

Massey News Articles for 2007

Seventeen Massey New Year honours
Massey teams to head three national education projects
Thai trip encourages new enrolments and partnerships while building bonds with alumni
Roof-collected rainwater fails health test
Animal digestion study may aid human obesity
Uncovering kiwi secrets
Bikes, buses and Shank's Pony campus transport plan gets results
Five new members on Massey Council for 2007
Graduate's 3D car design takes out top prize in US competition
Where serial killers are likely to strike
New Fine Arts and Music partnership established
\$260,000 for hydrogen energy research
Internal project management a winner for new Vet building
Massey gets millions in Government funding to lead research and education projects
Tracing the origins of the kumara
Māori Television's young rugby stars on campus
MacDiarmid an inspiration to young scientists
Pasifika@Massey boosts Pasifika scholarship
Creative arts festival blows into Wellington
Biochemist appointed to National Science Panel
The Bowler Hat is back!
Gay churchgoers abandon mainstream religions
From molecules to mozzarella
Farah Palmer on life after rugby
Design project boosts international competitiveness
Do milkshakes fill the gap?
New head for Māori research unit
On-going fascination with WWII prompts new course
Plans to boost NZ's gene research capacity
Students flood back to campus
Prime Minister to open new Student Centre
How to ease rents and house prices
Saving an iconic Saudi Arabian species
Prime Minister opens new Student Centre
How the world has changed in the lifetimes of this year's crop of students
Controversial story has lessons for drug safety
High transaction fees limit mobile payments
Archives rich fodder for race relations research
10,000 steps launched
Philosopher to study role of forgiveness
Professor appointed to Marsden role
Putting Kiwi authors in cyber-cyclopedia
Maximising education for stronger primary sector
Education is sweeter than a ban
Massey chair for Vision Manawatu
Excellence in Business research
Te Kaiwawao appointed
New head of Commerce appointed
First meeting for college advisory board
Mobile learning technology not so far away

Lo-fi zine at The Engine Room
New board for Allan Wilson Centre
Veterinary profession at the core of primary industries
Collaborate or die
New learning centre strengthens Pasifika links
New education plan for air traffic controllers
Seeking the best Manawatu business plan
Search engines emerge from Google's shadow
Venice Biennale showing for digital media artist
The future of farming in the Manawatu
Fruit for the fridge or the bowl?
Pasifika writings launched
The Beatles as competitive innovators
Breast implants risks underplayed, choices limited
Health study of New Zealand's Indian community launched
Fly the Frasca
New take on predicting stock market returns
Keas' taste for lead endangers wild population
Vets investigating yellow-eyed penguin deaths
Maharey hails Aviation School's new flight simulator
Dairy science leaders at the Riddet Centre
\$17m new home for animal health research:
Charges a barrier to using cellphones to pay for parking, concert tickets
Presidential post for Allan Rae
Hopkirk Institute opening signals new era in animal health research
Fulbright award for sleep scientist
Handpicking graduates for the sports industry
All hands on deck for the Ruapehu lahar
Research to drive the success of SMEs
Cuts in working hours alone won't solve junior doctors' fatigue and error risk
Taste of Big Apple inspires young design graduate
Satellite-tracking the flight of the godwit
Appointment for engineering professor
Fulbright award for sleep scientist
NZ quail may not be extinct say scientists after Haurauki Gulf island discovery
Mapping what matters in museums
Collaboration looks at diversity in online learning
Munich University in study exchange with Massey
Students tackle da Vinci challenge
Is immigration driving trade?
From the Business bookshelf
Teaching excellence awards recognise the best
4SHORE - rising to the expo challenge
Four-year primary teaching qualification a national first
Council report March 2007
Supporting upcoming dairy leaders
New Zealander amongst world cricket injury experts
Misleading food claims cause fresh health concerns
Further deterioration in home affordability
Top scholarships for PhD students
Anti-design for designers
Spate of good weather tipped to lift spirits
Former librarian jailed for book thefts

Bookshelf - In Print
A flying start
Casting off
Fine wines and high finance
The Place
Chosen Land
Battling the Flu
Fine tuned
Monuments, Memory and Meaning
Fixing the Big City Blues
He Iwi Tahi Tatou?
Five Massey players make NZ Universities rugby tour
Music legend lends ear to Massey jazz vocalists
Former refugee graduates with a Social Work degree
Latest research on small business
New survey on the Government's performance
Walkers overstep the mark
Discount insurance offer for friends of Massey
\$6.9 million for social research projects
Masters thesis provides policy-makers with practical advice for small business
Manurewa to Massey – kids get a taste of campus life
World War I photos wanted for publication
Passion for history sees grandmother graduate
Looking after small business
Virtual Careers Fair a NZ first
Young scholar's rapid rise to IT mastery
Masters graduate highlights Tongan successes in NZ
University assignment wins travel writing prize
Week of celebration and academic firsts at Auckland graduation ceremonies
The Vietnam War story for children
Renewal of international accreditation for veterinary graduates
Educators welcome official recognition of dyslexia
Massey a 'natural fit' to provide skills and attributes needed in modern professional pilots
Bacteria responsible for the death of Maui's dolphins
Bollard to address graduates
Pink Ladies ripe for the picking
Trainees take to oil-spill course like ducks out of water
Nursing shortage heading for crisis
Cancer research wins US funding
Hurricane Katrina's lexical storm
Literary award for writing tutor
New head for Graduate Research
Preparing the health services for emergency management
Masters for Extramural student at 79
Improving Māori mental health
Top prize for PhD student
Graduate combines holistic approach with western methods
Work life enhances study, says Māori education grad
Palmerston North PhDs – Graduation 2007
Masterate for Ferns manager
Honorary doctorate for New Zealand sculptor
Showcasing biofuel research
College of Business focuses on indigenous governance research

New position for extramural focus
Distance Education director appointed
Technology grant for learning project
Researchers aim to prevent cases of repeat depression
Celebrating services to health science
In search of the British World
Food Technology Study Awards
Lessons from the Olympics
New leadership for institute
School bullying turns gay teens off education
From the speeches
New PhDs at Auckland
Self-made millionaire: Don't take no for an answer
Ambassador toolkits for schools
Top scholarships for PhD students
Developing skills to tackle contemporary health issues
Taewa elusive this year
Finally, after 14 years – Winifred Andrews BA
Stepping towards better health
Merv back to the wild
Preparing the health services for emergency management
Call for regulation of tele-marketers
Massey scoops third-biggest funding share from national research quality assessment
Funky “FudgeBall” design nets \$2000 scholarship
Zonta awards for top women design graduates
Last minute entry clinches short story award
Buoy racers make a splash with design skills
Papua New Guinea students skill up in banking
Research may boost IVF success rate
Granddaughter of Massey's first PhD follows suit
Kiwi ingenuity led to Antarctic solution
Supercar project picks up speed
Dr Bryant, I presume – husband and wife both Doctors of Philosophy
Beating diabetes a family challenge
Sporting and academic hero Snell's first NZ degree
Dynasty of distance learners
Getting blood out of the lost generation
DNA damage to nuclear test vets prompts call for study of children
Curiosity pays off for journalism graduate
Obo at the top of their game
Feminisation of education a problem for boys and girls
Lord of the Rings star saved by surgery
Alumni launches new apparel
Alumni Affinity Card Scholarships
Malaysian MoU
Pushing for Pasifika recruitment
Highbury scholar a role-model for others
Whirlwind weekend film school ties up Loose Ends
Making music for dancing stars
Major journalism conference
Ako Aotearoa Director appointed
He Waka Tangata appointments
Pasifika staff reach out to Northland's Tongan community

'Owls Do Cry' speaks to teens
Promoting women as leaders
Massey jazzman goes north
College of Sciences building update
From the Wellington speeches - Graduation 2007
Capsule breaks new ground in sport science
New leadership for Musac
Engineering kinetic creativity
Highbury graduations celebrated
Millionaires walk the talk
Businesses performing well in North and South America
Defence Studies Prizegiving
Artist explores gorse possibilities
Online support for diabetes sufferers
New approach to family violence finds favour
The Budget: no bonanza for small business
Council report May 2007
First aid kit for pets wins school business award
Maori health specialist shows no signs of quitting after earning PhD at 74
New research more bad news for Labour
Golden graduates celebrate
Cullen praises music school partnership, pledges \$11m to purpose-built HQ in central Wellington
Wellington celebrates new graduates
Former NY Times staffer to teach global journalism
Mobile computing centre launched
Business students host National Party leader
Professor of Animal Welfare Science and Emeritus Professor of Education take Queen's Birthday honours
World-first living intestine study points to new generation of food and medicines
MPs unite for School of Music
Riddet Centre to share Government's \$200m funding for research excellence
Calling Kiwis around the world
Crash, bash, it's the Wheel Blacks
Centre gets worldwide remit for animal welfare
Health Research Council funds Massey projects
Glimpse of times past at Fieldays
New grads motivate future students
Massey staff receive national awards for teaching excellence
Smokers' lung damage continues even after quitting, study finds
Who should see our health records?
NZ brand smoke row prompts call for plain packaging of all tobacco products
Scientists gather for Evolution 2007
Dire humanitarian consequences predicted in new era of Palestinian politics
Home affordability improves in more regions
Clean energy researcher awarded
Bridging the gap between research and business
Language learning in tandem, online
Ako Aotearoa established
Victoria Cross honour marks significant milestone
Joining forces over contemporary warfighting
Joint scholarships to address gaps in Maori mental health expertise
Matariki heralds a return to tradition
Café high chair among design award finalists
Pasifika students to mentor high school pupils

Business success in nine minutes
Four staff have been awarded Fulbright grants this year
Book explores being takatāpui
Time to tackle troubled youth
Moss to captain team at world uni games in Bangkok
Demand for Māori voice sees second print run for book
Taxi drivers face greater sleep risk
Development specialist to join delegation to Pacific
E-Learning Facilitator appointed
Adoption gets celebrity treatment, stigma remains
International recognition for animal welfare expertise
Distance learning champion aims Massey for top
Seminar calls for more women at the top
Industrial designer inspired by Māori values and mythology
Small town fights back after being abandoned by the big city banks
New opportunities in India for New Zealand IT companies – and management training
America's Cup fans should sleep in
Pregnant women offer insights for asthma research
BZP ban right decision on balance
Higher use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco in gay, lesbian and bisexual population
Massey launches award scheme
Research shows some pregnant women binge drinking
Future-focused graduates prepared for the classroom
School-age entrepreneurs compete for scholarships
Massey psychologists reach out to Auckland community
International role for academic
Fellowships for IVF, diet researchers
Anna Richards named NZU Sportsperson of the Year
Local trust assists Wairarapa students
Robot cars compete
Cool idea wins design award
Faulty fat measure blamed for higher insurance charges
British MPs acknowledge nuclear test veterans report
Blacks take the honours in New Zealand Business Week
Excellence recognised at Parliament
Vet nurse nets nutrition award
Essentials not forgotten in Turbo wax promotion
Engineering and Technology students' skills on show alongside Leonardo da Vinci
Greenhouse gas expert appointed research professor
Free raincoats aid health, self-esteem at low-decile schools
Potter phenomenon boosts learning
FoRST funding for University projects
Not all cherries and bananas for pokie players
Energy conference underway
Spirit of Samoa gets Massey student in rugby design finals
Research highlights steps for improving Māori responsiveness by local government
Robots, sleep, small business and Antarctica covered in University lecture series
Major health study of South Asian women
Team Massey behind top equestrian talent
Film noir specialist co-authors international book
New rugby role for Farah Palmer
Agriculture support impacts on income and health
Wildlife Ward nurses yellow-eyed penguin

Lecturer advises on darker culture for tattoo film
Benefits of male circumcision should be recognised by public health system
Better practices for foreign aid
Fullbright award for education lecturer
International success for finance researcher
Walk on water, fly like a bird at Open Days
Sports academy's second year
Study aims to increase condom use
Pacific neighbours face challenges
Radio gig proves popular for religion professor
PhD student seeks women with weight-loss success stories
Māori women, mental health and maternity
Four of the best for students
Oxford quads for International Business lecturer
Editor gets sound and fury of baby boomer poets
Student tops scores at motor sport academy
Taking science and technology to the small screen
Battling to save the world's endangered tigers
Pasifika head challenges research methods
Auckland lecture series gets under way
Research leaders in flagship lecture series
Why more and more Māori are jumping the ditch
Study finds Māori views on immigration hardening
Food scientist recognised by peers
Visit to Czech Nazi camp inspires Massey author
Politicians-versus-media
New fundamental sciences head brings world-class expertise and equipment to Massey
Richards named NZU Sportsperson of the Year
Massey students teach and learn in Cook Islands classrooms
Council Report July 2007
SME research features in new television series
P still easy to obtain but more middle-class saying no thanks
Baby orca mutilated after death, expert says
Marketing Race Day
Science and business joint venture takes Omega-3 to the world market
Walk on water, fly like a bird at Massey Open Days
Use it or lose it: Maori language in peril
SMEs owners dismissed as second-class citizens
Winning streaks at the Hokonui Fashion Awards
Massey academics feature in Montana Book Awards
Summer swots
Sharing fashion research with the industry
Massey provides largest contingent for World Games team
Reviews - November 2007
Banking experts back monetary policy, suggest new way to privatise SOEs and boost savings
Boom makes surgery viable for dairy cattle
Study confirms New Zealand's high rates of violence against children
International sleep researcher features in Wellington lecture
Contribution to mathematics honoured
Horace on-the-bus collects international award
Noted historian donates Te Kooti paintings to University collection
Agricultural supports impact on income and health
Massey renews agreement with EIT for secondary teaching in Hawkes Bay

World rankings place Massey in top three New Zealand universities
Naked Vets put out new calendar
Music School students perform Caribbean comic opera this week
Chathams research challenges theory on New Zealand prehistory
Energy project powers rural community
Kurt Cobain suicide inspires new exhibition
What boys want from schools and teachers
Kiwi encounter for Conservation Minister
Crossing the Line takes Del Mar Mile
Arts in Flanders fields
Health checks don't go far enough, say literacy researchers
New Zealanders need to learn about finance
Organic cow delivers the trifecta
Fellowship in for Pacific health researcher
Carbon tax back-down nothing for business to celebrate
Latest findings on illicit drug trends
International investment researcher appointed to key Massey job
New appointment advances Pacific cancer research
Teachers must rebuild trust in themselves says veteran educator
What connects people in communities?
CAA says School of Aviation free to resume operations after fatal crash
Teaching excellence recognised (2006)
Individual Researcher award
2005 Postdoctoral Fellowships
Gala dinner celebrates 2004 research and teaching excellence
Inspired wool researcher Euan Roberts (1928-2007)
NARI names new multipurpose hall after Quartermain
Graduate joins design elite in Scotland
Taking nature's cue for heaper solar power
Code-cracking adventures for kura kaupapa kids
Extending science with the synchrotron
Massey lecturer wins UK award
More than \$5 million in scholarships available
Home affordability now down to 1989 levels
Professor takes up prestigious role
New art works at Wellington
Holiday breaks sees more than 1000 computers updated
Kiwi Saver brings new options for staff
Realities of Chinese prison life comes to light in new book
Stockings benefit exercise
Living in the shadow of a slumbering giant...
Sport lecture series
Turnover up for small businesses
Learning languages prize launched for 2008
Performing and publishing Polly
Report urges change for health and safety systems
Battle for better consumer awareness of organics
Open days pull thousands of visitors to campus
Negative media effects on Māori
Doctors of Philosophy at Wellington
Growing literacy gap in NZ a major concern
Investigating evolution and mutation through ancient DNA research
Reserve Bank's liquidity boost a confidence booster

