

Uni NEWS

auckland.ac.nz/UniNews

JULY 2021



ANDREAS NEEF

Why we should research our holiday destinations to avoid heading to the dark side

Page 8



GRADUATION SUCCESSES

Mother-of-six Paula Hughes is one of many outstanding achievers in our latest cohort of graduates

Page 3



THE FACTS ABOUT GOUT

Professor Nicola Dalbeth wants to dispel myths about a disease that attacks Māori and Pacific in high numbers

Page 6



GOING POSTAL

Associate Professor of Dance, Alys Longley, felt like her hands were tied behind her back in lockdown, but delivered a creative solution

Page 10

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



Melani Anae

HISTORY OF POLYNESIAN PANTHERS

Associate Professor Melani Anae and her early experiences with the anti-racist group the Polynesian Panthers featured in a *Stuff* podcast to mark the Panthers' 50th anniversary. Melani also commented widely on the government's dawn raids apology on RNZ, and in *Canvas* magazine, among others.

Links: [tinyurl.com/RNZ-melani-anae](https://www.tinyurl.com/RNZ-melani-anae)
[tinyurl.com/Canvas-Melani-Anae](https://www.tinyurl.com/Canvas-Melani-Anae)



Barkin Sertkaya

OLDEST MUSIC BROUGHT TO LIFE

Guitarist Barkin Sertkaya from the School of Music talked to Jesse Mulligan on RNZ *Afternoons* about his recent recording of a composition inspired by the world's oldest surviving piece of music, the *Seikilos Epitaph*, which is engraved on an ancient tombstone. He also gave a live performance of *Koyunbaba*, a guitar suite named after a shepherd who lived in 15th-century Turkey.

Link: [tinyurl.com/RNZ-barkin-sertkaya](https://www.tinyurl.com/RNZ-barkin-sertkaya)



Suresh Muthukumaraswam

PSYCHEDELIC OPPORTUNITIES

Dr Suresh Muthukumaraswam told *Newsroom* that New Zealand has the scientific expertise to hold clinical trials of psychedelic drugs, which are touted as a promising form of treatment for people living with mental illness. He said the other advantage would be to attract venture capital and boost the economy.

Link: [tinyurl.com/newsroom-psychedelic](https://www.tinyurl.com/newsroom-psychedelic)



Helen Murray

BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH NEEDED

Neuroscientist Dr Helen Murray told TVNZ a greater understanding of repetitive brain injuries is needed before a proper link between chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and rugby can be ascertained. CTE can ultimately cause dementia.

Link: [tinyurl.com/TVNZ-helen-murray-CTE](https://www.tinyurl.com/TVNZ-helen-murray-CTE)

COVID-19 EXPERTS ON AIR

Professor of Physics Shaun Hendy, a Covid-19 modelling expert from Te Pūnaha Matatini, talked to RNZ's *Checkpoint* about the emergence of the positive Covid-19 case in an Australian visitor to Wellington. And Professor Des Gorman (School of Medicine) told TV3's *The AM Show* that he believed the risks of keeping the Australian bubble open are great.

Des link: [tinyurl.com/AMShow-Des-Gorman](https://www.tinyurl.com/AMShow-Des-Gorman)
 Shaun link: [tinyurl.com/RNZ-shaun-hendy](https://www.tinyurl.com/RNZ-shaun-hendy)

THIS ISSUE

Graduation stories	3
Good to Know	4, 5
Nicola Dalbeth	6, 7
Andreas Neef	8, 9
Art & Culture	
Alys Longley	10
Gus Fisher Art Gallery	11
Architecture Biennale	11
Books	11
Māramatanga: Robert Bartholomew	12



USEFUL NEW APP

The University has a new app called UoA Alert to keep staff and students informed of any incidents that may affect them. The app can

send mobile notifications of emergency situations. Download it from the usual app stores by searching UoA Alert.

EDITOR: Denise Montgomery
denise.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Elise Manahan, Billy Wong
 DESIGN: Stephen Wang
 PRODUCTION: The University of Auckland
 Volume 51/Issue 5/July 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.

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

GRAD EXPECTATIONS

The University's June cohort of graduates is expected to play an important role in society using knowledge from their degrees. Here are a few of their stories.



Callum Tokorangi (Global Studies)

At his graduation, Callum Tokorangi wore a collection of special shell necklaces passed on from his Cook Island nana to honour her memory, and that of his Aitutaki whānau.

Callum was in the first cohort to graduate with a Bachelor of Global Studies from the University. The programme was founded by the late Dr Hilary Chung, as "a degree for people who want to change the world", an idea that connected strongly with Callum.

Callum majored in global politics and human rights and as well as paying tribute to his mum, dedicated his graduation day to Hilary, the person whose vision and belief in her students led him on this path.

"It was Hilary's ability to see the potential in me and others and call it out that drove me to pursue this degree to its end. I will always strive to be a change in the world and follow my passions as a testament to her input into my life."

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/callum-tokorangi



Divya Rathore (Law)

As Divya Rathore stepped on stage to receive her Master of Laws, her proud family were watching her triumph via livestream from the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, 12,000 kilometres away.

Divya, an international student at the Auckland Law School, arrived before Covid-19 closed

international borders. Unable to travel home, she has had to watch helplessly as her country has been ravaged by the disease.

Divya's prize-winning dissertation was on the legalisation of same-sex marriage in India and she's now beginning her doctorate, specialising in family law, with particular focus on forced marriages.

"I have experienced freedom in an altogether new light," she says of her time in New Zealand.

"While women's rights have come a long way in the past few decades in India, ground still needs to be covered. Drafting good laws is usually the first step, but what is more important is to see them being effectively implemented. What matters most for women is a change in societal mindsets that have evolved from strong patriarchal traditions."

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/divya-rathore



Paula Hughes (Education)

Mother of six and mature student, Paula Hughes (pictured above with Dean of Education and Social Work, Associate Professor Mark Barrow) is the first in her family to attend university, and has done it in style.

Paula graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from the University's South Auckland Campus, Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga, with a senior scholar award, having also been the top Pacific student in her first year.

For such a milestone, it was important to Paula that both her elderly parents, her siblings and nieces could attend her honouring ceremony. It was held at Te Tai Tonga the night before the official event at Spark Arena, where she was joined by her husband and some of her children, as well as her parents by livestream.

