



THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

@auckland

A newsletter for alumni and friends



Alumni events in the US and Canada at the end of May / early June

Calling all alumni in Vancouver, Seattle and LA – we are coming to see you! We're looking forward to reconnecting, and catching up on all your news, as well as sharing ours. Be sure to make it along to our alumni receptions in your area – a great opportunity for you to network with fellow alumni and reminisce about your student days.

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Free University of Auckland public lecture at the Auckland Writers Festival

Māori and Pasifika writers cross borders with a vibrant aesthetic that exists nowhere else on the planet. Yet they are under-represented in literature — research suggests that Māori and Pasifika



poetry and fiction accounts for only 3% of all locally published literature.

On 17 May, join novelist, essayist and creative writing teacher Tina Makereti as she assesses the grim state of affairs and presents her vision of a vibrant Māori/Pasifika/Indigenous/NZ literature.

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The Future of Our Seas – Thursday 18 May, 12-1pm

Our fates are tied to the fate of our oceans, which generate half of the world's oxygen, as well as provide water, food, recreation, culture and some \$24 trillion of the global economy. But ocean life is under threat by multiple stressors — climate change, acidification, plastics, pollution and more. Join in this roundtable discussion where top scholars reveal the realities facing our oceans and explain the strides we are making to protect, restore and recover our seas.

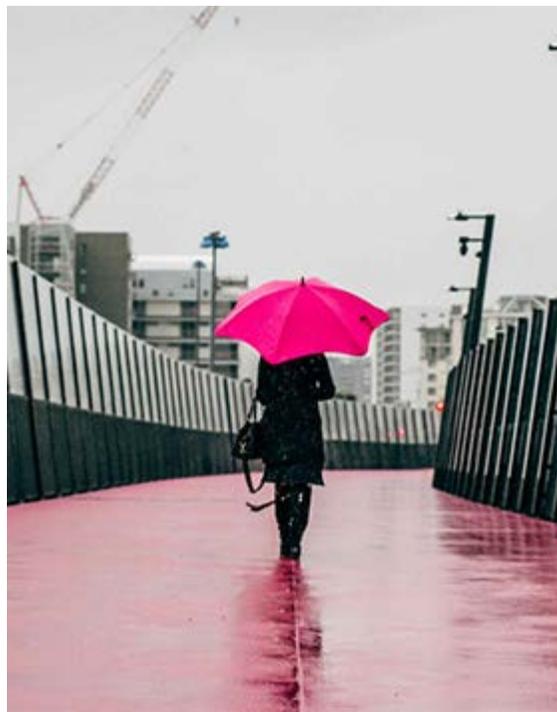
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Greig Brebner and Scott Kington: Let's be blunt

It was on the grey streets of London that alumnus Greig Brebner came up with the idea to reinvent the humble umbrella. Years and many iterations later he partnered with product development manager and fellow Auckland graduate Scott Kington to form Blunt Umbrellas - the perfect storm of design and commerce.

Come along to this free event on 22 May to hear Scott and Greig share their story as the co-founders of a thriving international business.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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15-26
MAY 2017

*Play a part in
New Zealand's future*

**POSTGRADUATE
FESTIVAL**

Postgraduate Festival: 15–26 May 2017

Thinking about postgraduate study? Be inspired at the Postgraduate Festival by live research events, panel discussions, information sessions and one-on-one advice sessions.

Discover how you can play a part in New Zealand's future whilst developing advanced skills and knowledge for your future career.

Join us on campus or see the live stream of our headline events.

FIND OUT MORE



Can we build a modern robust economy?

Ben O'Brien, CEO of StretchSense, talks about his company's innovative product and how New Zealand's specialised, entrepreneurial firms should be able to collaborate quickly and take full advantage of new opportunities.

WATCH VIDEO

Transcripts, certificates and official letters now available online

Alumni now have online access to certified digital copies of their academic records via My eEquals, to view, download and share with potential employers or anyone else they choose.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- 04 MAY [Alumni for Alumni - San Francisco Stories](#)
- 15 MAY [Seoul Alumni and Friends Reception](#)
- 16 MAY [Beijing Alumni and Friends Reception](#)
- 18 MAY [Shanghai Alumni and Friends Reception](#)
- 29 MAY [Vancouver Alumni and Friends Reception](#)
- 30 MAY [Seattle Alumni and Friends Reception](#)
- 02 JUN [Los Angeles Alumni and Friends Reception](#)



Distinguished Alumni nominations for 2018 now open

After hearing about our inspiring Distinguished Alumni for 2017, you may be thinking of nominating someone you know for an award in 2018. If there is an alumnus or alumna you know who is making an outstanding contribution to their profession, to their community and globally, nominate them now. Nominations close 30 June 2017.

Pictured above: Our 2017 winners at 'Bright Lights', L-R: Prof. Ian Hunter, Erna Takazawa, Finlay MacDonald (interviewer), Lisa Reihana, Carol Hirschfeld, Dr Lance O'Sullivan

[MAKE A NOMINATION](#)



Distinguished Alumni continue to make their mark

Two of our Distinguished Alumni — Niki Caro (DAA 2004), one of New Zealand's most original and inventive film makers of *Whale Rider* fame, and Penelope Brook (DAA 1998), economist, and until recently Ombudsman at the World Bank — continue to make exceptional contributions globally.

Read more about them below:

[Niki Caro is the director of *The Zoo Keeper's Wife* released in cinemas 4 May](#)

[Dr Penelope Brook is named as the inaugural Director of the Atlantic Institute](#)

Pictured above: Niki Caro, photo credit Andrew Lister



Steps towards the singularity: Artificial intelligence and

its impact

The 2017 Gibbons Lecture series provides a local perspective on the rapid growth of artificial intelligence and the corresponding concerns about its impact.

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Hika Kia Orana app launched in Rarotonga

Hika Kia Orana, an innovative mobile application specifically designed to revitalise the Rarotongan language, was launched in Rarotonga this week, paving the way for the development of Hika versions in other Pacific languages.



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Having it all? Affluent adolescent girls' perceptions of stress and quests for success

Harvard PhD graduate and Seelye Fellow Professor Renée Spencer will present a public lecture in May for staff, students, alumni, schools, parents/caregivers and the general public.

Contemporary young women are enjoying greater educational success but accounts of intense achievement pressures and high levels of emotional distress are increasingly common, particularly among affluent young women. Longitudinal study findings will be presented and strategies to manage these pressures will be discussed.



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