PM acknowledges contribution of science hub at Microscopy Centre opening
Lahar research gets funding from communication company
Risk of deaths if horse flu spreads to New Zealand
Enron journalist to speak at Wellington conference
Maori Television accused of missing language focus
Finance experts urge action to quell investor panic
Fulbright scholarship leads to research on why so few women become sports coaches
Power imbalance in health planning
Workshop explores sustainable farms
Business students take out top prizes in inter-university competitions
Memorial lecture in honour of Sir Hugh Kawharu
Marsden funding for 12 research projects
Boom makes surgery viable for dairy cattle
E7 arrives on schedule but no photos please!
Asthma prevalence may be in decline
Tackling teen problems by helping school counsellors
Christian Centre fundraising launch
Making the finals in Māori writing
Key roles for Psychology staff in professional practice publication
Concept could become cultural showcase blueprint
Government's Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships
Study urges more amity with Asian students
Making lighter work of bollards
Muslim women benefit from project
Wellington General Staff Service Excellence Awards
Conference to launch infant mental health association in New Zealand
PM acknowledges contribution of science hub at Microscopy Centre opening
Kerry Howe receives Distinguished Professor award
Fashion Week pulses with fresh talent
Food pilot plant will do the business
Iguacu tops Hospitality Association Awards
2007 Technicians Awards
Massey University Research Medals 2007
Bucky revealed
Book explores work-life balance
Top trombonist shares jazz genius with Massey students
Top prizes for design students
Health focus for new scholarship
2007 Marsden and Fast-Start Awards
2007 Postdoctoral Fellowships
2007 University Research Fellowships
2007 College Research Awards
2007 Women's Awards
2007 Māori Awards
2007 Early Career Medals
2007 Outstanding Research Team
Consolidating research success
Massey celebrates world-class research
Veterinary school gets full US accreditation
Journalism student earns place in Jakarta
Educators welcome new teaching scholarships
Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue a highlight of NZSM spectacular
Finance leaders caution on over-reactive regulation

Lahars and floods increase demand for health protection officers
Health researchers target diabetes
Eruption debris may extend snow seasons
Papatuanuku inspires exhibition
Rave review for student big band album
More bad news on home affordability
Council sets fees for 2008, pledge renewed effort to lobby Government over tertiary underfunding
Bomb scare at Wellington campus
DNA sequencer first of its kind in Southern Hemisphere
Institute for Advanced Study launched
Massey warning system picks eruption
Māori Visual Arts student wins Te Waka Toi scholarship
French view NZ as primitive Utopia, via Campion
New advisory board members
Keys to successful smaller businesses
Storytelling scholar brings wonder to his classes
More boats a risk for Northland dolphins say marine scientists
Remembering Passchendaele: New Zealand's darkest day
Creative talents honoured at new Hall of Fame
Massey Blues honour New Zealand athletes
Entrepreneurship subject of lecture
Meeting modern security needs
Art in Flanders Fields
Injured athlete steps out for sports awards
Rural property prices set to rise further
Massey free bus service chosen as finalist in national energy efficiency awards
Cycling campaign praised
Mystery of the albatross may soon be solved
Massey film expert off to US as Fulbright lecturer
Great mate named Agriculture Student of the Year
Multi-million dollar Maori achievement programme challenged.
Time to debate political policing
Dibble exhibition on campus
Record number of Horticulture NZ scholars at Massey
Top awards for Massey design students and staff
Accelerated lambing can work, despite no rush from farmers
Flagging interest in food puts older single men at risk
Emergency research into Maori needs acclaimed
Don't blame the coach, the players or the ref, blame the coin
New Zealand contender for US scholarship
Poverty written out of policy
Sportsmen and sportswomen of the year named at Blues awards functions
Maharey returns to Massey
All Blacks brand will survive World Cup knockout
Engineers declare open season on ducks
Regrets, I've had a few...
University's High Achiever Scholarships awarded
First Peter Snell doctoral scholarships awarded
Two fellowships for Maori doctoral researchers
Journalism student wins Alex Veysey Memorial Prize
Weight reduction surgery won't work without counselling
Hitting the treadmill with intelligence
New scholarships for technology entrepreneurs

Optimisation of Services' Delivery project update
Clubs, societies and arts winners
University scholarship recipients share in \$3.7m allocation
\$50,000 boost for business start-ups
Sport management students still raising the bar
Regional awards grow capability in organisations
Thesis hailed as year's best work
Postgraduate hui a step forward for Māori students
Students choose top lecturer
Teaching coaches better game tactics
Student Centre and Hopkirk win building awards
Songs and stories a tool for iwi business success
Teaching excellence focus of VC Symposium next month
Public relations students win national award
Massey student-staffer wins phonebook art award
Smoking up in drug, tobacco and alcohol trends
Textile design industry fetes top students
New book opens the wardrobe on New Zealand clothing
Mid-career males turn to teaching in greater numbers
Kiwifruit packer bolsters industry capability
Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards 2008
Printery wins top Australasian awards
Scientists win chemistry award
Lecturer spreads word on maths
Survey shows corporate commitment to sustainability
Creative festival winds up
Secondary teacher pay ratification brings benefits
Ako Aotearoa launched
Nutritionists debate what to eat
Key British agriculturists briefed on climate change
New fellows to Royal Society
Award honours ergonomics expert
Another record number for November graduation - Graduation 2007
Virtual Eve: first in human computer interaction
Research shows few children receive a healthy lunch
National roles for Massey student leaders
Stepping up to curriculum changes
University to honour Tuwharetoa chief
Noisy toys damage children's hearing
Four Claude McCarthy fellowships for Massey
Tuwharetoa leader receives Honorary Doctorate
Roving spycam opens up a world of possibility
New building for Massey Chaplains
Zonta honours top designers
Wellington shoppers get to strut their suburb
Women mayors more team oriented than heroic individuals, study finds
Maori staff PhDs a boost for College of Business
Benefits outweigh the costs of rainwater harvesting
Role of childhood activity and diet in adult obesity
Record 26 new doctorates capped in November
Researchers to China in search of rare monkey
Martin speaks at Outward Bound
Top sportspeople recognised

Avoiding sun a health risk for South Asians in New Zealand
Fruit and veg costing families a packet
Security warning for medal collectors
Reflections
Journalism under the microscope
Fat cats under dietary spotlight
Low-fat milk 'for chicks' say Kiwi blokes
Journalists master statistics
New papers in communication launched
Men more optimistic than women on economy
Journalists lack general knowledge, says PM
Enron lessons unheeded in New Zealand
Sharing ideas the best part of teaching excellence symposium
Academics named in New Zealander of the Year Awards
Meanings make stolen medals irreplaceable
New award recognises outstanding service to Massey
Robin Hapi appointed TEC Commissioner
Biochar research centre key to fighting climate change
Critical look behind boardroom doors
Massey Investment Plan approved
Photos from the Christmas garden party at Whararata
Rents rise 7.4 per cent in past year
Better services needed for families living with mental illness
Joys of letter-writing alive and well
University staff named in New Year's Honours

Seventeen Massey New Year honours

Three senior academics at Massey University Professor Robert Anderson, Distinguished Professor David Parry and Dr Farah Palmer received awards in the 2007 New Year's Honours list.

Former staff member Professor Graeme Fraser and 14 alumni of the University were also honoured in the list.

The University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says she sends her warmest congratulations to all staff members, former staff members and alumni who were acknowledged in the list. Such honours are a mark of significant achievement in their academic fields as well as in their contribution to the community.

Professor Robert Anderson becomes an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to science, education and cricket. He is Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University's College of Sciences and is also a Massey alumnus.

Distinguished Professor Parry is the former head of the University's Institute of Fundamental Sciences. A world-ranked researcher in fibrous proteins, Professor Parry becomes a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his contribution to biophysics.

Dr Farah Palmer is a senior lecturer in coaching and sport management in the College of Business. A former, longstanding captain of the Black Ferns, she also becomes an Officer of the Order of Merit, for services to women's rugby and sport.

Emeritus Professor Graeme Fraser is a former Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and a former Professor of Sociology at Massey. He becomes a Companion of the Order, for his services to education and the community.

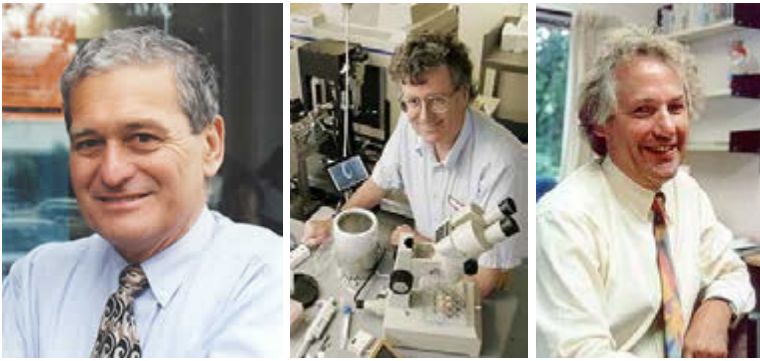
Massey alumnus Lieutenant Commander Wayne Burton of the Royal New Zealand Navy becomes an Additional Officer of the Order.

Other University alumni whose contributions were acknowledged in the New Year Honours list were: Raewyn Clark for services to the community, Raymond Clarke for public services, Nicolette Darlow for services to the community, Rae Julian for public services, Peter Kerridge for services to rugby league and the community, Neville Mosley of the Corp of Royal New Zealand Engineers, Philip Palfrey and Kevin Reilly both for public services, Mary Schnackenberg for services to people with visual impairments, Darryl Tracy from the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, and Mark Wheeler and Mathew Williams from the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Date: 01/01/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



Professor Mason Durie Professor Geoff Jameson and Gordon Suddaby

Massey teams to head three national education projects

Massey University will lead three of the 11 tertiary education projects to receive \$9.7 million Government Innovation and Development Funding in the latest round.

They are:

- Establishment of an inter-university Māori academic network to be led by Professor Mason Durie.
- Creation of a New Zealand synchrotron support programme led by Professor Geoff Jameson.
- Co-ordination and implementation of e-learning guidelines across the tertiary sector led by Gordon Suddaby.

Professor Durie, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) says academic leadership is under pressure due to demand by government agencies and other organisations for qualified Māori staff.

He says universities are finding it hard to replace senior Māori staff in leadership roles, despite increasing numbers of Māori obtaining degrees and other tertiary qualifications partly because the pay rates for academics cannot match either the private or public sector.

Funding, the amount still to be finalised, has been offered by the Tertiary Education Commission for a project to be known as MANU-AO (Māori Academic Network across Universities in Aotearoa), which Professor Durie chairs. It may include a virtual marae for academics to share teaching and research ideas.

Professor Jameson says the successful application Massey made on behalf of Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago Universities will facilitate New Zealand scientists' access to the \$A220 million Australian Synchrotron facility, to be launched this year in Melbourne.

A synchrotron is a huge machine about the size of a football field that creates beams of extremely intense light a million times brighter than the sun. These are channelled into workstations and can be used simultaneously.

The Melbourne synchrotron will feature 10 beams that will benefit many areas of research across the University, including structural biology, nanomaterials research, soil science, and medical imaging in the veterinary school. He says it is very complementary to Massey's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance suite and X-ray crystallography facilities.

"It's a truly multi-use piece of equipment. It will transform basic science and applied science as well. It can be used not just for blue skies research but also in fields like engineering and technology. With any process which needs light, the Synchrotron will do it better – from hard X-ray light through to infrared."

The e-learning guidelines project will cost about \$930,000 and involves 20 collaborative partners from across the tertiary sector, including four other universities, 12 polytechnics, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiāraangi, and private training providers including the New Zealand Tertiary College.

Mr Suddaby says the initiative is innovative and important and, because of its sector-wide involvement, probably unique in international education terms. It would build on earlier work, also led by Massey.

"The project provides a mechanism for introducing, developing, trialling, evaluating, and sharing exemplars of e-Learning guidelines developed in the New Zealand context."

Date: 02/01/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Funding



The delegation to Thailand at the Khon Kaen alumni function on 31 August, from left: Dr Duangrat Thongphak, Andrea Flavel, Professor Ian Warrington, Leanne Fecser, Dr Prachak Bouphan, Associate Professor Dr Tipvanna Ngarmsak, Professor Ray Winger, Associate Professor Dr Suwit Laohasiriwong, Supachai Ngarmsak, Dr Suthan Kanchanatawee, Professor James Chapman, Dr Sripanya Chaiyai, Professor Chris Moore.

Thai trip encourages new enrolments and partnerships while building bonds with alumni

A delegation of Massey staff has returned from a successful visit to Thailand that is like to boost enrolments as well as cement growing relationships with Massey alumni there and Thai universities.

The trip, organised by staff of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington, included Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman, Professor Warrington, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Distance Learning) Professor Chris Moore from the College of Business, Professor Ray Winger from the College of Sciences, Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies Director Andrea Flavel and Alumni Relations Manager Leanne Fecser.

Seminars were held in the cities of Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen on 27, 29 and 31 August, with alumni functions in the evenings at each venue.

Professor Warrington says the seminars attracted about 170 people and he anticipated more than 10 new PhD enrolments could result immediately, along with several groups and individuals signing up with the English studies and University preparation centre.

Ms Flavel says she returned with two PhD applications in hand and waiting in her office were two requests for proposals for group courses of up to 35 participants, and a request to deliver a block course in Thailand.

"It was a very successful trip from the Centre and the University's perspective."

Professor Chapman concurs. "From the College of Education's perspective, the trip was very fruitful," he says. "I held individual meetings with a number of prospective doctoral students, two of whom had very well prepared thesis proposals for me to consider. I also had productive meetings with staff from various Thai universities, including Kasetsart University and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University.

"I anticipate having more post-graduate Education students from Thailand than any other Asian country. A large part of the success of the trip was due to the exceptionally good organisation and format of the seminars. Professor Warrington's arrangements and well developed links in Thailand have served Massey well."

Professor Moore says the trip provided an opportunity to develop "2 plus 2" partnerships with Thai universities, whereby students study for two years in their own country then carry credits across to Massey for a further two years.

Mrs Fecser says Massey has 229 alumni living in Thailand and this was the first attempt to bring them together at a University function in their country.

"It was a tremendously successful trip that has laid the groundwork for future relationship building," she says. "About 15 per cent of the alumni in the entire country were able to attend one of the three functions, which isn't bad considering the distances involved, how busy people are and, of course, many of them were out of the country anyway. The people we met were great. They genuinely loved Massey and had fond memories of their

time here and were keen to maintain those links."

Professor Winger says the College of Sciences will be progressing possible two-plus-two undergraduate arrangements with King Mongkut's University of Technology and Kasetsart University.