"As a first generation Samoan New Zealander, it was a very proud day for my family because it's a Samoan parents' dream for their children to do well, especially at tertiary level," she says.

Paula already has a job teaching at St Anne's

Catholic School in Manurewa, not far from where she lives, and says it's great to have been able to study and work in her own neighbourhood.

"The South Auckland Campus being close to home, especially as a mum, was a big influence in my decision to return to study, and the environment was very family-friendly. It felt like a warm, close community."

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/paula-hughes



Hanna Davidson (Engineering/Arts)

Hanna Davidson could find herself working on a construction project in France one day, after graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) and Bachelor of Arts (French).

"The work of the late British-Israeli architect Zaha Hadid was what first sparked my interest in engineering, with her structures having such natural forms despite being constructed from robust materials," says Hanna. "She was also a great inspiration as an example of a woman succeeding in the construction space."

Hanna credits her passion for French to an enthusiastic high-school teacher, who inspired her to keep studying the language. She took a gap year in Europe to immerse herself in the language.

Hanna initially focused on maths and physics with the option to cross over to Engineering should the opportunity present itself. Five years later, she has achieved her goals and is working at WSP Global, an engineering consultancy, as a bridge engineer.

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/hanna-davidson

CHECK OUT THE PHOTOS ONLINE

Photos of the June graduation ceremonies: auckland.ac.nz/winter-grad-photos and graduation stories: auckland.ac.nz/graduation-stories

ARTS KAIĀRAHI

Leanne Tamaki (Ngāi Tūhoe) becomes the new Faculty of Arts kaiārahi from 5 July.

Leanne worked closely with the previous kaiārahi Hirini Kaa and Aroha Harris to embed te ao Māori into the Faculty. She has a decade of experience in the arts, culture and heritage sector, having worked on several national projects before starting at Auckland in 2020.

NEW MIGRATION THEORIES

Early Polynesians are likely to have arrived in the southern Pacific from a range of routes through Island Southeast Asia, mixing and mingling along the way, according to groundbreaking new research at the University.

The study analysed 193 Neolithic period (10,000 to 4,500 BCE) carbon dates on ceramics from 20 archaeological sites in Island Southeast Asia. It concluded there was an extraordinary mixing of populations as people moved further south into the Pacific, rather than via two distinct routes that unfolded step by step. This challenges established theories that suggest that either Polynesian migrants set out from Taiwan and moved into Island Southeast Asia before venturing further south (the 'Out of Taiwan' hypothesis) or that these earliest farming and pottery-using populations came from mainland Southeast Asia in the west, before going further south ('Western Route Migration' hypothesis). Study lead, archaeologist Associate Professor Ethan Cochrane, says the research suggests this period involved "mixing, matching and moving" of people around the region and that there were no clear linear routes south.

"It seems Island Southeast Asia was a huge mixing pot of people rather than two clear routes, either from the north, or the west, and then down into the southern Pacific."

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/migration-research
Newshub: tinyurl.com/newshub-cochrane

A 3,000-year-old fragment of Lapita pottery from the Solomon Islands.



Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater with Theresa Gattung (centre) and Dean of the Business School, Professor Susan Watson.

BOOST TO EQUITY IN BUSINESS

Funding from one of New Zealand's leading businesswomen will go towards empowering other women to excel in business.

The Theresa Gattung Chair of Women in Entrepreneurship is being set up at the Business School. The chair will helm a centre to foster entrepreneurial women and equip graduates with hard-pegged business skills, including how to assess and use financial information. The centre will be a hub for high-impact postgraduate research to drive policy outcomes for women, as well as facilitating networks and mentoring programmes, and acting as an incubator for interdisciplinary collaborations.

Theresa Gattung, who is gifting the University \$2.5m over ten years, says her support is driven

by a desire to help make New Zealand the best place to do business, particularly for women.

Theresa was the first woman CEO of Telecom New Zealand and over the years she has held multiple governance positions.

"Improving women's economic empowerment is crucial to gender equality," says Theresa.

"I'm a firm believer that through business we can create a fairer world. I have seen it work first-hand. I see this chair as providing another arm of support for women's business empowerment. Women need to know how to launch a business, how to read a balance sheet, and what venture capital is and how to access it.

"I want to encourage tertiary study that is practical and grounded in real-world entrepreneurship and that will give women a deep understanding of business," she says.

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/theresa-gattung-gift

ALMOST INSTANT IMMUNITY TEST

A healthtech venture developed by Science staff could help people travel safely within communities and around the globe.

Orbis Diagnostics, founded by Faculty of Science professors David Williams and Cather Simpson, is on a mission to allow safer movement during a pandemic by making complex medical testing accessible wherever it is needed.

Orbis has developed an accurate, cost-effective immunity test for Covid-19 that can

verify a person's health status and assess whether vaccines have been effective, in just 15 minutes. The device can process about a dozen samples simultaneously and provide laboratory-grade results anywhere, such as in airports and cruise ship terminals, supporting the safe resumption of international travel.

"The goal is that if you are vaccinated and your immunity is high, you could be let through the border without going into quarantine," says David, professor of chemical science.

"Quantitative immunity testing implemented at borders can be a vital tool to open up travel."

The testing is done using an automated portable lab designed for use in high-volume, non-laboratory environments. The prototype is in development in collaboration with San Diego-based D&K Engineering.

"We are working towards an operational trial in September where we aim to process a significant number of people through the system in a short time," says Cather. "The pace of development is both challenging and exhilarating."

Full story and video: tinyurl.com/orbis-portable-lab



Professor David Williams

FINALLY FACE TO FACE WITH FISH

When Nicole Hayton enrolled as a doctoral candidate in the School of Environment, she could not predict 2020's curveball.

Three days before her flight from Scotland to New Zealand to commence her PhD last March, the Aotearoa New Zealand border closed because of the global pandemic and Nicole had to adapt quickly to her new reality.

"Being in Scotland in 2020 was crazy. We were in a lockdown for almost a year. Starting my PhD remotely was a little daunting as I couldn't be on campus and I couldn't speak with my supervisor or lab group face to face."

Nicole's research focuses on behavioural responses in fish, driven by emerging

contaminants. Although making a start on her project from outside New Zealand was challenging, she received a lot of support from her fellow doctoral candidates and academic staff.

