new role. We're still pinching ourselves."

As the Kaiārahi, Wikuki will work with staff across the University to better embed kaupapa Māori pedagogies and mātauranga Māori into CAI programmes, in the teaching and the student experience, and strengthen relationships with Māori communities. He will also work with Pacific communities, enhancing their connections to CAI and the University.

Wikuki traces his whakapapa to many of the tribes of Tāmaki Makaurau, Manukau and beyond, including Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Mahuta, Waikato and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui. He spent his formative years

learning skills at a number of marae, including Tūrangawaewae, Kirikiriroa, Tōrere and Te Puea. He has been carving for more than 50 years, working with Pacific and Indigenous communities around the world, along with "a bit of tattooing, drawing, working with bronze, steel and stone".

As director of Te Ranga Traditional Arts Academy, he has led a number of carving teams from around Aotearoa New Zealand and is a founding member of Whaotapu, a collective of tohunga toi ake keeping toi Māori alive.

"I take this role on with such joy," Wikuki said. "This is a time of great change in the world, and for universities to find new ways to teach, and to do research, and add value to our communities.

"It's really a moment of evolution ... for us Māori, it's a revolution."

■ Margo White



Wikuki Kingi with a welcome cake from CAI.



“Covid will likely be with us for the foreseeable future: indeed, it will almost inevitably become endemic.”

Dr Anne Bardsley

GLOBAL SCENARIOS FOR A **POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE**

Covid-19 has dominated the public consciousness for more than 18 months.

Many references have been made to a ‘post-Covid world’ – once imagined as an opportunity to refresh and do things differently, including thinking more long-term and living more sustainably, investing in innovation, and addressing the long-standing inequities that the pandemic brought painfully to the surface.

I have been part of the call to refresh and reset, with colleagues at Koi Tū and the many strategic thinkers we involved in our conversations about Aotearoa New Zealand’s path through and after the pandemic, resulting in a series of reports since April 2020 under the banner ‘The Future is Now’.

But for long locked-down Aucklanders, despite eased restrictions, that future may still seem a long time coming. We now face the reality that Covid will likely be with us for the foreseeable future: indeed, it will almost inevitably become endemic. We are a remote island nation, but we are part of the global community and cannot keep ourselves isolated permanently. It has been aptly said that the pandemic will not end anywhere in the world, until it ends everywhere.

We also know that many decisions made both here and internationally to deal with the pandemic will have wider consequences, the implications of which will ripple around the world, all the way to fortress Aotearoa. The issues extend well beyond public health, to social, economic, geopolitical and environmental impacts, among others. What we do now will shape the future trajectory and impacts of the pandemic in multiple ways. So, how can the best outcomes be achieved?

Working through questions like these requires deep and inclusive deliberation using transdisciplinary systems thinking and futures methodologies, and synthesising inputs from a range of viewpoints and disciplines. This is what Koi Tū was set up in 2019 to do.

I have been fortunate, through Koi Tū’s deep connection with the International Science Council (ISC), to have been a technical advisor in the Global Covid Scenarios Project run by the ISC in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The project’s important remit epitomised true transdisciplinarity in a future-focused exploration of the pandemic’s evolution to find the key drivers of global outcomes. Chaired by ISC President and Koi Tū Director Sir Peter Gluckman, working with an oversight panel of global experts in public health, virology, economics, behavioural science, ethics, sociology and strategic studies, among other areas, the project team conducted more than 160 expert interviews and regional workshops across more than 30 countries.

The project aimed to develop future scenarios from which to consider the implications of today’s policy decisions – and the costs of inaction. Systems mapping was used to illustrate how events and policies affect each other, and the critical outcomes, allowing the project to produce the ‘most likely’, ‘pessimistic plausible’ and ‘optimistic plausible’ future scenarios.

A large number of significant contributory factors to the pandemic’s long-term outcomes emerged. Some are being prioritised by governments, the private sector and multilateral actors, such as WHO and COVAX in the health domain, but many critical factors affecting other policy domains have not been addressed, or responses have been very uneven.

Policies such as monetary stimulus packages to boost economic growth and measures to

recover educational losses have been restricted to advanced economies. The mental health costs have been largely put aside. Trust in governments has been affected. We have also seen a rise in nationalistic ‘country first’ measures and geopolitical manoeuvres that could ultimately undermine reaching positive and equitable outcomes around the world and may prolong the suffering caused by the pandemic, well beyond the health crisis.

Mapping out the interactions of policies, events and outcomes has highlighted the numerous systemic and long-lasting effects of the pandemic. What concerns me most is that many of these are already apparent, but governments and other actors have not given them sufficient focus. Each of the necessary actions starts with recognising the intertwined global, multi-sectoral system that will govern everyone’s futures and where no one – and no country, even the most remote – is truly an island.

A key output of the ISC project is an interactive systems map tool designed to help decision-makers explore the issues in their own context. The project’s report, due out January 2022, will make essential reading.

Here in Aotearoa we will adjust to a level of endemic Covid, but will have many other long-term consequences to address. Critically, we must think more systemically not only about how to prepare for future pandemics, but how to be resilient in the face of the diverse challenges the world will inevitably throw at us in the long-term ‘post-pandemic’ future. To echo the calls of Glasgow COP26 on the parallel and indeed existential crisis of the climate, we still have a chance to do things differently – just.

■ Dr Anne Bardsley is deputy director of Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures.

The views in this article reflect personal opinion and are not necessarily those of the University of Auckland.