"There was strong interest from several universities to develop direct links to Massey with shared masterate programmes in food science and technology," Professor Winger says. "At least three PhD students wish to enrol at Massey in the food area and there was enthusiastic interest in other areas of Science.

"This was a very effective activity for Massey -- our presence was widely known throughout Thailand, even by those not attending the seminars."

One alumnus, Associate Professor Suwit Laohasiriwong, who is President of Nakhon Phanom University, has agreed to act as Massey's Alumni Ambassador to Thailand and will help maintain the links that Mrs Fecser hopes will lead to the establishment of networks (equivalent to the New Zealand and Australian Alumni Chapters) in Thailand in 2009.

Professor Moore says he believes the trip lifted Massey's profile in Thailand substantially. "These types of trip are essential to maintaining a profile in countries like Thailand. The alumni certainly appreciated the effort Ian and Leanne put into making it a success. Massey has many very loyal and influential alumni around the world and events like this go a long way maintaining and building loyalty to Massey - it pays dividends in the long run through networks that support Massey and encourage students to come to Massey for undergraduate and postgraduate study."

Just prior to this trip, on 18 August, Massey Development and Alumni Director Mike Freeman attended a reunion in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur of about 70 Massey graduates, mostly food technology students in the 1980s, many of whom are now prominent in the Malaysian education, business and political sectors.

Date: 10/01/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni



Watch the ONE news item - [Dialup 56k](#) or [Broadband 128k](#)

Roof-collected rainwater fails health test

Drinking water from your roof carries a significant risk of illness, according to a five-year study from Massey University.

More than half of 560 samples from private dwellings in New Zealand exceeded the minimal standards for contamination and 30 percent showed evidence of heavy faecal contamination.

I'm utterly amazed at the number of roof water supplies that fail the New Zealand drinking water standards, says Stan Abbott, a microbiologist at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Roof-collected rainwater consumption is popular because the public believes that rainwater is pure and safe to drink, says Mr Abbott, who is Director of the Roof Water Research Centre at Massey's Wellington campus.

More than 400,000 New Zealanders depend on roof-collected rainwater systems for their drinking water, especially those living on farms, lifestyle blocks or baches that are not served by town water supplies.

The likely sources of the contamination were faecal material deposited by birds, frogs, rodents and possums, and dead animals and insects, either on the roof, gutters, or water tank. Contamination can lead to gastrointestinal diseases from pathogens including salmonella, campylobacter, giardia and cryptosporidium.

Simple steps such as installing down-pipe debris screens and a first-flush diverter will reduce the risk of contracting waterborne diseases, he says. A first-flush diverter is a device that reduces contamination of the tank water by diverting the first flush of contaminated water after a rain-fall event so that contaminants do not enter the tank. Recent research at Massey University has shown spectacular improvements in water quality in the storage tanks linked to first flush diverters.

While relatively few disease outbreaks linked to contaminated roof-collected rainwater have been reported in New Zealand, Mr Abbott says indications are that there is massive under-reporting of illnesses associated with contaminated roof water.

The lack of evidence linking illness and poor quality roof water inhibits moves to improve systems delivering rainwater for consumption.

Although it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure drinking water is clean, he says information on the safe collection and storage of roof-collected rainwater seems not to be reaching many people.

Accurate communication of the health risks of contaminated roof water is necessary so that the consumers can manage the risks.

The Building Act requires premises to be provided with potable water for consumption, oral hygiene, utensil washing and food preparation. Under Section 39 of the Health Act it is illegal to let or sell a house unless there is a supply of potable water.

Roof-water users can reduce their risks of disease from contaminated rainwater consumption by regular maintenance and using a well-designed system, says Mr Abbott.

Date: 17/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Animal digestion study may aid human obesity

A study of the ways in which different feed types and pasture cultivars mix and flow in the digestive tracts of sheep has applications to the development of nutritional treatments for human obesity.

Massey's Associate Professor Roger Lentle is collaborating with visiting French researcher Associate Professor Karim Bekkour to design a system to measure the extent to which feed mixes and flows through the digestive tracts of ruminants.

By looking at what happens, to different types of feed in the digestive tract, we will find which ones mix best in the rumen, and which animals consequently spend less energy digesting Dr Lentle says.

Dr Lentle says although animal scientists have previously focused on feed conversion rates (how quickly the nutrients are accessed) not much is known about the influence of feed varieties on the mixing of digesta (food in the process of being digested). They will also investigate the effect of additives to feed, in particular the effect of additives that encourage large particles to slide over each other and mix more efficiently in digestion.

He says the results of this project will have applications for human health and the development of treatments for obesity.

The flipside of knowing how to increase the digestibility of feeds for animals is knowing which materials decrease digestibility, and this can be applied to human nutrition and the development of food additives which may slow the digestive process, meaning people feel fuller for longer.

Dr Lentle is an internationally-leading specialist on digestive tracts and rheology (the flow and morphology of materials) in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health and at the University's Palmerston North campus.

Dr Bekkour is a petroleum engineer from the Louis Pasteur University, Institute of Fluid and Solid Mechanics, Strasbourg, France, who specialises in the rheology of drilling fluids. Dr Bekkour's visit to Massey is funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Date: 18/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Uncovering kiwi secrets

Where does a mother kiwi go to while dad sits on an egg for months? Are kiwis faithful to their mates or do they have multiple liaisons? These questions and other kiwi secrets are under the close scrutiny of a Massey researcher camped out over summer with a brown kiwi population on a Hauraki Gulf island.



PhD student Birgit Ziesmann is studying the mating system and the social organisation of the North Island brown kiwi. Overall, brown kiwi populations are in serious decline due to predation and habitat destruction. However, Birgit is amongst a high density population on privately owned land on a Gulf island, just half an hour from Auckland city. For security reasons, the exact location of this thriving group of brown kiwi can't be disclosed, but the large nature of the group is ideal for her research purposes.

The larger number of birds in one place increases the opportunity for contact between birds and Birgit has fitted tiny radio transmitters onto 38 kiwi both male and female to track their movements and contacts.



Typically there are two hatchings of young a year, the first in August and the second lot of chicks appearing around December. The large eggs take up to 85 days to hatch, solely incubated by the male. Until now, scientists have not known where the female parent goes or what she does while her egg is incubating.

The females, just sort of wander off, unaccounted for during this time, says Birgit who may be the first researcher to go in pursuit.

Its been assumed that kiwi formed long term bonds but from the data we've collected its revealed that female kiwi could be mating with a different male while her first partner incubates. This increases the likelihood of these kiwi having a polyandrous mating system where the female has chicks to more than one male partner, says Birgit.

She expects genetic evidence may confirm this from analysis she is doing back at the Albany based laboratories of the University's Auckland campus. She is a member of the conservation and ecology group in the Institute of Natural Resources.



She says the research will close a gap in knowledge about the kiwi's reproductive ecology in dense populations.

It will have important implications for effective management and monitoring plans for mainland populations and for further introductions of kiwi onto New Zealand safe offshore islands.

Date: 19/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Bikes, buses and Shank's Pony campus transport plan gets results

Increasing numbers of Massey students and staff are walking, cycling and catching buses to and from work, according to the latest review of the University Palmerston North campus transportation issues.

The review, by Opus International Consultants, has investigated the impact of the introduction of a free bus service, parking charges, improved cycling facilities and other measures over the past three years aimed at improving the environment and sustainable use of the campus sites at Turitea and Hokowhitu.

Based on a survey of the 448 of the more than 25,000 students and staff, Opus found:

- + The percentage driving cars to campus has almost halved since the last survey in 2003, from 67 per cent to 38 per cent.
- + The percentage of bus users has more than trebled, from 8 per cent to 27 per cent.
- + For the first time in many years the number of cyclists is rising.
- + The number of built car parking spaces on campus has reduced by 200.

The Regional Registrar for Facilities Management, Paul Compton, says it is a significant achievement to buck the national trends of building more car parks and more roads.

New halls of residence on campus have also helped increase the number of students walking to lectures and tutorials. Those halls also provide student residents easy access to the bus terminal so they aren't as reliant on cars as in previous years, Mr Compton says.

Reversing the seemingly terminal downward trend of cycling had been aided by providing secure cycle parking facilities and promotions of cycling with cycle campaign groups on campus.

The free bus service, available to all students and staff on any city route at any time or day of the week, has been a huge success, with the two year trial recently extended for a further five years. The number of bus users far exceeds original expectations and continues to increase, Mr Compton says. This has wider implications for the city as well, such as reducing car traffic over Fitzherbert Bridge by 5 per cent, which reduces the rates burden on local taxpayers in the long term and boosts public transport in Palmerston North.

Massey has been actively working on its transportation plan for more than a decade, having foreseen the problems associated with increased use of private vehicles. I think it's quite inspiring to see something concrete being achieved, proving that the current environmental and transport changes that we hear so much about in the media, can be reversed. I can't think of any other universities or cities in New Zealand where this has been achieved so dramatically.

And Mr Compton is happy to practice what he preaches. He eschewed the car park his role as a department head entitles him to and has cycled to work since arriving at Massey just over a year ago. When I do need to bring the car in, I park in the \$2-a-day car park like everyone else.

Date: 24/01/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Services

Five new members on Massey Council for 2007

The Massey University Council has five new members following Court of Convocation and staff elections and changes in student appointments.

The two new members elected by the Court of Convocation are Susan Baragwanath, of Auckland, and Bruce Ullrich, of Christchurch.

Dr Baragwanath is a former Massey extramural student and research affiliate and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Massey in 2005. She was founder of the chain of 35 He Huarahi Tamariki Schools for teenage parents.

Mr Ullrich, OBE, is an accountant who runs an international business firm with close links to the Chinese education sector. He has been Chef de Mission of three New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams, has an accountancy degree from Canterbury and an MBA from Massey.

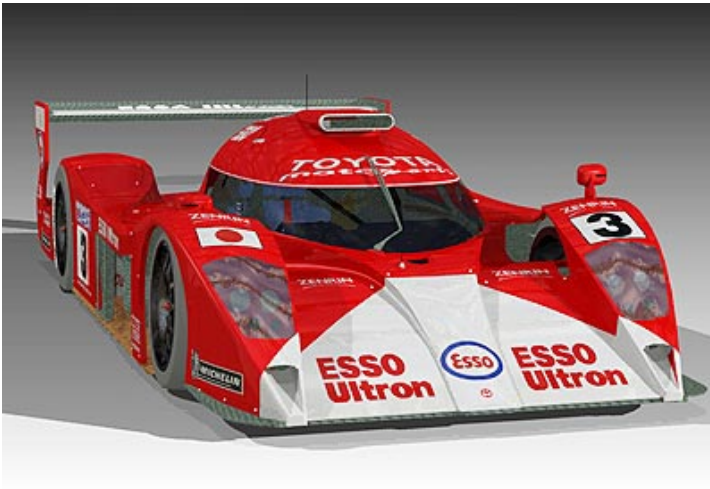
Colin Anderson, from the School of Language Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, is the new academic staff member. Andrea Davies, Regional Director of the Auckland Campus was re-elected by the general staff for a further four year term.

The new student members are Students Association president Paul Falloon and Veronica Tawhai who was nominated by the Māori Students' Association.

Date: 25/01/2007

Type: University News

Categories: University Council



Graduate's 3D car design takes out top prize in US competition

Tim Renton, a Bachelor of Technology graduate who majored in product development, has won a United States design award for three-dimensional modeling.

Mr Renton, aged 22 from Auckland, has been named winner in the first of what will be an annual competition run by Spatial, of Westminster, Colorado, a world leader in the creation of computer-aided design (CAD) packages.

He took the US\$5000 cash prize for his model Toyota GTi race car. Judges were impressed with the accuracy and detail of his entry in a competition which aims to demonstrate the innovative use of CAD system's design and documentation capabilities.

Associate Professor Olaf Diegel, who teaches CAD at Massey, says 3D design is rapidly becoming a core element of product development and engineering design.

Date: 26/01/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Where serial killers are likely to strike

New research from two United States universities and Massey University is the first to throw light on regional differences in serial killing.

It shows that people who live in areas with high rates of divorce, one-person households and unemployment are more likely to become victims of serial killers.

The study was led by University of Connecticut Emeritus Sociology Professor James DeFronzo, working with researchers from Northeastern University in Boston and Villanova University in Pennsylvania, and Dr Jane Prochnow from Massey University's College of Education.

They looked at the considerable interstate and regional differences in serial killer activity in the United States, with people in Western states more likely to become victims than people in the Northeast, and people in California almost three times more likely to become victims.

The study examined male serial killers from 1970 to 1992 using sociological perspectives identified in earlier research by Professor DeFronzo and Dr Prochnow.

It found that social structural factors, such as higher percentages of urban population, divorced residents, one-person households and unemployed residents, all helped to explain why some states and regions are home to more male serial killers.

Dr Prochnow says this is partly explained by the increased vulnerability of divorced people, those in one-person households, and the unemployed.

The researchers also looked at the socialisation of serial killers as children but concluded that the availability of targets or victims is a stronger factor in where serial killing occurs.

The study also found that states with more "legitimate" violence (use of the death penalty, higher rates of hunting licences, subscriptions to magazines, enlistment in the national guard and higher rates of violent television viewing) had higher rates of serial killers.

The report says females have more diverse motives for serial murders, but a large majority of male serial killers are sexually motivated and about 10 percent appear to suffer from disorders, such as extreme forms of paranoid schizophrenia.

Dr Prochnow says psychiatric analyses have been used to understand male serial killer activity, but this has not explained the considerable geographic differences that exist. "Many serial killers have had typically traumatic childhoods and childhood behavioural problems like abusing little animals and younger children. We were interested in the relation of structural and cultural variables as opposed to explaining the brutal actions of these killers simply in psychological terms."

The study is believed to be the first to show that both cultural and social structural factors play a role in the incidence of serial killing. Dr Prochnow says while it focused on the United States because of regional subcultures and state differences in laws, including the death penalty, the findings are relevant elsewhere. "The structural variables which are indicators of vulnerable targets for serial killers are relevant to most societies, especially more developed societies. You would expect that other places, including in New Zealand, Australia, Britain, or Canada, which have higher percentages of one person households, divorced people and unemployed would also have higher rates of male serial killers."

Dr Prochnow is a senior lecturer in the College of Education at Massey University. Her areas of research include behavioural disorders, delinquency, and cultural capital. She has collaborated with Professor DeFronzo on earlier research related to behaviour problems in adolescents.

The full report is available at: <http://hsx.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/11/1/3.pdf>

Date: 29/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

New Fine Arts and Music partnership established

New Zealand music and fine arts students will benefit from a new exchange programme with a leading British arts college.

The programme is being set up by Professor Matthew Marshall, who has been appointed to a one-year position as Acting Director of Music at Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England. He has taken a year's leave of absence from his position as Interim Co-Director of the New Zealand School of Music.

A wide range of artists have been attracted to Dartington over the years, notably tenor Peter Pears, musician Ravi Shankar, and composers Igor Stravinsky, John Cage, and Benjamin Britten.

Dartington offers five fields of study: music, theatre, art, choreography and writing. Students are able to combine study in more than one field and gain a broader understanding of contemporary arts practice and research.