"My supervisor, Associate Professor Kevin Simon, has been great. We have had weekly meetings over Zoom for the past year, and I also attended lab meetings over Zoom."

Nicole arrived in February as part of the government's border exception category for postgraduate students. She is one of 320 international students so far approved for the University, and around 90 have arrived.

"I love that in Auckland you get the benefits of living in a city while having easy access to so much nature – beaches, parks and nature reserves.

"It's also great to be working on the practical component of my research which I hope will contribute towards understanding the impact of estrogenic pollution in freshwater ecosystems."



International doctoral student Nicole Hayton is happy to finally be on campus.

KAITA LEADING THE WAY

A leadership programme for Māori and Pacific students helps ensure every chance of success.

Applications for a powerful leadership programme designed to help Māori and Pacific students achieve their potential close on 18 July.

The flagship programme, through Te Tumu Herenga Libraries and Learning Services, runs each semester. Kaita Sem is a team leader working in Te Tumu Herenga. He was employed in 2020 to run Leadership Through Learning, after completing his MA in Politics and working as a policy professional in Wellington.

"I'm responsible for guiding our learning support services for Māori and Pacific students, including the Leadership Through Learning programme. Having done it myself, I know first-hand the dedication and commitment required to succeed at the University.

"This programme has a special kaupapa in that all teaching staff must have also first completed it, which I did as a student."

The programme builds leadership skills beginning with whakawhanaungatanga and reflection, where students identify personal values and aspirations before confronting self-doubt and vulnerability.

"I recognised these challenges during my education. The programme really struck home for me and provided the missing pieces because

somewhere along the way I had removed 'myself' from my studies."

Kaita says the real strength of Leadership Through Learning is its tuakana-teina approach.

"It empowers students to step into their own brand of leadership and is reflected by facilitators being students with important stories to tell. It removes any barriers between teaching and learning."

Kaita, who is of Papua New Guinean, Cook Islands, Niuean and Pākehā heritage, says while his studies helped refine his understanding of the world, Leadership Through Learning provided him with the tools and a community in which to flourish.

"My research interests stem from a fascination with the way our planet has been partitioned by borders and how this fundamentally affects the way society is organised. With parents as academics, I have been fortunate to see how this plays out in Europe, in the Pacific and here in

Aotearoa, although for a long time I did not have the tools to navigate these ideas on my own."

Leadership Through Learning starts up again for Semester Two and runs for 12 weeks. It is open to all Māori and Pacific students from any faculty and at every level, and is delivered by Māori and Pacific student leaders.

"Students are challenged in a safe space to plot a course to achieve their goals at University and beyond," says Kaita. "It's a really transformative process and means the success of our students becomes normalised."

The programme is in its eighth iteration in 2021 but Kaita says it's set to grow. "As well as our three streams at the City Campus, we are launching new streams in partnership with MAPAS in Grafton, for FMHS students, and at our Tai Tonga and Tai Tokerau campuses."

■ Find out more: library.auckland.ac.nz/services/student-learning/leadership-through-learning or contact Kaita on ltl@auckland.ac.nz



Kaita Sem runs the Leadership Through Learning programme for Māori and Pacific students.
Photo: Billy Wong

MAKING THE FACTS CRYSTAL CLEAR ABOUT GOUT

Professor Nicola Dalbeth is a respected gout specialist and researcher. She says it's a disease with much misinformation about its causes.

Professor Nicola Dalbeth says it's an exciting time to be a rheumatologist.

"The really big breakthroughs in rheumatology have been in the past 20 years, particularly in autoimmune inflammatory arthritis like rheumatoid arthritis. The treatments that we have now compared to in the late 1990s are incredible – in fact, I think we've lived through medical history.

"It was an exciting time to train and see these therapies developed at around the time I was going into practice."

Nicola works as a Professor of Medicine at the University of Auckland and as a specialist rheumatologist at the Auckland District Health Board. She is also President of the New Zealand Rheumatology Association.

Internationally renowned for research into gout, a form of arthritis, Nicola won the Gluckman Medal in April for her distinguished contribution to research on the disease. Her research in both pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments has been incorporated into international gout management guidelines.

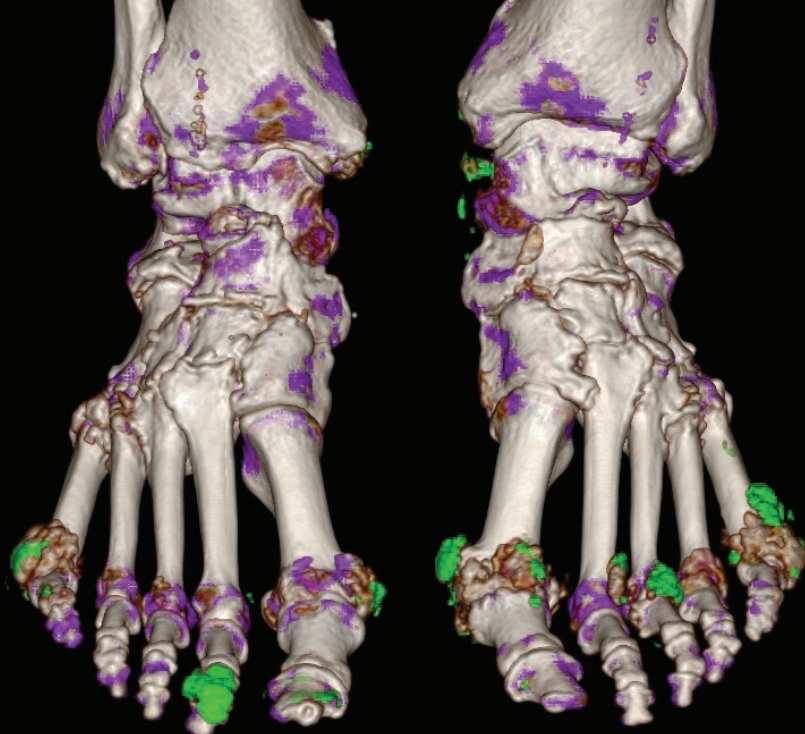
Her interest in gout came while she was completing rheumatology training in Rotorua, Auckland and Middlemore, and then went on a fellowship to the UK, to do postgraduate research and training.

"I noticed during my fellowship that there were very different presentations of gout that we were treating in the UK, compared to New Zealand. In New Zealand, we saw people who were badly affected and disabled by severe gout. It was totally different."