Since his appointment in August last year, Professor Marshall has been involved in contextual enquiry project supervision, music performance and teaching, and cross-disciplinary performance. "The ability to work within and between different contemporary arts disciplines has a particular attraction for me," he says.

"I've been fascinated by the fact that arts disciplines are often allowed to develop quite separately from each other, yet when they are combined, the creation of unique and novel concepts becomes possible."

Date: 29/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts



\$260,000 for hydrogen energy research

A Massey scientist working on the development of nano-materials that could reduce global reliance on oil has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Dr Aaron Marshall, a researcher in the Institute of Technology and Engineering at the University's Palmerston North campus, has been awarded \$260,000 to carry out the three-year study.

Dr Marshall's research has the potential to place New Zealand as a world-leader in the production of nano-materials used in hydrogen energy technology.

His aim is to prepare nano-sized (dimensions of around 100,000 times smaller than the thickness of a human hair) particles for use inside water electrolyzers. Water electrolyzers make hydrogen and oxygen by splitting water molecules, which is normally a slow process requiring large amounts of power. These nano-sized particles can speed up this process and reduce the amount of power required. Dr Marshall says the process is the reverse of that used in fuel cells, with water and electricity used in the cell to produce hydrogen gas.

"Natural gas is the most common source of hydrogen used in fuel cells, which of course is not sustainable. Water electrolysis is a clean and simple way to produce hydrogen gas from electricity," he says.

The electrolyzers he is developing will compete in supplying hydrogen gas for industry and automotive fuel cell applications. If hydrogen is produced in electrolyzers using electricity from renewable sources, the gas is a completely clean and renewable energy carrier with the potential to replace oil as a main fuel source.

Dr Marshall developed chemical processes to produce nano-sized particles as a PhD student at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Norway. In May 2006 he was awarded the Exxon Mobil Prize for his doctoral research and returned to Massey to take up a post-doctoral position.

Date: 29/01/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



Internal project management a winner for new Vet building

Massey's new Equine and Farm Services Building has been completed at just under \$1 million, the largest building project managed internally by Regional Facilities Management staff.

Project manager Brian Goldfinch says the decision to manage the project inside Massey reduced consultancy costs to less than \$57,000, just under half what would normally be expected on a project of the size.

"We probably saved another \$60,000 on building costs by keeping the design simple," Mr Goldfinch says.

The building, on the Palmerston North campus, will be used by Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences staff as a treatment centre for farm animals and horses as well as a teaching facility for students.

Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director Dr Frazer Allan says the building has its own reception area, enabling the existing part of the hospital to be devoted to companion animals. "Part of our objective is to better reach and service the growing number of lifestyle blocks in the region," Dr Allan says.

He describes the total cost as "exceptional value for money given the [608 square metres] size of the building".

One area the University did not attempt to cut costs in was insulation. In line with the University's Environmental Policy, insulation levels were greatly increased to maximise the energy efficiency of the building including higher "R" values in wall and ceiling insulation and under slab polystyrene insulation. Other energy saving initiatives included the use of efficient light fittings, good design and controlling as much of the heating and lighting as possible via the University's Building Management System.

The building contractor was Colspec Construction, designers were Geoff Pearce of RFM and Brian Greig Architectural Services. Specialist services were designed by Rick Budd and Sean Lynch of RFM, while structural design was provided by Kevin O'Connor and Associates.

Date: 29/01/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science; Services





Million dollar smiles: Dr Mark Goellner, Professor Tony Parker, Professor Duncan Joiner, Associate Professor Anders Warell, Professor Claire Massey, Rodney Adank, and Lyn Garrett.

Massey gets millions in Government funding to lead research and education projects

Research and education projects run or led by Massey staff have been the recipients of several million dollars worth of Government funding already this year.

A project focusing on desirable design has been awarded a \$1 million grant for a two-year project that will see the University collaborate with manufacturers such as Navman, Macpac, Gallagher Group and Tait Electronics.

It is one of two projects funded through the Tertiary Education Commission's Growth and Innovation Pilot Initiatives.

Director of Affect, the Centre for Affective Design at the University's Wellington campus, Dr Anders Warell says the grant will improve capability in research, teaching and consultancy to industry.

"It provides us with new options to engage with industry and make our industrial design programmes more relevant. We aim to integrate affective design concepts into industry's mindset and processes."

Affective design is about tailoring products that people bond with emotionally, such as the iPod or VW Beetle.

The project aims at boosting New Zealand manufacturers and designers international competitiveness through focusing on design for desirability.

A team headed by Professor Bob Hodgson has been granted \$164,132 to develop well-qualified ICT professionals.

This project will identify the knowledge and skills gaps of people who work in engineering and computer science-related roles, but lack formal graduate qualifications. It aims to design a qualification that will bring their skills up to graduate level.

The University will lead three of the 11 tertiary education projects to receive \$9.7 million Government Innovation and Development Funding in the latest round.

They are:

- Establishment of an inter-university Māori academic network to be led by Professor Mason Durie.
- Creation of a New Zealand synchrotron support programme led by Professor Geoff Jameson.
- Co-ordination and implementation of e-learning guidelines across the tertiary sector led by Gordon Suddaby.

The synchrotron support programme will get \$500,000 and the e-learning project about \$930,000, while funding for the Māori academic network has yet to be finalised.

Professor Durie, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) says academic leadership is under pressure due to demand by government agencies and other organisations for qualified Māori staff.

He says universities are finding it hard to replace senior Māori staff in leadership roles, despite increasing numbers of Māori obtaining degrees and other tertiary qualifications partly because the pay rates for academics

cannot match either the private or public sector.

Professor Jameson says the successful application Massey made on behalf of Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago Universities will facilitate New Zealand scientists' access to the \$A220 million Australian Synchrotron facility, to be launched this year in Melbourne.

A synchrotron is a huge machine about the size of a football field that creates beams of extremely intense light a million times brighter than the sun. These are channelled into workstations and can be used simultaneously in areas of science including structural biology, nano-materials research, soil science, and medical imaging in the veterinary school.

“It will transform basic science and applied science as well,” Professor Jameson says. “With any process which needs light, the synchrotron will do it better – from hard X-ray light through to infrared.”

The e-learning guidelines project involves 20 collaborative partners from across the tertiary sector, including four other universities, 12 polytechnics, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, and private training providers including the New Zealand Tertiary College.

Mr Suddaby says the initiative is innovative and important and, because of its sector-wide involvement, probably unique in international education terms. It would build on earlier work, also led by Massey.

“The project provides a mechanism for introducing, developing, trialling, evaluating, and sharing exemplars of e-Learning guidelines developed in the New Zealand context.”

Also this year Dr Aaron Marshall, a researcher in the Institute of Technology and Engineering, has been awarded \$260,000 post-doctoral fellowship by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Dr Marshall will carry out the three-year study on the development of nano-materials that could reduce global reliance on oil and potentially place New Zealand as a world-leader in hydrogen energy technology.

Date: 30/01/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Funding; Research

Tracing the origins of the kumara

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Genetic analysis of kumara by Massey scientists will determine whether they are varieties cultivated by Māori in pre-European New Zealand or varieties descended from those that travelled with early 19th Century whalers and sealers.

The question of their origin is at the heart of a Waitangi Tribunal claim to flora and fauna, and PhD student Andrew Clarke will be able to provide an answer within the year.

A researcher in the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution at the University's Palmerston North campus, Mr Clarke is analysing the DNA of the Polynesian kumara to trace the movements of pre-European Polynesians.

Using DNA fingerprinting, he is testing the theory that the kumara was introduced to Polynesia from South America about 1000 years ago. His research, supervised by Biology Professor David Penny, demonstrates how DNA from plants and animals that Polynesians took with them on their voyages can be used to reconstruct patterns of human movement in the Pacific.

Mr Clarke is studying the leaves of three varieties of kumara (Hutihuti, Taputini and Rekamaroa) that are not grown commercially but are maintained by the Government's Crop and Food Research Institute and Māori groups. He says the Owairaka Red, the most common variety on supermarket shelves, is definitely related to a type introduced by Europeans in the 1860s.

"It's clear that Māori had some kumara varieties before European arrival but it is also clear that American varieties were introduced. So we are looking to find exactly when this happened," Mr Clarke says.

"It's a case of answering ethno-botanical questions with genetic tools."

He says the historical evidence of the kumara's journey currently being presented in the Tribunal case, gathered through written material such as shipping records, complements evidence based on genetics genetic research.

The Allan Wilson Centre is a Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence directed by Massey Professors David Penny and Mike Hendy and which combines expertise from Massey, Auckland, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago universities.

Date: 05/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Maori



Matenga Baker, Turoia Kuka and Ariki Henry at the Sport and Rugby Institute.

Māori Television's young rugby stars on campus

The makers of popular Māori Television programme *School of Hard Knocks* have returned to Massey University's Palmerston North campus to make a second series.

School of Hard Knocks follows the progress of three promising young Māori rugby players as they participate in the International Rugby Academy's annual high-performance players' course at the Sport and Rugby Institute.

The three-week course exposes about 30 teenage players – usually two from each position – from throughout the world to some of the best New Zealand and international coaches and former players. They include current All Blacks coaches Graham Henry and Steve Hansen, former Wallabies and current Queensland Reds coach Eddie Jones, and greats of the game such as Frank Bunce, Grant Fox, John Eales, Richard Loe, Sir Brian Lochore, Sean Fitzpatrick, Nick Farr-Jones and John Kirwan.

The academy, headed by former All Black Murray Mexted, is in its sixth year of operation at the Sport and Rugby Institute, where it offers courses for coaches, managers and players.

Māori Television broadcast eight episodes of *School of Hard Knocks* last year, the final of which was its highest-rating programme since the channel's inception, according to Head of Programming Larry Parr.

This year's series has been increased to 10 episodes, Mr Parr says.

“We were very happy with the way it went. It was something we funded ourselves.”

Māori Television paid the \$7500 fee for each of the three players, Matenga Baker from Otaki, Ariki Henry from Omaio and Turoia Kuka from Tauranga. All have followed similar paths in their plans to become rugby professionals.

Mr Henry (Te Whānau a Apanui), 19, a second five-eighth, who has just finished Rotorua Boys High School and three seasons in the 1st XV, says the academy is “awesome” and the SRI facilities “probably the top in New Zealand”. He played for the Bay of Plenty Academy team that came to Palmerston North last year to play the last year's international academy team. “The coaches are top too – you can't get better.”

Mr Kuka (Ngāi Te Rangi), 19, now living and studying in Auckland, plays prop and also spent three seasons in the 1st XV at Kings College, Otahuhu. Last year he was in the Auckland Rugby Union Academy.

Mr Baker (Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai) is an openside flanker who played three seasons for Otaki College 1st XV, two as captain.

After a comfortable win over the Manawatu Academy on Wednesday, the players will build up to a much tougher challenge next Thursday when they take on Wairarapa Bush, the winners of the inaugural Heartland Championship Meads Cup (second division) last year.

School of Hard Knocks will screen on Thursday nights at 8pm from 7 June

Date: 09/02/2007

Type: University News

MacDiarmid an inspiration to young scientists

Massey scientist Professor Ashton Partridge has paid tribute to Nobel Laureate Professor Alan MacDiarmid who died today.

Professor Partridge, director of the University's Nanomaterials Research Centre in Palmerston North, says Professor MacDiarmid inspired a generation of scientists behind some of the most exciting advances in nanotechnology and maintained a close relationship with the University from his home in Pennsylvania, US.



“He advocated strongly for emerging researchers, and continued to teach first-year students throughout his career – he loved to teach and was very down to earth,” Professor Partridge says.

Professor MacDiarmid launched the Nanomaterials Research Centre in 2001, lecturing to a capacity crowd, and meeting with staff and students. He also demonstrated his well-known sense of humour by inviting the audience to hold his Nobel medal so they could say they were holders of the Nobel Medal.

Professor MacDiarmid – known as the ‘father’ of conducting polymers – maintained strong links to Massey while at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Nanomaterials Research Centre was founded with his collaboration and at the time he praised Massey for the foresight to establish a research centre that would place it as the cutting edge of nanotechnology (the study of materials at one step above the molecular level).

Date: 09/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Professor Sitaleki Finau.

Pasifika@Massey boosts Pasifika scholarship

Massey's Pasifika@Massey strategy document - launched mid-October - is the first explicit declaration by any New Zealand university of a commitment to promoting, cultivating and expanding academic achievement for Pacificans.

Its title, *En Route to Cultural Democracy* reflects the University's understanding of the needs and aspirations of New Zealand's multicultural population at the highest academic level, says Massey's Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau.

"The Pasifika@Massey Strategy must be the first step for Pacificans to achieve the freedom to be Pasifika in Aotearoa without being considered a side and freaky show," he says in the document.

Published in English and seven Pacific Island languages, the document outlines key themes of the strategy, including maximising social, economic and cultural gains for Pacific Peoples through teaching, research and consultancy services at Massey University.

From boosting the numbers of Pacific Island students and developing stronger links with Pacific communities throughout New Zealand and the Pacific region, to encouraging more Pacific-themed research, the strategy is the result of planning that took hold in 1999. Pasifika staff on the Albany campus recognised the need for Massey University to be more responsive to the academic needs of the fast-growing population of Pasifika peoples.

The strategy was developed by a network of Pasifika staff and written by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Mason Durie.

Professor Durie says the strategy highlights the University's awareness that the Pacific population in New Zealand is projected to increase dramatically over the next two or three decades " with a parallel increase in the demand for quality academic programmes at university level."

Date: 11/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika; Scholarships



Intake of breath, Professor Jeremy Diggle's take on Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring.

Creative arts festival blows into Wellington

Blow - Ngā hau e whā, the College of Creative Arts' inaugural festival is underway in Wellington.

For the next fortnight creative artists and designers from around the world will participate in exhibitions, screenings, fashion shows, public lectures and symposia.



Blow kicked off on Friday with the induction of three former students into the College's new Hall of Fame. The inaugural inductees are Weta Workshop director Richard Taylor, New York fashion designer Rebecca Taylor, and (posthumously) sculptor and filmmaker Len Lye.

Highlights this week include the first public lecture by Professor Jeremy Diggle, the new head of Massey's School of Fine Arts. Professor Diggle was formerly the Associate Dean of Research and Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Plymouth, England.

His presentation, Vermeer-a painter's theory takes place on Thursday. The central theme will be a narrative journey through the studio painting of the 17th century Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer. Professor Diggle's talk contemplates the work from the standpoint of a studio painter living today, reflecting upon and loosely interpreting some aspects of the original painter's intentions. Included in this lecture is potentially a new insight into Vermeer's working method.

Another highlight, on Wednesday, will be Exposé, a rare chance to see the best animation and digital productions by design graduates on the big screen at Wellington's Paramount Theatre. With many of the students now established with careers in the movie, television and games industries this is an opportunity both celebrate and congratulate them. Auckland's School of Design holds Exposure, an exhibition of student work at the Britomart Pavilion from 13-15 November.



Exhibits include a portable exercise unit for diabetic children that encourages play and exercise whilst measuring glucose levels.