She returned to New Zealand in 2005 determined to help.

"I wanted to make an impact by improving gout management."

There are 41 million people around the world with gout, and in New Zealand the prevalence is one in 20. It affects one quarter of older Māori



A Dual Energy CT scan, showing uric acid crystals, in green, building up around the toe joints.

men and one third of older Pacific men in New Zealand.

Gout occurs when there are high uric acid levels in the blood which leads to crystals forming in the joints, usually at the extremities such as the feet.

Nicola says medical conditions such as kidney disease and heart disease can contribute to gout.

"If your kidneys hold on to excess uric acid, that leads to an increase in uric acid levels. This can also happen if you're on certain medicines for heart problems."

Nicola, who became a professor in 2015, has spent many years since her return to New Zealand researching the causes, impact and treatment of gout on people with the condition.

"There are perceptions and beliefs about gout that it is, for example, the 'disease of kings'.

Around 80 percent of gout is controlled by medication, and less than 20 percent of control is influenced by diet and exercise.

"We've published data looking at the effects of weight loss and various dietary interventions. None of these interventions led to major reductions in uric acid to an acceptable level. I'm not saying it's not important to try to live a healthy life, but excessive focus on diet as the major strategy for gout management is wrong."

Nicola says it's important to understand there's no shame around the condition and that effective treatment is available. The main drug used is called allopurinol, which reduces the uric acid and helps dissolve the crystals in the joints.

Once a person has had a couple of gout attacks, better results are achieved long-term if they get treatment early.

"Gout is not hilarious. It's incredibly painful. It has a huge impact on people's quality of life." – Professor Nicola Dalbeth

"For some reason people think gout is really hilarious. But the disease can have a huge impact on people's livelihood, on their quality of life, on their whole family and community.

"The fact is, it's not usually because someone is drinking or eating the wrong things. These are old-fashioned views about the disease which are really unhelpful. And these beliefs lead to embarrassment and stigma.

"I want people, including healthcare professionals, to think about their assumptions about gout. Because it's not hilarious. It's incredibly painful. It has a huge impact on people's quality of life."

"But what we often see is people not getting access to treatment until really late, and also not getting support and understanding, which is the role of the healthcare system.

"What we've also seen in New Zealand is major inequities around access to regular and effective long-term therapies. We know that Māori and Pacific peoples are much more likely to have gout. Yet these groups are least likely to get regular allopurinol, which is safe and the best treatment."

"In my experience, when the underlying cause of gout is explained to people and they're told there is effective long-term treatment, most people are very willing to take it."



Professor Nicola Dalbeth says only around 20 percent of gout control comes through diet and exercise. Photo: Elise Manahan

She says issues can also arise once the treatment is prescribed. People get three months' worth but may not continue it.

"There's something about the way our healthcare system works, which means that when people have an interaction with a healthcare provider, they're given therapy but there's not necessarily support to help people keep taking the medication regularly."

Nicola says she sees this with other drugs too, including medications for autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis.

"There's been some interesting initiatives looking at strategies to support patients in New Zealand ... actually regular checking-in saying, 'let's get your blood test' or 'do you need another prescription?', that sort of reinforcement.

"Allopurinol works by helping the body clear the crystals over time, but it can take a number of years to achieve this clearance."

Nicola likes to show patients the crystals in their joints using ultrasound or dual energy CT scanning to explain that, even if they're not having an attack, the crystals are there, ready to pounce.

"Dual energy CT has also been very useful because it has helped us to understand the best strategies to prevent and treat joint damage. Some of our recent trials have demonstrated that getting the uric acid level down and treating those crystals can prevent progression of joint damage."

Nicola has published more than 400 research papers, working collaboratively with international or local researchers.

"As a medical student in Dunedin years ago, I did a summer studentship with an academic rheumatologist called Professor John Highton, who has now retired. That's where I got interested in rheumatology. Now I have one or two

"It's not usually because someone is drinking or eating the wrong things. These are old-fashioned views about gout that are really unhelpful and lead to embarrassment and stigma."

– Nicola Dalbeth, Professor of Medicine and specialist rheumatologist

summer students every year here at Auckland. Some of these students have now become rheumatologists so it's an amazing opportunity for students to get exposure to fields that they wouldn't otherwise, as well as research training. As a student, that was a really important step for me becoming a rheumatologist and researcher."

Nicola was born in Kaeo, Northland, but grew up and went to school in Rotorua. After graduating from Otago Medical School, she went back to Rotorua for a year, and worked at Queen Elizabeth Hospital which was the old rheumatology hospital. She completed internal medicine and rheumatology training in Auckland.

She says there are huge social and economic costs to gout.

"We have the highest rate of gout in the world. It's not just about the disease itself but the severity and impact. When it's affecting men in their 20s and 30s, they're having time off work, they can't do sport or play with their kids.

"If crystals form around their joints from that time and are untreated, then they'll have severe joint damage into their 40s and 50s. This damage is preventable".

Nicola says there are rarely warning signs of developing gout.

"Mostly it's just 'bang', a sudden onset of really severe joint pain. People will remember their first attack because it's so dramatic and unpleasant.

If they then get an action plan in place with treatment, they know what to do when they get an attack."

Most gout is managed by GPs but Nicola says there are a lot of interesting new models of care, with nurse educators, as well as community health workers and pharmacists.

"Gout is ultimately a chronic disease but we often view it as a disease that can be managed acutely. I think what's needed is a shift in our understanding about gout as a chronic condition and the imaging studies have been really important to help us visualise the disease in a way we haven't been able to.

"Some of the research we've done has been looking at how showing people medical images helps them understand their illness better – it's a powerful educational tool."

Her focus is on better outcomes for New Zealanders with gout and she says there is increasing recognition by the Ministry of Health and Pharmac that gout is an important issue for health equity.

"There's been some amazing work in the past few years looking at different models of care to improve the quality of gout management. I think we should be doing much more of that."

■ Denise Montgomery

THE DARK SIDE OF TOURISM

As parts of the world open up to tourists, Professor Andreas Neef says it's time to stop and think.

Andreas Neef admits that sometimes he may depress his students.

"But at the end of the course, I pick them up again and say, 'Well, I told you all this bad stuff that's happening around the world, but you can make a difference.'"

Andreas is Professor of Development Studies, a postgraduate programme in the Faculty of Arts. His research includes climate-change adaptation and community resilience, climate-induced migration, displacement caused by tourism, and land grabbing.

"The research can be quite depressing and also quite emotional," the German-born professor says. Andreas has been in New Zealand for almost eight years, arriving from Kyoto University.

"While I was in Japan, I had an opportunity to visit Fiji several times to do fieldwork. I guess that was a bit of an entry card to New Zealand because I had already done research in the Pacific."

He's well aware, having travelled to many countries over the course of his career, that he is in a position of privilege. "We have a passport that gives us access to nearly all the places we want to go. But if you have a passport from Afghanistan, you can travel to fewer than ten countries without a visa. It takes forever to get a visa to a Western country and costs an insane amount of money.

"Mobility injustice is ingrained in our global system. It's just luck where you are born and therefore how mobile you can be."

Andreas's new book, *Tourism, Land Grabs and Displacement: The Darker Side of the Feel-Good Industry*, covers this concept as well as an evolving field known as "violent tourism geographies". Andreas says tourism is framed as a feel-good industry and many people don't consider the darker side, such as land grabbing, when they're booking that getaway.

A recent case of land grabbing resulting from tourism development in the Pacific was highlighted by journalists Melanie Reid and Mark Jennings from *Newsroom*. The pair went to Fiji to question developers Freesoul Real Estate over the environmental destruction on Malolo Island, Fiji. The company was building a 350-bure resort without the requisite permits. Eventually Freesoul had its project approval revoked by the High Court.

Andreas says along with the media, academic researchers have a key role to play in raising awareness of land grabbing.

"It should be a combined effort, a coalition of academics, NGO workers, international human rights advocates, and media. One of my students alerted me to a huge tourism development project in Indonesia on Lombok Island. Indigenous people are being driven off their land, violently, losing their livelihoods, all for this kind of 'public good'."

He says places that do tourism development well are where Indigenous land rights are respected and there is oversight as to where the money goes. He says Fiji usually has a good model for development because there's a native land trust that oversees leases to resorts and the money goes to communities in some form.

Andreas first encountered land grabbing in Cambodia in 2008. "A poor farming community was waiting for land to be allocated to them that they'd been promised by the government through a German development project.

"But the little land they already had before the project's arrival was then taken away by the government and given to a Vietnamese investor. The people ended up being given infertile, dry, barren land, after being told to 'settle there and the Germans will take care of you'.

"You could see the desperation in people's eyes because of being robbed completely of their land."

Andreas says the German development agency had tried to do the right thing but had acted naively, given the political corruption in Cambodia. "They didn't realise the Cambodian government was using them. The government sells these lands to local elites in the capital Phnom Penh or to international investors."

Andreas also encountered another case in Cambodia, a large Chinese tourism project.

"A developer wanted to construct a huge resort. People were driven 20 kilometres inland from the coast where they'd lived, into a forested area in the middle of a national park where you shouldn't grow crops. Previously, as fishers, rice farmers and cashew nut growers, they made a decent income. When they were moved inland, the government didn't even bother allocating them land."

Andreas first became interested in what was happening in Cambodia through one of his students at Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

"I was overseeing a large project working with ethnic minority groups in the mountainous regions of Southeast Asia. I was on the committee of a Cambodian student who did his masters on one of these cases. I went with the student to do follow-up research and we discovered two more cases."

He says the student's research was incredibly risky. "It was risky for both of us. At one point we were told, 'Don't go to that area, you might

be shot'. But he took more risks than me. I could always leave the country. He was actually working as a government official, and his own government didn't know that he was doing this critical work."

There are even risks involved with putting your name on academic research if you are from a country like Cambodia. At a conference in Chiang Mai, a colleague of Andreas noticed someone in the audience they believed could be a government spy, so the researcher requested to have his name taken off the presentation.

Recently at the Asia Europe People's Forum, where Andreas gave a keynote speech, there was a speaker who presented cases from Bangladesh on land-grabbing in the context of tourism.

"She said she would have liked to have the presentation done by an Indigenous person who was displaced by the project but it was just too dangerous for them to do it.

"I admire people who report on those cases either as journalists or human rights advocates.

"The Indonesian government, for example, is democratically elected, but they have this utilitarian idea that they can sacrifice a few Indigenous people for tourism development. If there is money to be made in a post-Covid tourism world, they want it."

He says it's disappointing that the Covid-19 lockdowns haven't triggered a rethink on whether the world has gone too far with mass tourism. "If we could do slow

"Tourism can be violent, extractive and exploitative."

– Professor Andreas Neef, Development Studies, Faculty of Arts

tourism, and equitable tourism, then we'd be turning this crisis into an opportunity."

After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Andreas did research in Thailand on the sea-faring people badly affected by the destructive waves.

"These people lost their homes and some lost their lives as well. When they were being moved to temporary shelters, the local government had already started selling off their land to tourism investors. They were like vultures."

He says travellers should research holiday destinations to ensure locals are not being unfairly treated. "Tourism can be violent, it's extractive and it's exploitative in many ways. I'm challenging this idea of tourism as the feel-good industry."

Mining is another industry ousting people from their homes and land.

"We're looking into a case in the north-western corner of Viti Levu in Fiji, where there is a large Australian-Chinese company doing iron-sand mining in the Ba River Delta.

"The company did a quite murky environmental impact assessment study, then a provincial officer went to the community at night and asked three chiefs to sign a document by thumbprint. They woke to find their fishing rights in the area gone.

“If we could do slow tourism and equitable tourism, we’d be turning this crisis into an opportunity.”

– Professor Andreas Neef



Andreas Neef says the term ‘developed’ implies we are already there. Photo: Elise Manahan

“The company promised them a one-off compensation for the 20 years it would take to extract iron sand. They claimed it would be non-intrusive, that they would just use magnets to get the iron out and the Delta sand would be pumped back in. But these turbulences affect fish, shellfish and crabs. Women in the area make good money catching crabs and collecting shellfish. Now those livelihoods are at risk.”

The company also promised jobs, but recently laid off more than 100 workers. “Fijian academics are looking into this situation and will hopefully publish papers to make it more widely known. RNZ has also just reported on the Ba River case.”

Andreas did his PhD in West Africa on customary land rights. “I was interested in how people have an attachment to land, how land rights are allocated in a customary way and what happens when external forces come in to change those rights.”