The boogie board-style Quash Board is finely tuned to manage the delicate balance between the need for exercise and blood sugar for diabetics. Designer Debbie Mortensen was inspired to create the Quash Board having witnessed her sister cope with diabetes as a youngster.

Celebrating New Zealand motorsport legend Bruce McLaren is the focus of a vibrant visual communications project, while another student evokes the glory of letter-writing the old-fashioned way as a tactile, personable and

durable form of communication.

Wellington's School of Design and the School of Fine Arts exhibition opens on 10 November.

And Blow wraps up in Wellington's Museum Building on 16-17 November with the Inno/vision fashion show, where fashion and textile design graduates show their best work on the catwalk. It has proved to be so popular over the past few years that a second evening show has been added.



Captions:

Intake of breath, Jeremy Diggle (pearl eyes closed2.tif)

Exposé montage

The Quash Board is a portable exercise unit for diabetic children.

Jessica Lepper's collection was inspired by the excess and opulence of Marie Antoinette.

Samantha Croft's designs represent collecting objects of meaning, in an attempt to replace something missing from one's life. (croft-samantha-0262.jpg)

Date: 11/02/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Biochemist appointed to National Science Panel

Dr Mike Boland has been appointed to the National Science Panel, established by the Royal Society of New Zealand late last year.

One of 12 prominent science leaders appointed, Dr Boland is a fellow in the Riddet Centre in Palmerston North. A partnership between Massey and the Universities of Auckland and Otago, the Riddet Centre's core strengths are in nutrition, food functionality and food processing.

Dr Boland joined the Riddet Centre last year after 15 years in the dairy industry, first with the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute and then with Fonterra. During this time he headed a group involved in protein research and was general manager for strategic research. He was also global programme leader for the New Zealand Dairy Board's Milk Characteristics programme, running a research portfolio with an annual budget of around \$8 million.

Professor Paul Moughan, co-director of the centre, says the appointment demonstrates Dr Boland's considerable standing in the scientific community. He says it also demonstrates the role the centre plays in providing leadership to New Zealand's food industries and to the wider science community.

The science panel will engage with science and business organisations, Government and the public, and seek opportunities to optimise the value of science to New Zealand. It will promote consultation and dialogue across sectors and promote strategic views of science direction, infrastructure, resourcing, capability and capacity, and respond to opportunities for science to inform policy.

Date: 12/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



The Bowler Hat is back!

Fresh from the Wellington Fringe Festival, *The Bowler Hat* is back in Palmerston North for four nights at Centrepoint Theatre from February 14.

Award winning playwright Dr Angie Farrow's latest play debuted last year in the Festival of New Arts. The surreal comedy features the life and death of Rene Magritte, a Belgian surrealist artist (1898-1967), and uses dance, visual projection, and original music.

Crossing the genres of detective thriller, whodunnit and avant-garde theatre, *The Bowler Hat* has a cast of 13 under the direction of Dr Farrow. Ralph Johnson leads as Magritte and the experienced cast includes award-winning actor David Collins, Hannah Pratt and members of the Manawatu Theatre Society.

Dr Farrow describes the play as “a very theatrical, complex piece of physical theatre” and as a piece “written for writers.” Technical components of its staging include an elaborate use of backlighting, to create a “moving painting” complementing a surreal set. It is choreographed by Chilean playwright and director Jaime Dörner, who has also directed the second play in Centrepoint's double billing, *Antigone's Death*.

More information and reviews of *The Bowler Hat* can be read at: www.thebowlerhat.co.nz

Date: 12/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Gay churchgoers abandon mainstream religions

New Zealand lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians have quit mainstream religion at two-and-half times the rate of the general population, according to a Massey University study.

“Christian religions by and large have done an excellent job in communicating that a Christian identity and a homosexual identity are incompatible, or at least difficult to reconcile,” says report author Dr Mark Henrickson.

“A large number of raised Christians appear to have resolved the dissonance between their identities and their religion by leaving their religion.”

The senior lecturer in social work at Massey's Auckland campus has been working on *Lavender Islands: Portrait of the Whole Family* since 2004. It is the first national, strengths-based study of New Zealand's lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

The just-released study on gay spirituality and religion is a part of this broad survey which also investigated well-being, politics, income and spending, careers, leisure and families.

Of the 2269 participants in the survey, 73 per cent said they were raised as Christians, with 22.5 per cent not raised in any religion. But only 15 per cent of raised Christians were currently practicing their religion, while 73 per cent of the gay, lesbian and bisexual participants were currently non-religious. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and “other” religions accounted for only a small percentage of responses.

The difference between the 73 per cent raised Christian and the 15 per cent who are currently Christian “is a remarkable 80 per cent decline”, Dr Henrickson says.

He compared the figures to those of the 2001 census, which revealed that people identifying themselves as Christian dropped from 90.1 per cent to 59.8 per cent – a decline of 33.6 per cent in 35 years when compared with figures from the 1966 census.

The results of the study showed that “for most people, if they are forced to make a choice between their religious faith and their personal identity, they'll choose their personal identity”.

“What we can say is that whatever negative messages that organised religions want to communicate – they're working.”

“They're not working to change gay people, they're working to drive them away,” says Dr Henrickson, who is himself an Anglican priest, but stresses he is not speaking in his role as a clergyman.

While mainstream Christian denominations such as Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches refrain from overtly preaching an anti-gay message, some individual congregations – particularly in Auckland – actively welcome the gay community. But there remains, however, a perceived unease felt by many gays towards them from the church, the survey shows.

“In an era of declining mainstream church participation, churches may want to examine the way they're coming across, the way they're being heard,” Dr Henrickson added.

Date: 12/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

From molecules to mozzarella

Milk proteins, and their roles in complex food systems such as cheeses, are the focus of a symposium underway at the Riddet Centre at the University's Palmerston North campus.

Milk Proteins II: From Molecules to Mozzarella will consider a range of key topics, including the nutritional attributes of milk proteins and the benefits they offer in food products.

Symposium organiser and Riddet Centre researcher Dr Abby Thompson says the presentations will offer insights and opinion from internationally renowned experts, as well as the latest findings from talented emerging scientists.

Keynote speakers include Professor Patrick Fox, who will deliver live presentations via a video link from the University College in Cork, Ireland. Professor Fox will give an overview on the origins of dairying, the evolution and classification of mammals and the evolution of lactation.

Among presentations from Riddet Centre researchers is a discussion by PhD student Sylvia Chung on the effects of dairy proteins and on satiety, or feeling full after eating.

The symposium is organised by the Riddet Centre, Massey University, and Fonterra. The Riddet Centre is a partnership between Massey and the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with core strengths in nutrition, food functionality and food processing.

A symposium programme can be read at: <http://milkproteinsymposium.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 13/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Farah Palmer on life after rugby

Former Black Ferns captain Farah Palmer will talk about life after rugby at a seminar in Palmerston North next week.

Dr Palmer is a senior lecturer in sports management at Massey University. She retired from the Black Ferns last year after a decade with the national women's rugby team and victory in three World Cups.

She has twice been Maori Sportswoman of the Year and last year was also awarded Maori Sportsperson of the Year. In 2005 she was the International Rugby Board International Women's Personality of the Year and she became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year's New Year's Honours list.

Dr Palmer was recently appointed to a mentoring role with Te Puni Kokiri (Ministry of Maori Affairs), which will allow her to use her experiences and skills to benefit Maori women, and youth, especially in the areas of education and sport, while continuing as a Massey lecturer.

She is also a trustee of Tu Toa Trust, a programme for Maori youth with potential in sport and education, and the Palmerston North Girls High School Trust, which administers tertiary scholarships.

Her seminar is titled Rugby, Research and Retirement and has been organised by the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women.

It will be held in the Seminar Room at Te Manawa Museum at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20 February.

Date: 13/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar

Design project boosts international competitiveness

A Massey University research project focusing on desirable design has been awarded a \$1 million grant for a two-year project that will see the University collaborate with manufacturers such as Navman, Macpac, Gallagher Group and Tait Electronics.

Director of [Affect, the Centre for Affective Design](#) at the University's Wellington campus, Dr Anders Warell says the grant will improve capability in research, teaching and consultancy to industry.

It provides us with new options to engage with industry and make our industrial design programmes more relevant. We aim to integrate affective design concepts into industry's mindset and processes.

Affective design is about tailoring products that people bond with emotionally, such as the iPod or VW Beetle.

The project aims at boosting New Zealand manufacturers and designers international competitiveness through focusing on design for desirability.

A team headed by Professor Bob Hodgson has been granted \$164,132 to develop well-qualified ICT professionals.

This project will identify the knowledge and skills gaps of people who work in engineering and computer science-related roles, but lack formal graduate qualifications. It aims to design a qualification that will bring their skills up to graduate level.

The projects are funded through the Tertiary Education Commission's Growth and Innovation Pilot Initiatives.

Date: 14/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Do milkshakes fill the gap?

A Massey PhD student is looking for participants for her research into the effects of dairy proteins and peptides on satiety.

Based in the University's Riddet Centre in Palmerston North, Ms Sylvia Chung is researching the theory that protein is more filling than either carbohydrate or fat, which may help facilitate weight loss over time. She says protein, and its relationship with satiety, is gaining more interest with the re-emergence of the popular high protein diets.

Dairy product consumption has been associated with the maintenance of healthy body weight in humans, Ms Chung says. Her research will investigate the effects of whey protein, naturally present in milk, and a popular dietary protein supplement, on satiety and weight management.

Ms Chung requires 50 healthy volunteers based in Palmerston North between the ages of 18 and 40 to drink four different types of milkshake followed by a lunch meal, on four different days, and then answer questions regarding their sense of satiety.

The Riddet Centre is a partnership between Massey University and the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with core strengths in nutrition, food functionality and food processing.

Date: 16/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

New head for Māori research unit

A top academic and researcher into Māori health and social issues has been appointed director of Massey University's Te Mata o te Tau, the Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship.

Inaugural director Dr Te Kani Kingi says the academy aims to encourage greater research collaboration among Māori academics across Massey's three campuses at Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington.

The academy was founded in 2003 by Mason Durie, Professor of Maori Research and Development and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori). It serves as an umbrella for existing Māori research units already operating at the University with the intention of forging stronger links and promoting more interdisciplinary contact between Māori academics.



Professor Durie and Dr Kingi also want to create better links between academics and external institutions and organisations with an interest in Māori development.

If we want to further develop and build Maori research capacity, a comprehensive and more integrated approach is needed, says Dr Kingi.

The academy will provide a forum for Māori academics to meet and exchange ideas, through regular video-conferencing sessions, seminars and publication of research monographs.

We've had very good growth in the number of Māori PhD graduates in the past few years, says Dr Kingi. We want to ensure that this growth continues and that opportunities for on-going development continue.

The name of the academy relates to Matariki, the star constellation known also known as Palades, and symbolises the promise of a fruitful year, and advancement of knowledge.

Dr Kingi was recently chosen as one of six people to represent New Zealand at this year's Commonwealth Study Conference, to be held next month in Delhi, India.

He and other representatives from legal, business and political areas were selected by the Ministry for Social Development on the basis of their potential to be major contributors to New Zealand's social development.

The conference is designed as a forum for top-level academics and researchers to exchange ideas in a quest to find solutions to pressing health and social problems.

Dr Kingi has a special interest in Māori mental health issues, psychometrics and outcome measurement. He gained a doctorate in 2002.

Born and raised in Poroporo, near Whakatane, he has tribal affiliations to Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Pukuko. He attended St Stephen's School in Bombay, South Auckland, later studying at Waikato and Massey Universities.

Date: 16/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

On-going fascination with WWII prompts new course

Could there be any justification for American forces dropping the atom bomb on Japanese civilians at the end of World War II? Why did some citizens of Norway and France resist and others collaborate with Nazi occupiers?

These are among some of the complex ethical issues some dealt with in recent academic research to be covered in a new history course this year at Massey's Auckland campus.

The semester-long, second-year paper taught by historian Dr Adam Claasen will encompass a broad sweep of the chronological events of the war (1939-1945), with special attention given to the invasions of Poland and France, the Battle of Britain and the advance on Moscow, the attack on Pearl Harbour, and the battles surrounding Stalingrad, Midway, and, finally, Normandy and the Allied advances on Berlin in Europe and Japan in the Pacific.

The impact of the war on New Zealand, which made one of the world's highest per capita contributions through its armed forces, will also be examined. By 1943, 27 per cent of our work force was in the armed forces, Dr Claasen says. On a per capita basis we were heavily involved. That was a big shock to the United States when they found out, he said of recent declassified US intelligence documents.

The war was like no other war before or since, he says, because of the huge number of civilian deaths, in part due to the brutal German and Japanese occupation policies, the bombing of cities by the major protagonists (Hamburg, Dresden, London, and Tokyo), as well as the European death camps in which six million Jews and hundreds of thousands of others were killed.

While there is a daunting volume of material to be included, Dr Claasen says the course will cover issues such as economic challenges on the home fronts with rationing and women entering the workforce, the role of propaganda in mobilising populations to take up arms and fight, the dilemmas surrounding collaboration and resistance to German invasion in countries such as France as well as the effect of war in provoking new scientific, technological and medical advances.

The course will also look at controversial issues still being debated and studied today such as whether there was any justification for dropping the atom bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki resulting in the deaths of more than 210,000 people.

Dr Claasen says recent scholarship has argued that the Japanese military was unlikely to have surrendered, and that the atom bomb prevented not only further American and Japanese loss of life in a mainland invasion, but also the lives of Asians dying under harsh Japanese rule as well as the many thousands of Allied prisoners of war.

On the other hand, he states, many historians still strongly argue that on moral grounds it was unconscionable and that surrender was imminent .

Less widely publicised, yet fascinating, aspects of the war include the role of African Americans and Japanese Americans in the war.

From next year the new paper will also be offered on the Palmerston North campus and extramurally, taught by the Centre for Defence Studies.

Date: 16/02/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Any

Plans to boost NZ's gene research capacity

Massey and Otago Universities plan to jointly purchase state-of-the-art gene sequencing equipment worth \$2 million as part of a bid to significantly enhance the country's research capabilities.

The Mega DNA sequencers will use revolutionary new technology to produce DNA sequences 1000 times faster than existing technologies. Sequences, or segments, of DNA encode the genetic information by which living things survive and reproduce. Knowledge of DNA sequence will therefore be useful in almost any biological subject area.

Researchers at the universities anticipate wide applications in the horticultural, agricultural and biomedical industries, such as furthering understanding of livestock fertility and advancing research into mutations that cause cancer.

The new sequencers will also enhance ecological and evolutionary research and the identification of new organisms in land and sea samples, including potential ecological threats. They will be housed at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution at Massey's Palmerston North campus and at Otago's Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology, and will be linked to a shared genetics database.

Researchers at institutions across the country could then access the technology through a high-speed Internet network for research and education.

Allan Wilson Centre co-director Professor David Penny says the plans are a hugely exciting initiative for New Zealand scientists.

"I hope this joint initiative will provide a catalyst to upgrade New Zealand genomics resources and expertise," Professor Penny says.

"Purchasing these sequencers will be a first step in forming a New Zealand Genomics Consortium to provide New Zealand scientists with access to large expensive equipment," says Consortium Convener Professor Tony Reeve, who is Director of Otago's Cancer Genetics Laboratory.