In Niger, a Taiwanese development project came into an area where women had previously grown rice. The rice created a good income because it was sold for ceremonial purposes but was back-breaking work. The Taiwanese project created rectangular plots with irrigation channels to make the work easier, then distributed land titles.

“Problem was, it was the men not the women who got the land titles. In this part of Africa, men and women are quite distinct in their management of money. Women have their own separate budget so it’s like a separated household economy. But women were removed from that income stream.”

He says cases like this interest him because of the discourse about “improved” forms of agriculture being the only way.

“The discourse is that it’s all for public benefit, it’s for feeding the world. That farmers can’t grow crops efficiently in small farms and you need

huge plantations. But this is totally wrong. Those small farmers are efficient and productive. They’re not just feeding their families, they feed their communities and contribute to exports as well.

“It’s a narrative trying to win over public opinion and pretend that small-scale farming is not viable. It’s like the idea that community-based tourism has no future; that we need mass tourism, in big numbers, for economic growth. That’s wrong too.”

Andreas says because capitalism is so pervasive in all spheres of life, it’s hard to challenge the system. He says the Development Studies programme encourages students to look critically at development that affects the four or five billion people who are still in poverty.

“Most people live in the so-called developing countries or what we now call the Global South.”

The term ‘Global South’ arose in opposition to ‘Third World’. “Third World is a bit condescending. There’s only one world. Also ‘developing’ versus ‘developed’ implies the developed countries are already there. ‘Developing countries’ have to catch up ... which is condescending and patronising.”

He says the ‘developed’ world, with its reliance on fossil fuels and carbon-intensive lifestyle, could learn a thing or two from Indigenous people who don’t use up resources in the same way.

‘Developed’ economies also benefit from exploitation. “When we buy a bag of mixed nuts, we don’t know whether child or slave labour was involved. In New Zealand we have a label, ‘made from local and imported ingredients’, which means we don’t care where it comes from.”

Andreas says everyone can make a difference by questioning their consumption patterns.

“Everything has an impact somewhere. Just as where we travel has an impact, so does what we eat and what we throw away.

“Also, we still use fossil fuels and cause high emissions per capita. The people who suffer most are the people in the poorest countries, some of which might not exist in 20 years, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu. When these people want to come to New Zealand, we make them go through our court system and then reject them as climate refugees!”

He says some of his most-cited articles in journals are on the subject of land grabbing and development-induced displacement. The research falls under several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most obviously about reducing inequalities. He applauds the University’s improved focus on sustainability, but does have an issue with the term ‘sustainable development’.

“It has become a buzzword that has lost its meaning. The concept has been appropriated by many different actors, such as multi-national corporations signing up to the SDGs.

“I would try to find an alternative term ... something like ‘inclusive development’. By inclusive, I mean genuinely inclusive. Inclusive of Indigenous worldviews, inclusive of different cultural perspectives on development, and inclusive of environmental issues.”

It’s an issue that’s as important in New Zealand as it is all over the world.

■ Denise Montgomery



Tourism, Land Grabs and Displacement: The Darker Side of the Feel-Good Industry
Andreas Neef (Routledge)



Alys Longley created new ways to collaborate in a pandemic. Right: A map from the digital project, and an artistic envelope.



CREATIVE WAYS TO FILL A VACUUM

Associate Professor Alys Longley didn't let a little pandemic get in the way of collaborative global arts projects.

We can all look fondly back on a few things from lockdown 2020. The slower life, the peace and the creative output.

Even people who didn't consider themselves creative found themselves knitting, painting, playing music, creating Tik Tok videos and performing other such endeavours.

For people who 'do creativity' for a living, like Associate Professor Alys Longley from the Dance Studies Programme in Creative Arts and Industries, lockdown forced them to think outside the square if they wanted to collaborate with other artists. "Like everyone else, there were things that I loved, but also aspects that I just found incredibly hard about the lockdown, as an interdisciplinary creative practitioner."

That's when Alys's thought processes stepped up a level, leading to a series of global projects in collaboration with international artist peers.

For one, she worked with DotDot Studio, set up by film studies alumni and Alys's former student Kate Stevenson, and Kate's partner Chris White.

"They've been doing digital game design and working in museum spaces that move between the in-person, exhibition and digital. Digital works co-exist alongside the material creations."

When lockdown happened, Alys and her Chilean collaborator Máximo Corvalán-Pincheira decided to develop a three-part project to connect with artists around the world.

"We started with an analogue postal project and then a digital mapping project, which branched into a performance project with choreographer Macarena Campbell-Parra. But our plan to show the work at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chile got more precarious because of Covid-19, so we developed a digital exhibition site with DotDot."

In the virtual exhibition, you enter a digital world of maps and art and see your image along with whoever else is in that part of the virtual world. If you move your cursor towards someone you can talk to them. If you move away, they can't hear you, much like if you were in an art gallery and chatting to people in different parts of the gallery. On each screen, you can enter a portal that takes you somewhere else in the world where you see another artwork or map or hear sound effects, music or poetry in different languages.

"It's about what I'd call sociality, bringing people together from all over the world because we'd been left in a painful vacuum," says Alys. "Online we could move around fluidly, talking to all the artists or just being there. This artwork is unique."

When you accidentally fall into a portal and find no one in that room, technology again steps in.

"We used WhatsApp to reconnect ... asking people what room they were in. This is like being in an exhibition where there are 20 rooms, and then we lose each other and find each other."

Alys and Máximo are regular collaborators, despite her lack of Spanish and his lack of English.

"We're both very international in our practice.

So to suddenly not be able to connect was like having your arms tied behind your back. It was like, well, how can we continue?"

The first step was the bespoke artwork envelopes that formed the analogue project.

"My partner, Jeffrey Holdaway, is a watercolourist, so the envelopes were beautiful and themselves an artwork. But they also paid tribute to an essential service in the postal worker who could have a little moment of something different as they're sorting the post.

"Each envelope goes to five artists from New Zealand, for example, to Thailand. Thailand to Berlin. Berlin to St Petersburg. St Petersburg to Montreal. Montreal to Santiago."

The artist writes their name on the envelope once they receive it and crosses out the previous name. "Each artist had the responsibility to adapt the envelope to make it correct for their postal system. In the first iteration, some of the envelopes got lost and finally turned up five

months later. When it did, it felt like a miracle!"