Anatomy and Structural Biology Head Professor David Green says Massey and Otago Universities have had a long relationship in the area of genomic research.

The Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution is one of the original five Centre of Research Excellence established in 2002 by the Government. It is hosted by Massey University in conjunction with the Universities of Auckland, Canterbury and Otago and Victoria University of Wellington.

It comprises world class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who work together to unlock the secrets of our plants, animals, and microbes, including questions such as: How fast does evolution happen? What are the underlying processes that explain the evolution of our biota? How might these processes affect us in the future.

Date: 16/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Funding



Not even the weather dampened the spirits of first-years on campus during Orientation.

Students flood back to campus

Students at all three campuses took advantage of the mainly fine weather, and -enjoyed a varied range of Orientation entertainment organised by their students associations in the first week of Semester One.

In Palmerston North, a James Bond-themed orientation line-up featured the traditional Toga Party and Bizarre Ball as well as a student day at the

races, a quiz night, and plenty of daytime action on concourse with live music from Radio Control 99.4 fm.

In Auckland, the Bond theme continued with a Bond-a-thon and performances by bands Concord Dawn, Jonnie Rose, the Tutts, and Olmecha Supreme. Most performers toured all three campuses, and students at the Wellington campus were also treated to a movie marathon.



Jean-Paul Dutoit finds out about student job search from Briget Smith at Auckland.



Date: 20/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Music and campus life; Orientation

Prime Minister to open new Student Centre

Prime Minister Helen Clark will officially open the University's new Student Centre on the Palmerston North campus tomorrow.

The \$10.5 million Centre involved a complete refurbishment and extension of the existing 1968 building and was completed in stages over the past two years.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, who is responsible for the campus facilities, says the construction was part of an overall development plan to create a true campus heart.

It allowed the commercial shops to be relocated into the precinct shared by the Students Association offices, Radio Control, *Chaff* newspaper, Student Job Search, dining rooms and student lounge, Professor Warrington says.

It is in sync with other initiatives to truly define and establish a heart of the campus, with its proximity to the Registry, the Library, the Central Bus Terminus and the free city bus service.

The opening ceremony will take place from 2pm and the Prime Minister will be offered the opportunity to tour the complex, have afternoon tea with guests and then meet students and staff on visits to other parts of the campus.

Date: 21/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Services

How to ease rents and house prices

Property analyst Professor Bob Hargreaves is proposing a solution to the problem of high rents and low home affordability at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Professor Hargreaves says by selling 10 per cent of the current state housing stock every year, and replacing it with new, high-density units, the Government could solve both problems improving affordability and increasing the housing stock.

By international standards, New Zealand towns and cities have a very low density of population per square kilometre, he says. For example, Wikipedia shows that these densities are generally less than half those found in Australian capital cities and a quarter of densities in many North American and European cities.

Professor Hargreaves says Housing New Zealand (HNZ) currently rents out around 66,000 state houses. Using conservative values, we can assume these houses will be worth on average \$200,000 each, giving a total value of \$13.2 billion. Let us say for each year over the next five years the government sells 10 per cent of its rental houses at market value. First option to buy would go to existing HNZ tenants and the next option to other first time buyers. For HNZ, the sale proceeds would come either directly from the purchasers' deposits and private sector mortgages or the HNZ could offer vendor financing and then securitise the debt.

Sale proceeds of \$1.32 billion per annum would then be applied to building 6600 new medium density rental units (preferably a maximum of two-stories) in the areas of greatest need. This is likely to mean building more medium density units in Auckland and having a wider range of bedroom types to cater for the increasing number of small families, he says. The land costs for each new rental unit would be minimised by clever infill, the rearrangement of existing state owned houses on land owned by the Crown, and some comprehensive redevelopment of prime sites. The net result should be that instead of adding, say, 1500 units to the housing stock each year HNZ could add around 8000 units.

Professor Hargreaves says this creates a clear win for the 6600 tenants who become home owners in well-built houses: they don't have to move and without the need for real estate agents their transaction costs would be minimised. There is a win for other would-be first time buyers, with 6600 additional houses added to the housing stock each year. People on the HNZ waiting lists also win because the construction of new rental units would target localities in greatest need.

The taxpayer wins because income from property sales would balance expenditure on building new units. The building industry wins because guaranteed HNZ work would help to smooth out market fluctuations. The environment wins because with medium density housing the residents footprints are minimised in terms of land usage, energy efficient housing and commuting costs. The convenience of being able to walk to work and shops also offers a health benefit for residents in higher density areas.

But there may be losers. If the plan works, property speculators may not benefit from the sort of increases in rents and prices we have seen over the last five years.

He says for the plan to succeed, some important questions remain. Could the building industry cope with this additional work? Would the private sector respond by simply reducing supply in other segments of the market, such as city apartments? Do HNZ and local government have the technical and regulatory expertise to achieve good quality medium density housing outcomes? Is there a case for a public-private partnership?

The problem of increasingly unaffordable housing is an important one and these are all questions worth answering. Professor Hargreaves says.

Professor Bob Hargreaves is director of the Massey University Property Foundation which produces a quarterly index on home affordability.

A longer version of his proposal is available [here](#) (76 kB pdf).

Date: 21/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Saving an iconic Saudi Arabian species

Associate Professor John Cockrem's recipe for romance includes live green crickets, fresh greens and longer daylight hours.

The Massey avian expert recently returned from Saudi Arabia where he is leading the first stages of a project to extend the breeding season of the endangered Houbara bustard.

Dr Cockrem says the birds face an increasing loss of habitat due to over-grazing of dry desert areas. Falconry is a popular sport and the ground-nesting bustards are prey to the falcons.

Dr Cockrem, who has spent several summers in Antarctica studying the behaviour of Emperor penguins, is working with staff at the National Wildlife Research Centre near Taif, four hours' drive from the port city of Jeddah. The centre contacted him after learning of his specialist knowledge in seasonal breeding and avian endocrinology (hormonal systems).

The centre was established 20 years ago to breed bustards for release and its staff are keen to extend the breeding productivity of their captive population. In order to do so, more needs to be known about their behaviour and the factors which stimulate breeding.

Dr Cockrem will conduct a non-invasive study of faecal samples to measure corticosterone, the hormone produced in stressful situations, and the female reproductive hormone estradiol. He will take samples from females who breed well, from those who breed poorly, and from those who don't breed at all to see if there are elevated corticosterone levels in the birds that do not breed in captivity.

The captive facilities are spartan with natural sandy floors and an open sky, and the first part of his study will be to alter their conditions to try to stimulate breeding. Dr Cockrem will introduce combinations of simulated rainfall, live green feed, and live crickets (both of which follow rainfall in the desert). He will also introduce simulated longer daylight hours, as previous studies of other birds suggest that the bustards may respond to increased daylight.

He will also develop a hormonal measurement method to determine when females are close to laying an egg. Because the birds are artificially inseminated, efficiency could be improved if this were conducted at the most suitable time.



A senior researcher in the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Dr Cockrem spent 10 days in Saudi Arabia, including a night in the Mahazat as-Sayd protected area where bustards have been released into the wild.

Date: 22/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Prime Minister Helen Clark, MUSA President Paul Falloon and Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear tour the new Student Centre after the official opening.

Prime Minister opens new Student Centre

About 200 guests, students, staff and alumni attended the official opening of the new \$10.5 million Student Centre on the Palmerston North campus today.

Prime Minister Helen Clark unveiled a plaque after congratulating the University and its students' association for their commitment to providing quality facilities for students and staff.

All of us that have had the privilege of a university education know that the university experience is so much more, she said. It's a time for exploring ideas - and not just in the lecture theatre.

She recalled her time as a student at the University of Auckland from 1968, the same year the original Massey Student Centre opened, when student demonstrations rocked Europe and the United States. In New Zealand students were involved in opposing the Vietnam War and Helen Clark said she joined the student executive of the Halt All Racist Tours organisation when it was formed in 1970.

I look back on student years as incredibly stimulating.

She noted the original centre was built for a student population on campus of 3000, which has now grown to about 8000. It goes without saying that quality support centres like this underpin quality education.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear described the centre as a key part of what was now the heart of the campus. The centre is a welcoming oasis for Massey students in Palmerston North and, every time I go in there, for Massey staff.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington said the building represented a strengthening of the relationship between the University and the students' association.

MUSA president Paul Falloon said he was delighted that the association, the Extramural Students Society, Manawatahi (the Māori students' association), the student newspaper CHAFF and the student station Radio Control were now all together in one building - a part of the campus heart.

Date: 22/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Services

How the world has changed in the lifetimes of this year's crop of students

As a new class of students enters university this month, a team of New Zealand academics is helping their colleagues understand the historical, social, economic and cultural mindset of their students. The 2007 New Zealand Mindset List provides academic staff with insight into the events incoming first-year students have experienced, or not. The list captures a picture of New Zealand and the world in 1988, the year most first-year students were born.

"The principal purpose of the New Zealand Mindset List is to raise the awareness of our fellow academics that our students have grown up in a world that is different from our own. Their mindset is different, and we need to be aware of this in our teaching and our interaction with them" says team leader Dennis Viehland, an Associate Professor of Information Systems at Massey University's Auckland campus. "However, once we got into the process we also had a great time discovering the world of New Zealand in 1988 and how much, or how little, has changed since then."

Most items reflect New Zealand events, such as the passage of the introduction of Fast Post or the vast economic changes brought on by "Rogernomics". Other items are derived from global events such as the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, both events that are still very pertinent given today's headlines.

Although written for university academics, the team believes the Mindset List will be of interest to all members of the New Zealand public. This is especially so for events that reflect current political or economic issues, such as last year's election spending row and the alleged involvement of Iran in today's war in Iraq. "The world has changed in the lifetime of these students," comments team member Judith Hoek. "We think all New Zealanders will enjoy reflecting on the world into which the first-year class of 2007 was born."

The 2007 New Zealand Mindset List

Most students starting university in 2007 were born in 1988. For these students:

- Fast Post has always been available.
- The ozone hole has always been a worry for sun-loving New Zealanders.
- New Zealanders have never been able to smoke on planes.
- Tens of thousands of New Zealanders have always been on surgical waiting lists.
- Soviet troops have never been in Afghanistan.
- The Iran-Iraq war has always been over.
- Bola has always been the name of a devastating cyclone.
- Tomorrow's Schools has always been a government policy for radical school reform.
- New Zealanders have always tried their luck on pokie machines.
- Politicians have always been ignoring election spending legislation, and getting away with it.
- New Zealand lighthouse keepers have always been unemployed.
- Japanese import cars have always been cheap and plentiful.
- Inflation has always been less than 10 percent.
- Employment at freezing works has always been a dead-end job.
- Air New Zealand has always been a private corporation.
- Roger Douglas has always been a sacked Finance Minister.
- Bastion Point has always belonged to Ngati Whatua.

--There have always been median barriers on Auckland's motorways.

--There has always been a toll bridge across the Tauranga Harbour.

--The average Auckland house has always cost more than \$161,000.

--Tracy Chapman has always been a hit songwriter.

--Ben Johnson has always been a disgraced Olympic athlete.

--In New Zealand, Brian Brake (renown photographer), Louis Johnson (Wellington poet), John Ross Marshall (former Prime Minister) and Cardigan Bay (legendary champion pacer) have always been dead.

--Internationally, Enzo Ferrari (car designer), Andy Gibb (youngest Bee Gee), Louis L'Amour (American western novelist), Roy Orbison (rock-and-roll pioneer) and Philippe de Rothschile (French winemaker) have always been dead.

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The 2007 New Zealand Mindset List is published on the Web at mindset.massey.ac.nz. Academics and others who want to contribute to the 2008 list are invited to contact Professor Viehland at d.viehland@massey.ac.nz

Date: 22/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Controversial story has lessons for drug safety



The story of the asthma drug fenoterol highlights the issue of drug safety in New Zealand.

Beginning in 1976 deaths from asthma in New Zealand rose suddenly, tripling by 1979. In *Adverse Reactions: The Fenoterol Story*, epidemiologist Professor Neil Pearce tells the controversial story of how a group of researchers, which included Professor Pearce, discovered that the asthma drug fenoterol was the cause of this alarming epidemic.

Facing powerful pressures and hostile opposition from conservative medical opinion and from the drug industry, they persisted, and finally saw their conclusions accepted and the death rate falling. Dr Pearce recalls the years 1988–1990, the period of this struggle, as a personal story but he also draws attention to many issues about drug safety in New Zealand and internationally, and about the contest between money and science in medical research.

Prime Minister Helen Clark writes in her foreword, “In early 1989 in my first few weeks as Minister of Health, officials advised me that New Zealand research was soon to be published claiming safety concerns over a widely-used asthma drug called fenoterol.

“The evidence produced by Neil Pearce and others claimed to show a link between the use of fenoterol and the death rate among asthma sufferers in New Zealand. That death rate was much higher than that in comparable countries at the time. The work of Neil Pearce and his colleagues seemed to show that this “epidemic” of deaths had coincided almost exactly with the widespread use of fenoterol in New Zealand, starting in 1976.

“The lessons we can take from the fenoterol story are as relevant today as they were when the issue was in the news headlines seventeen years ago.”

Professor Neil Pearce, PhD, DSc, FRNZ, is a world renowned epidemiologist (a health researcher who studies the causes of epidemics). He is also Director of the Centre for Public Health Research, which he established in 2000. The Centre conducts a wide range of public health research including respiratory disease, cancer, diabetes, Māori health, Pacific health and occupational and environmental health research.

Dr Pearce says the same problems have occurred many times when university-based researchers have discovered that a particular drug or chemical is dangerous.

“Other recent examples include the controversies about oral contraceptives and stroke, the toxicity of benzene, diesel fumes, passive smoking and chromium (the chemical featured in the Erin Brockovich film).

“The usual approach is for the company concerned to hire consultants to criticise the research publicly, either when it appears in print, or even prior to publication. In recent years, these efforts have been further developed and refined with the use of websites and publicity that stigmatises unwelcome research findings as ‘junk science’. In some instances these activities have gone as far as efforts to block publication.

“In many instances, academics have accepted industry funding which has not been acknowledged, and only the academic affiliations of the company-funded consultants have been listed. Thus, the fenoterol story is still relevant today.”

Adverse Reactions: The Fenoterol Story is published by Auckland University Press.

Date: 24/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

High transaction fees limit mobile payments

The cost of transactions is putting New Zealanders off using cell phones to make payments. Fees are the greatest barrier to uptake of m-payment options, says mobile technology researcher Associate Professor Dennis Viehland.

With a research team at the Auckland-based Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, he studied attitudes to using and paying for mobile payment services. They based their survey on 132 mobile phone users late last year.

Dr Viehland is a founding member of his institute's Centre for Mobile Computing. He presented the survey highlights to Auckland's business community at one of a series of technology briefings initiated by the University's e-centre and sponsored by Connect New Zealand.

He says that although consumers are beginning to expect they can use mobile phones to make payments, banks and telephone companies may have to rethink their offerings to consumers.

The survey found both fees and security issues to be major deterrents and the lack of convenience also rated high.

A small range of m-payment options has been introduced in New Zealand over the past three years. These include 'HotLink', whereby people can use their mobiles to top up their prepay accounts.

This service is at no charge and the Massey survey found it to be the most popular

m-payment system currently on offer.

Through 'TXT-a-Park' consumers can also pay for metered parking in Auckland and Wellington at a fee of 50 cents; 'mTicket' enables the purchase of event tickets at a cost of up to \$2.50.

Although cost and security ranked highest in reasons for not adopting m-payment, 30 per cent of those surveyed said they found using cash easier, 11 per cent said they didn't want to change their habits and just over 8 per cent said they either didn't like texting or didn't know how to.

Dr Viehland's presentation was based on an honours research project conducted by Roslyn Siu Yoong Leong.

The Massey group at the Centre for Mobile Computing is conducting ongoing research into the acceptance and use of new technology and Dr Viehland is seeking interaction with industry to provide industry-relevant research.

Date: 24/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Professor Paul Spoonley, left, with Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres.

Archives rich fodder for race relations research

From dawn raids on Pacific Islanders in the 1970s, Māori land marches in the 1980s and Treaty of Waitangi issues throughout – newspaper archives covering the tensions and turning points of New Zealand's race relations have been gifted to the University.

At an informal meeting last month, Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres handed over boxes containing thousands of newspaper clippings recording New Zealand's race issues over a 30-year period.

“The archive provides an excellent resource for staff or students wanting to look at ethnic relations from the 1970s to the 1990s,” says the University's Auckland Regional Director, Professor Paul Spoonley.

“It would take a lot of work to collect as many articles as there are in the archive, and we are grateful to the Human Rights Commission for their generosity in donating it to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.”

Mr de Bres, who was a long-time campaigner on race relations issues – including as former secretary and organiser for the Citizen's Association for Racial Equality says the clippings were all available in microfilm, but the originals needed to be safely stored somewhere.

“We wanted to give them a home where they could be used, as we are not a research institute.”

The archives cover the decades from the passage of the Race Relations Act and the establishment of the office of the Race Relations Conciliator in 1971 to the office's amalgamation with the commission in 2001.

They will be held in the Archive Room of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Atrium Building at the Auckland campus.

Professor Spoonley, who has worked with the Race Relations Office and the commission since 1975 doing research on media and race relations, says the archives will be especially valuable for masters and PhD students.

“It is a complete [print] media archive so that it has everything that relates to race relations in that period.”

Date: 24/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrea McIlroy snips the tape marking the start line of the 10,000 Steps: Hikoi-a-Hauora programme. Karl Partsch from Facilities Management and Professor Chris Cunningham from Te Pumanawa Hauora Māori Health Research Centre assist.

10,000 steps launched

They say the longest journey starts with a single step. For more than 300 university staff, a journey of a million steps started at the launch of the 10,000 Steps @Massey: Hikoi-a-Hauora programme on 28 February.

Over the next 12 weeks, teams of staff are competing to notch up the equivalent of a walk around New Zealand.

After the first week, the Perambulators from Wellington were heading the pack. They had already walked from Cape Reinga to Gisborne, a total of 665,000 steps.

The programme aims to support staff choosing an active lifestyle. It includes health assessments to gauge the impacts of participation in the programme.

Health, nutrition and injury prevention seminars are being held on each campus throughout the programme.

Date: 24/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; Sport and recreation

Philosopher to study role of forgiveness

Massey philosopher Dr Glen Pettigrove has been awarded the Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship to carry out a critical examination of aspects of forgiveness.

Administered by the American Philosophical Association, the NZ\$5000 fellowship is awarded every five years to researchers whose work relates to the philosophical interests of the late David Baumgardt.

Dr Pettigrove is based in Palmerston North at the School of History, Philosophy and Politics and teaches historical and contemporary political theory, and ethics. As a fellow he will prepare a series of three lectures to be delivered at Arizona State University.

His project, Studies in Forgiveness aims to remedy a gap in the philosophical discussion of forgiveness. The first lecture will discuss the connection between forgiveness and love suggested by philosophers such as Augustine of Hippo, Baruch Spinoza and Adam Smith.

His second will present an answer to the question of why forgiveness of extraordinary wrongs can be thought of as both admirable and objectionable based on the work of 18th century Scottish philosopher David Hume.

The third will focus on the concept of a forgiving God, which he says is notoriously difficult to make sense of despite its importance within both Judaism and Christianity.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Professor appointed to Marsden role

Massey epidemiologist Professor Roger Morris has been appointed by the Minister for Research, Science and Technology as a member of the Marsden Fund Council.

A co-director of the University's EpiCentre in Palmerston North, Professor Morris will also chair the programme panel Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour .

Minister Steve Maharey says Professor Morris' world-class record as an academic and consultant makes him an ideal candidate for the three-year appointment.

The Government's investment through the Marsden Fund supports excellence in research and deepens the research skill base in New Zealand.

"It is important that Council members have the standing and reputation that reflects the fund's focus on excellence, Mr Maharey says.

Professor Morris holds the Gilruth Chair at Massey and is also a principal of MorVet Limited, a consultancy on animal health and policy programmes. He replaces Professor Charles Daugherty who resigned from the Council following his recent promotion to Assistant Vice-Chancellor at Victoria University.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Putting Kiwi authors in cyber-cyclopedia

Literary intellectuals and bibliophiles may bemoan the advent of cyberspace and its perceived threat to reading books in traditional hard copy form, but English lecturer Dr Jenny Lawn says there is immense value in websites such as The Literary Encyclopedia.

The website, <http://www.litencyc.com> is a comprehensive online literary guide, which for the past three years she and Mark Williams, of the University of Canterbury, have contributed to and edited the New Zealand content for.

Writers such as Janet Frame, James K Baxter and Maurice Gee are among several from a 40-strong "A-List" of New Zealand authors on the site in essay-style entries of up to 2000 words.

Other writers, including Katherine Mansfield, Alan Duff, Keri Hulme and Frank Sargeson, have made it on to the website through contributed essays from overseas academics.

Many more New Zealand writers will be represented on the site as entries are completed with encouragement from Dr Lawn.

Edited by a distinguished international board and owned collectively by its editors and writers, it has since 1999 published more than 3700 profiles written by 1400 contributors and plans to add 900 new ones this year.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Maximising education for stronger primary sector

Massey has been awarded \$100,000 by the Tertiary Education Commission to investigate, develop and promote best-case models of tertiary education in the horticultural and agricultural sciences.

Ewen Cameron, Director of the University's Applied Science Programmes, says the project aims to meet the demand for greater numbers of skilled and qualified people in the primary industries.

He says raising the quality of teaching and learning in the applied sciences at a tertiary level in New Zealand will result in a greater number of qualified and highly-skilled professionals working in the primary industries.

The results from this study, expected late 2007, will be used to inform and shape educational practice, and case studies in course design, preparation, presentation and maintenance will be available for teachers and course coordinators.

The research team, comprising Ewen Cameron, Dr Tony Morrison, Warren Anderson and Gordon Suddaby, will also present their findings at conferences hosted by tertiary institutions and through the soon-to-be-established National Centre for Teaching Excellence.

The project fits within the Tertiary Education Strategy of strengthening system capability and quality, under the specific objective of a stronger system focus on teaching capability and learning environments to meet diverse learner needs.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Funding; Government Policy commentators

Education is sweeter than a ban

Are negative effects from food and drink bans outweighing the gains? Health Education senior lecturer Kama Weir thinks so, and says they may actually be doing more harm than good.

She says there are more constructive ways to deal with youth obesity and health issues than banning the sale of 'bad' foods and fizzy drinks in schools, such as is happening across the country as the first term is under way.

A recent agreement between schools and soft-drink manufacturers has effectively banned the sale of full sugar beverages in schools, and will see them phased out over the next three years – something Ms Weir believes only addresses the cause and not the problem.

She says it's better to invest in programmes for health education rather than prohibition.

"The debate is over right of choice versus the right of state to make our decisions for us," Ms Weir says. "We need to educate children to make the right decisions, and they're more capable of it than perhaps we give them credit for."

Ms Weir believes that better resources are needed to educate both students and teachers to make their own healthy choices, and that even foods we consider to be 'bad' are healthy in moderation, if not for our bodies, but for our minds.

"Children need to feel empowered to make the right decisions about what, when, and how much they eat," Ms Weir says. "As educators, we have a responsibility to develop their critical thinking and encourage them to use their own initiative, based on the information we give them."

"This is why teachers need resources too. They're not nutritionists and rarely have a way to validate the messages they receive. We need to equip them to deliver healthy advice with regards to food choices."

"It's all too easy to say no." Ms Weir says, "But the easiest solutions are not always the healthiest."

Ms Weir says that banning food and drink options within a controlled environment such as a school sends children the wrong message, and can lead to them having an 'anything goes' attitude outside of the classroom.

"Messages about food and nutrition are simple in biological terms, but in fact, are far more complex. People tend to apply very simplistic solutions to matters of diet."

The danger here is that food becomes associated with feelings of guilt and rebellion," she says.

"Food plays a significant role in our social and cultural lives. It is emotionally laden and for that reason, better health education is vital."

Ms Weir says she doesn't support the presence of corporations in schools, and believes that options for fundraising (other than selling chocolate bars) can be explored.

"Health education needs to be delivered in an impartial capacity, rather than with the outside influence of corporations, government, and lobbyists. It's all too easy to pollute educational resources with political agendas," she says.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Massey chair for Vision Manawatu

The Head of the Graduate School of Business, Dr James Lockhart, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Vision Manawatu Board of Trustees.

Dr Lockhart has been Acting Chair since former Chairman John Heng resigned in November last year and has been a Vision Manawatu Trustee since 2005.

Appointments chairman Paul O'Brien says Dr Lockhart is ideally qualified to chair the Board: "He teaches governance to post-graduate students, has been involved in strategic reviews for large New Zealand companies, and manages a farming business of his own.

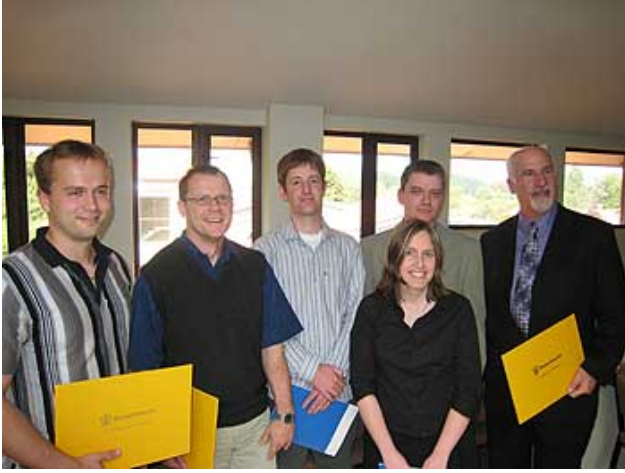
"I am delighted that James has agreed to take on the role. He has a firm grounding in both theory and practice of governance and he has our full confidence."

The chief executive of Vision Manawatu, Andrew Powrie, said he was excited by the new appointment and by the dynamic nature of the refreshed board – four new trustees have been appointed since October last year.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Excellence in Business research

The rapid growth in the productivity and performance of College of Business researchers has been recognised, with Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose and Director of Research Professor Anne de Bruin celebrating research achievements in 2006, at each of the three campuses.

Professor de Bruin acknowledged the College's success in the University Research Awards: Professor Rose was awarded the College of Business Outstanding Supervisor Award, Professor Klaus Dieter Schewe received the College Distinguished Research Award and a University Research Fellowship, and Dr Sebastian Link received an Early Career Research Award.

The ceremony also recognised researchers who were awarded 2006 College of Business Research Awards. Associate Professor Sven Hartmann, of the Department of Information Systems, received the Advanced Researcher Award and Dr Ben Marshall, from the Department of Finance, Banking and Property, and Dr Nikki Hessel, of the Department of Communication and Journalism, were named Emerging Researchers.

Professor de Bruin also acknowledged staff who had received external awards. They included Dr Ian Laird, Centre for Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Health, who received a prestigious Fulbright New Zealand Fellowship, and Qing Wang, Department of Information Systems, who was awarded a Bright Future Top Achiever Scholarship.

Other causes for celebration were the growth in the number of scholarships available to College students, the growing number of staff PhD completions, several external research grants, a large number of Best Paper awards, and a number of successful conferences hosted by the College.

Pictured above are Dr Sebastian Link, Professor Klaus-Dieter Schewe, Dr Ben Marshall, Associate Professor Sven Hartman, Professor Lawrence Rose and (front) Dr Nikki Hessel.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Te Kaiwawao appointed

Te Tumatakuru O'Connell (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngai Te Rangi, Te Ati Awa, Ngai Tahu, Airani) has been appointed to the position of Te Kaiwawao at the Wellington campus.

He has been working as a Maori language lecturer for the School of Māori Studies for the past two years.

Te Kaiwawao assists in making the University accessible for all Maori by offering academic and personal advice that can assist students to achieve their academic potential.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrea McIlroy says Mr O'Connell brings considerable experience and knowledge to the position and will be a great asset to the campus and the University.

“As a member of my senior management team, he brings an important Māori perspective to our decision making and I welcome him to the team.”

Mr O'Connell hit the ground running in January, when he was interviewed by Maori Television for a story about the quality of roof-collected drinking water.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

New head of Commerce appointed

Professor Ben Jacobsen has been appointed as Professor and Head of the Department of Commerce in the College of Business.

The position was left vacant after the appointment last year of previous head, Professor Lawrence Rose, as Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business.

Announcing Professor Jacobsen's appointment, Professor Rose noted his distinguished academic career and the international recognition that his research on investments has received.

Professor Jacobsen's academic work has been discussed in major international magazines and newspapers including The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times and The New York Times. His most recently published research, on how factors like the change of seasons or an outbreak of war impact on the stock market, was also featured in the high profile Dow Jones business newsletter, Market Watch.

Professor Jacobsen has worked as a consultant for a large number of financial institutions and as a stock market expert and adviser to the media. He has written several books on investments and has been a columnist for Dutch magazines and newspapers. He ranks in the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN) top 50 of the most downloaded business authors worldwide, with almost 15,000 downloads of his papers.

Professor Jacobsen was previously with the University of Amsterdam and Erasmus University in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



First meeting for college advisory board

The new advisory board for the College of Business held its first meeting on 1 February at the Auckland campus.

The board, chaired by Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly, was set up last year by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose. Shown above at the first meeting are Professor Rose left foreground, with Rodney District Council chief executive Vijaya Vaidyanath on the right.

Other members and senior College of Business staff pictured are: Carmel Fisher, Dr Roger Wigglesworth, Edwina Neilson, Keith Wedlock, John Heng, Doug Matheson, Greg Smale, Dorenda Britten, Annah Stretton, Alistair Davis, Tom Quelch, David Frith, Paul Hocking, Fraser Bell, Dr James Lockhart, Alan Cassidy and David Ritchie.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Dr Hokyoung Ryu, Aaron Wong and graduate Richard Brown.

Mobile learning technology not so far away

You are in the quandrangle , your assignment is due tomorrow, you have two missed calls and you have just walked past your lecture theatre ...