Each artist photographs the envelope when it arrives and again before they send it, as well as when they put it in the postbox. "We have all of this video documentation. It's about asserting that art is an essential service in times of emergency."

Since the first iteration, they've created 14 envelopes that have reached 50 artists across all continents.

As well as the envelopes and the digital maps, Alys devised another project in which cardboard and scores were sent to dancers to perform in their communities, and then video. Parts of all three projects are being collated on the digital site *Beberemos El Vino Nuevo, Juntos!* (Let Us Drink the New Wine, Together) and planned for a major exhibition through *BienalSur* – the South Biennial (bienalsur.org/en).

Alys has a long-held affinity with Chile.

"I've always been interested in Chile because of Isabel Allende, Pablo Neruda and Nicanor Parra. I also loved Mexican poetry as a teenager.

At 22, she travelled alone to Brazil and Chile for a dance education conference. "I love the people, the language, the literature, the graffiti.

"I worked in Santiago in 2018, and made work at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights. In 2019, I was in Chile for the *Movimiento Social* – it was amazing to experience the waking up of Chile where suddenly people just refused to compromise with the neoliberal state. It was really intense and powerful to be there."

"I love how political the Chilean people are. They really think about the basics of life every day and they fight for dignity."

Alys – a creative writer, director, dancer, choreographer and poet – says the lockdown projects helped fill the void she felt by not being in a physical space with her dance students.

"I learned a lot about the values underpinning my teaching; how I can reach people, despite a lack of physical presence."

Her interdisciplinary strengths are reflected in her teaching and PhD supervision, including students in mathematics and education, environment, arts and fine arts. Her students are

also culturally diverse. Along with Māori, Pacific and Pākehā, she has recently had students from Colombia, UK, Taiwan, Iran, Austria and Brazil.

Alys says what we're taught early on influences how we feel about dance and movement, but she believes dance is a human right.

"If your heart is beating and your blood is flowing, you can be dancing. Any movement can be dancing ... even tapping your toe."

Rhythm isn't a prerequisite. "You can make your breathing a dance if you want to!

"We become conditioned, from when we're young, that to do something we should be good at doing it or have a certain body shape or a certain level of coordination.

"Part of my work here at the University is to really question that, and say we all have the right to experience our bodies with joy, and to derive joy from the experience of moving.

"If the University recognises creativity, I think it's a better university. We're making space for all the different kinds of ways people think and know in the world. Intelligence isn't just people wearing lab coats and writing books. It's being able to express an idea in a unique way."

■ Denise Montgomery

BIG MOMENTS AT THE ART GALLERY

From Our Beautiful Square is an exhibition at the University's Gus Fisher Art Gallery running until 4 September.

The works in the exhibition reflect on the global lockdowns and foreground the importance of contemplation and responses through paint, sculpture, sound and moving image. The exhibition includes major new site-responsive commissions by artist Jeremy Leatinu'u, a professional teaching fellow at Elam, Salome Tanuvasa and Amy Jean Barnett.

Jeremy will be in the gallery on Saturdays fortnightly reconfiguring his work on 10 and 24 July, 7 and 21 August. Other artists on show are Józef Robakowski (Poland), Hiraki Sawa (Japan) and Lucy Gunning (UK).

On 10 July there's story time in the Gallery for children aged between two and six. Register



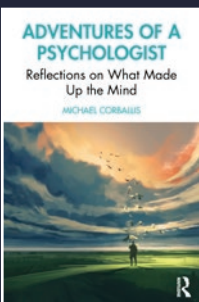
Jeremy Leatinu'u: 'Building monuments and folding forts upon a slippery ocean and a moving sky'.

at tinyurl.com/story-time-gus-fisher. There's also a Monoprinting for Kids workshop on 17 and 24 July. Spaces are limited.

Also at the Gallery, for Matariki, is Heperi Mita's documentary about his mother Merata Mita, *How Mum Decolonised the Screen*. Heperi will take part in a Q and A on Saturday 10 July at 4pm. Register (free): tinyurl.com/gus-fisher-merata

■ More details about Gus Fisher events at: gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz/events-2/

BOOKS



Adventures of a Psychologist: Reflections on What Made Up the Mind
Emeritus Professor of Psychology Michael Corballis tells how the field of cognitive psychology evolved, in this biographical work

featuring stories of prominent psychologists, including himself and his research into brain asymmetry and the evolution of language.

Author: **Michael Corballis, Routledge, \$83**



The Future is Feminine: Capitalism and the Masculine Disorder
Dr Ciara Cremin (Sociology) believes traits associated with masculinity, particularly those that suppress tenderness

and compassion in favour of aggression and dominance, are harmful to ourselves but perfectly suited to the needs of capitalist society.

Read the full story: auckland.ac.nz/ciara-book
Author: **Ciara Cremin, Bloomsbury, \$50**

WOODEN IT BE NICE

After a year of uncertainty, the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in 2021 is open.

La Biennale di Venezia, or Architecture Biennale, is the leading and longest-running architectural event in the world, and runs in alternate years to the Art Biennale, with more than 60 countries participating. It is an invitation for architects and designers to explore questions and possible solutions to respond to social and environmental pressures. Each pavilion is curated in response to an overall theme, which in 2021 is 'how will we live together?'

This year it features the installation *Learning from Trees: Transforming Timber Culture in Aotearoa* from the School of Architecture and Planning. Unusually, the School was invited to exhibit in the Italian Pavilion, which is curated by Professor Alessandro Melis, a former staff member at the School. The theme for the Italian

Pavilion is 'resilient communities', which is reflected in *Learning from Trees*. It was designed to showcase the opportunities offered by the use of timber as a building material, especially in terms of carbon sequestration and earthquake resistance.

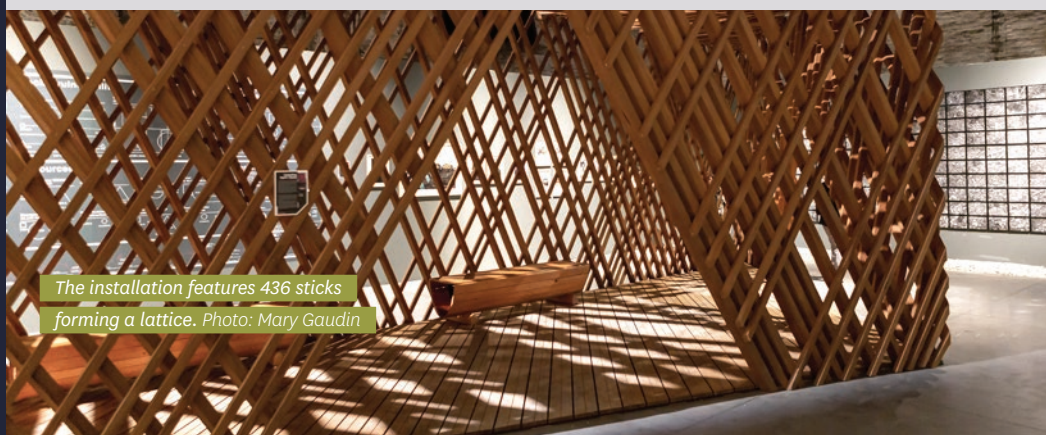
Learning from Trees is a complex lattice-like 35-square-metre wooden structure that looks as if it has been woven. It is comprised of 436 'sticks', 287 brackets and, if the sticks were lined up end-to-end, 1.2 kilometres of timber. Crossing through the enclosure is a long seating bench made from digitally tooled kauri, rescued from a former Housing New Zealand house and which highlights the potential of salvaged and refurbished timber.

Learning from Trees draws on New Zealand's history of building with timber, both our colonial and well as Pacific architectural provenance, which is sometimes described as 'stick architecture'.

The 17th edition of the La Biennale di Venezia runs from 22 May to 21 November 2021.

– Margo White

■ Full story: auckland.ac.nz/learning-from-trees



The installation features 436 sticks forming a lattice. Photo: Mary Gaudin

MĀRAMATANGA

LET'S NOT HIDE OUR HISTORY



Robert Bartholomew says it's time to educate people about a dark chapter of Māori racial segregation because while history may not repeat itself, it speaks to the present.

New Zealand secondary schools do an excellent job of teaching about civil rights in the US and South Africa, but are reluctant to address similar issues in our own backyard. I know. For ten years I taught NCEA Level One History and, like most of my colleagues, I taught about civil rights in the US and South Africa.

There has never been a better time to correct this situation, with the new history curriculum being phased in next year. While it is important to be knowledgeable on global topics, it should not be at the cost of local history. It is time that the history New Zealand schools teach reflects Māori history.

One event that has been neglected is the apartheid-like racial segregation in a number of places, including South Auckland. It is a powerful story that reminds us of just how recent and profound discrimination against Māori was.

From 1925 to 1962, Māori in the South Auckland town of Pukekohe endured racism on a pervasive scale. For example, most barbers refused to cut Māori hair, they were segregated at the cinema and most bars would not serve them alcohol. In the 1950s, the exceptional barber who would cut Māori hair had a special Māori-only chair for fear of offending Pākehā customers. In an interview with University of Auckland researcher Lesley Smith for a 1985 thesis, one Māori elder said: "Even if there was six of us waiting and no one in the Pākehā chairs and the other barber doing nothing, we still had to wait our turn for the Māori chair." *

In the late 1950s, one establishment forced Māori women to sit in a field while alcohol was carried to them. Māori were often relegated to the back of the bus, and if the route from Pukekohe to Auckland was full and a Pākehā passenger boarded, the Māori passenger was forced to stand. At one point, milk bars banned Māori altogether. A 1937 government report noted that not a single business in town let Māori use their public toilets – a practice that persisted into the early 1950s.



Clockwise from far left: Robert Bartholomew; Shack on Pukekohe Hill, housing three adults and three children; Pukekohe Hill housing for a family of at least six. (Photos from the 1929 Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry into the Employment of Māori on Market Gardens.) The People's Voice newspaper, 27 February 1952, exposing segregation at the King's Arms Hotel (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection).

From 1945 to 1952, the local school had segregated bathrooms and swimming pools.

Racial segregation also occurred in other pockets across the country. In Hamilton in 1960, some shops refused to let Māori try on trousers. In Waitara and Kaitaia, there was segregation in the local theatres. At Broadwood District High School in Northland, Māori students could not use the tennis courts at the same time as Pākehā. Segregated toilets were the rule of the day in Kaikohe, Tauranga and Kaitiāia. In some places, there were separate maternity wards and, in one Northland hospital, Māori patients were given enamel mugs, while the Pākehā received chinaware. In 1959, Diana Thomas of Tokoroa wrote that while visiting the Papakura Hotel with her Māori husband four years earlier, they were told: "Māoris are not served here."

She also recalled that while driving across the North Island, they "encountered many hotels where 'Māoris' were not admitted either to drink, dine or stay overnight".

In Pukekohe, there was an unwritten rule not to rent to Māori, forcing them to live at the market gardens on the outskirts of town in converted manure sheds, dilapidated shacks, lean-tos, and tents with no running water or indoor plumbing. **

This tragic saga occurred for many on what had once been their ancestral lands and created a perfect storm for the spread of disease. From 1925 to 1961, 73 percent of all Māori deaths in Pukekohe were infants and children who succumbed to a host of preventable conditions tied to poor housing and malnutrition. Measles, diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis were the main culprits. In 1938 alone, 30 deaths were recorded;

29 were infants and children aged 14 and under. Six years later, little had changed. A reporter for the *Auckland Star* wrote that: "One grower had 15 families totalling 50 people working for him and most of them lived in old manure sheds."

Another family of 12 was crammed into a two-room shack and the deaths continued into the early 1960s.

Any discussion of the challenges faced by Māori today must include an understanding of how we got here. What transpired during the segregation period is an integral part of that story. ■

* Smith, Lesley (1985). *Segregation and Housing in Pukekohe*. Master's thesis, Anthropology, University of Auckland, p. 43.

** Interview with Auckland Police Inspector F. Taylor who addressed a meeting of the Licensing Control Commission, April 1957. "Banned from Bar, Māori Women Drink Outside." *The New Zealand Truth*, 16 April 1957, p. 19. Also referred to in *Confidential – Race Relations in New Zealand*, special report compiled by Department of Maori Affairs, Wellington, May 1961, p. 12.



■ Dr Robert Bartholomew is an honorary senior lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine. His books include *No Māori Allowed* (2020) and *We Don't Serve Māori Here* (2021).

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