The student of the not-too-distant future will know all this with a glance at a little hand-held personal organiser. It's a mobile learning technology now in development at the Centre for Mobile Computing.

The hand held personal learning organiser is designed to help users to navigate their precinct, communicate with others and access a range of information while on the move.

The device was among projects showcased at New Zealand's inaugural conference on mobile learning technology and its applications, hosted by the Auckland-based Centre for Mobile Computing (Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences). Organiser Dr Dave Parsons says the conference is a milestone for mobile computing research and development. It attracted the core of leaders in the field who presented a range of research now underway at institutions across New Zealand and Australia.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Teaching



Lo-fi zine at The Engine Room

Artist Bryce Galloway turns The Engine Room gallery into a reading room for his fanzine, enticing his audience with free coffee, zines and music.

The exhibition, *Mumbling Through to the Chorus*, also launches the 26th issue of *Incredibly Hot Sex with Hideous People*, a non-musical collaboration with Daniel Powell. In cartoon form the pair have diarised the same dates in 2006, from their respective homes in Wellington, New Zealand and Verl, Germany.

Fine Arts lecturer Bryce Galloway's art delivers a personal politic that is lo-fi, everyday and infused with self-deprecating humour.

The Engine Room is a public art gallery at the Wellington campus, focused on developing an important site for the exhibition of diverse and interesting contemporary art. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday 12–4pm, and the exhibition runs until 16 March.

Date: 26/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Wellington

New board for Allan Wilson Centre

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, has announced the formation of the new Governance Board of the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution to cover the period of extended funding for the Centre until June next year.

Massey University is the host institution for the Centre, which was established in 2003 in conjunction with the Universities of Auckland, Canterbury and Otago and Victoria University of Wellington. It is one of seven Centres of Research Excellence set up to encourage the development of world-class research in New Zealand, by providing incentives for researchers in the tertiary education sector to conduct research that is excellent, contributes to New Zealand's future development, and incorporates knowledge-transfer activities.

The Allan Wilson Centre comprises world class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who work together to unlock the secrets of our plants, animals, and microbes, including questions such as: How fast does evolution happen? What are the underlying processes that explain the evolution of our biota? How might these processes affect us in the future?

Members bring to the new board a range of relevant skills, experience and interests that will enhance the governance of the Allan Wilson Centre and I am grateful to each of these persons for their willingness to contribute in this regard, Professor Kinnear says.

Confirmed members of the Allan Wilson Centre Governance Board are:

Professor Carolyn W Burns, BSc (Hons), PhD, CBE, FRSNZ

A Professor of Zoology, University of Otago, where her research centres on biological processes in lakes, particularly in relation to plankton and microbial food webs, water quality and the management of freshwater ecosystems. She is best known for her work on trophic interactions and population dynamics of zooplankton, that form important links between primary producers (algae) and fish in lakes. She pioneered the use of radioisotopes and micronic beads to characterize trophic processes and develop quantitative models that are still in use today. Through her university teaching, membership of editorial boards of international journals in aquatic science, and work with national and international nature conservation and limnological organizations, Carolyn has promoted, supported and strengthened scientific research on indigenous flora, fauna and lakes in New Zealand and throughout the world. For many years Carolyn has played a major role in NZ science and technology, including her Presidency of the Royal Society's Academy, and membership of the NIWA Board.

Professor Garth Cooper, DPhil (Oxon), MB, ChB, FRCPA, FRSNZ

One of New Zealand's foremost biological scientists and biotechnology entrepreneurs, he is currently Professor in Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry in the School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Medicine at the University of Auckland, where he leads the Proteomics and Biomedicine Research Group. He is also a Principal Investigator in the Maurice Wilkins Centre of Research Excellence for Molecular Biodiscovery, and an Academy Councillor of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Professor Cooper was named in 2003 as North and South New Zealander of the Year (jointly) and in 2005 as NZ BIO's inaugural Biotechnologist of the Year. In 2005 his Auckland laboratory was recognised for its overall research excellence in the field of metabolic diseases with a global Frost and Sullivan corporate award. While pursuing doctoral studies at Oxford University, he discovered the hormone amylin, developed amylin-replacement therapy for diabetes using an engineered homologue, and founded Amylin (UK) Ltd. and the NASDAQ-listed US biopharmaceutical company, Amylin Pharmaceuticals. Professor Cooper is listed as inventor on more than 40 issued US and European patents. In 1993, he founded a privately-owned start-up company, Endocore that he incorporated in 1998 as Protomix, which is currently an Auckland-domiciled biopharmaceutical corporation. He stepped aside as Protomix's CEO in 2005 but remains a scientific adviser to the company.

Professor Cooper's research has led to major advances in the understanding of disease mechanisms in diabetes and related syndromes, and, based on these mechanisms, to the discovery of several new experimental therapies for these conditions.

He has served as a member of numerous committees, including the New Zealand Government's Biotechnology Taskforce; the Maori Health Committee and the Research Policy Advisory Committee of the Health Research Council (HRC) of New Zealand; the Scientific Committee of the Heart Foundation of New Zealand; and committees to recommend the award of the Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellowships, the Wellcome Trust's International Senior Fellowships, the Logan Campbell Medical Trust grants, Lottery Health (New Zealand) grants, and the Girdlers' HRC Fellowships.

Mr Rauru Kirikiri, DipTchng, BA, MA (Auckland)

Mr Kirikiri, has considerable public service background, both nationally and internationally with extensive Māori and science networks and experience in the assessment of research proposals and quality assurance audits in both New Zealand and Australia. He is a Consultant with RK Associates Limited and prior to this he spent 12 years as the Treaty Responsibilities Manager, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, increasing Māori engagement in science research generally. He also worked at the State Services Commission (Special Assignment to the Department of Justice's Treaty Policy Unit), Manatā Māori (Ministry of Māori Affairs) as Director Policy, Department of Māori Affairs as Deputy Secretary Policy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, Auckland University as a Lecturer in Māori Studies. Mr Kirikiri has also served as a member on: several Foundation for Research Science and Technology committees; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Advisory Committee of External Aid and Development; NZ Academic Audit Unit for NZVCC, Research committee on Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (Māori Centre for Research Excellence Auckland University); and, a Founding member of Te Ara Pūtaiao Senior Māori Managers association for Crown Research Institutes.

Mr Jim McLean, BSc(Hons), CA

A director of Genesis Research and Development Corporation Limited, Chairman of NZBio, the New Zealand biotechnology industry body, and Deputy Chair Foundation of Research Science & Technology. He is also the Chair of HortResearch, and a member of the New Zealand Government Taskforce for the commercialisation of biotechnology. Jim has previously worked with firms including Ernst & Young and Dunlop New Zealand Limited. He has a BSc (Hons) in chemistry and is a chartered accountant.

Distinguished Professor David AD Parry, BSc(Hons), PhD London, DSc London, FNZIC, FNZIP, FRSNZ, CNZM

Former Head of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences at Massey University, Vice President of the International Council for Science (ICSU), and President of the International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB), and New Zealand's leading researcher in the area of structural and functional studies on fibrous proteins. His pioneering work includes that on the conformation of intermediate filaments in hair and their dynamic assembly in vivo; the role of tropomyosin in the regulation of vertebrate skeletal muscle; the assembly of collagen molecules to form fibrils in tendon, skin and cornea, and the biomechanical attributes of those fibrils in connective tissues. In addition, David Parry has taken a leading role in devising methods to analyse sequences in order to determine the structure and function of (mainly) fibrous proteins. David Parry was Chair of the NZVCC Scholarships Committee over a nine-year period.

Mr Paul Rieger, QSO, JP

Mr Rieger has considerable background in local government, education governance, and has made significant and enduring contributions to community, professional, social and service organisations. He is a former member of the Massey University Council and served from 1987 to 2004, for most of that time as a ministerial appointment. Mr Rieger was a Palmerston North City Councilor for 27 years, two of them as Deputy Mayor and 14 as Mayor until 1998. He is currently involved in a number of organisations including: Estendart Limited (Board Member of a Massey University company); Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council (Councillor); International Pacific College (Member of Advisory Committee); and, Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) Dental Technicians Chairman (Under Health Practitioners Competence Act 2003).

Date: 28/02/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Veterinary profession at the core of primary industries

Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton emphasised the crucial contribution of the veterinary profession to the primary industries when he officially opened the University's new Equine and Farm Services Building yesterday.

Mr Anderton says the \$1 million building represents both the progress within the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, and the esteem in which Massey veterinary qualifications are held. He says veterinary practice and research underpins New Zealand's primary industries.

Animal-based industries have a farm-gate value of 12 billion dollars a year. Those industries need vets to look after the health of farm animals, and also to provide quality assurance for our pastoral sector exports, he says.

He says the institute is at the forefront for meeting the demand for quality-trained vets, and the development of facilities such as the new building demonstrate its commitment to progress.

Since the first intake of students into a veterinary course in 1963, this school has grown a high quality international reputation. Massey's was one of the first veterinary programmes outside the United States to offer a degree that could be registered in the US. The programme is also accredited by the Australasian, Canadian and Royal College authorities. So the quality of this place is widely recognised and respected.

Before the opening of the building, Mr Anderton met with senior staff in the institute to discuss issues relating to veterinary education and those faced by new vets, particularly in rural practice. Dr Frazer Allan, director of the Veterinary Hospital, says the minister was receptive to suggestions by staff on how to encourage enrolments in agricultural degree-base courses.

Dr Allan says the Palmerston North-based building provides a customised reception area for the University's equine and farm service clients. It also houses veterinary staff, a multimedia laboratory for students, a tutorial room, a veterinary pharmacy and equipment store. The project was managed internally by the Regional Facilities Management group and is the largest building project internally managed by the University to date.

Date: 28/02/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Collaborate or die

Economic development is in danger of being stalled by poor collaboration between business and academics, according to leading business researcher Professor Claire Massey.

She says the number of business people accessing academic research in New Zealand remains low, and the two groups have an uneasy and at times suspicious relationship.

Professor Massey says this is a dangerous trend for business and industry. Huge advances in science and technology are taking place on an almost daily basis. These have the potential to give individual business people more knowledge that they can apply to their own situations and their own enterprise.

Industry bodies and the Government have become increasingly focused on encouraging firms to access the new knowledge, adopt the new technologies and become more innovative. But, for the most part, it isn't happening.

Professor Massey says traditionally, relationships between academic researchers and those in business and industry have been strongest in areas where there is a clear technical need: For example, farmers using research to increase the yield of their crops, or technology based firms using researchers' findings to help create a commercial product.

But outside those sectors, she says there is little collaboration between business people and researchers. The consequence is that the potential for research to contribute to industry and to all those involved in economic development remains unrealised .

In a paper titled *Collaborate or Die*, Professor Massey concludes that the responsibility lies with academics as well as business people. She suggests a series of actions that should be taken by both groups to ensure that knowledge that is created is of value to all interested parties. At present too many projects are managed in isolation and not driven by real needs.

Her proposals include setting up knowledge creation teams that include a wide range of stakeholders as well as researchers, working in new modes and helping to set the agenda and, eventually, disseminate the knowledge. This should ensure that projects are driven by strategy and, above all, value to the users.

We need 'engaged' users as research partners people who are committed to using the results. It's the only way to avoid the 'so what?' factor.

Professor Massey suggests the Government could make increased funding available for projects that are driven by researcher and stakeholder teams.

Claire Massey is Professor of Enterprise Development and Director of the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research at Massey University and is acting head of the University's Department of Management.

Date: 28/02/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Rachael Efaraimo, Pasifika Learning Adviser, Pastor Jacob Semeri, Lisa Semeri, Professor Andrea McIlroy, and Karl Partsch, Facilities Management at the launch of the Pasifika Learning Centre.

New learning centre strengthens Pasifika links

Links between Pasifika students and the University were strengthened with the opening of a new Pasifika Learning Centre at the Wellington campus this week.

Pastor Jacob Semeri welcomed the initiative. Today we are sowing a seed to reap a future of wisdom and knowledge.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrea McIlroy says the University's Pasifika strategy aims to increase gains for Pacific peoples through teaching, research and consultancy services.

Opening the Pasifika Learning Centre is a significant step. It provides a place for study and companionship, and where Pasifika students can connect with the University.

In 2006 Professor Sitaleki Finau was appointed as Director Pasifika, a first for any New Zealand university. The University has about 1000 Pasifika students enrolled, half extramural, and half internal at its three campuses.

With the Pacific population of New Zealand growing significantly, Massey aims to position itself as a key university in the Pacific region, committed to the achievement of Pacific peoples whether in New Zealand or in island states.

Date: 02/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika; Wellington

New education plan for air traffic controllers

A partnership between Airways New Zealand and the University's School of Aviation will allow potential air traffic controllers to earn a degree in conjunction with an air traffic control professional qualification.

At present, Airways cannot grant an air traffic control licence to trainees until they reach the age of 21. Under this collaborative scheme, the trainees will be able to work towards attaining a degree while they are waiting to reach the legal age limit for receiving an air traffic control licence.

Captain Ashok Poduval, General Manager of the Palmerston North-based School of Aviation says that specific credits will be awarded towards a Bachelor of Aviation Management degree, to air traffic control trainees who qualify for the Airways Diploma of Air Traffic Services.

Airways New Zealand CEO Ashley Smout says the new scheme will give students the opportunity to develop aviation management skills, and have their study recognised as they complete their training.

Licensed air traffic controllers will also benefit from this partnership, as they too will be eligible to receive cross credits towards the Bachelor of Aviation Management degree, says Captain Poduval. This scheme is a good example of a cooperative venture between industry and the tertiary sector that will benefit students by offering them a pathway to successful employment after completing quality education.

The Massey University School of Aviation was established in 1990 to address the demands of the aviation industry for well educated professionals. It offers under-graduate, post-graduate and Doctoral programmes in aviation, with most available for extramural study. It is one of the few tertiary education institutions in the world that provides professional training for pilots, blended seamlessly with university accredited academic qualifications.

Date: 07/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation

Seeking the best Manawatu business plan

The search is on for ambitious students who want to start their own business in the Manawatu.

The LAUNCH business plan competition was created by a group of Massey University Business students and run for the first time last year.

The idea came originally from Palmerston North MP and Education Minister Steve Mahery in 2005. A group called Students in Free Enterprise, went to see him to ask what they could do to help make a difference in the Manawatu.

He suggested organising a business plan competition, based on Cambridge-based competitions, to help retain students in the region once they finish their studies.

The competition was launched last year, with a series of workshops and a business plan competition with a \$5000 prize, to help motivate and support students seeking to start up their own business after their studies or in the near future.

Spokesman Massey PhD candidate Eugene Lai says the competition has paid off for last year's winner Marketing graduate Brody Henricksen who now has a base in the Manawatu Biocommerce Centre and is doing more research on his invention, a stop watch system for motocross riders.

The competition also won Best Clubs Event for 2006 at the Massey clubs awards.

This year the team is extending the concept. Students from UCOL are also be eligible to enter. There will be a prize for the best business idea as well as the best business plan and a category for those seeking to set up a business outside of the Manawatu. However, the best prizes will still be for businesses that will be set up in the Manawatu, says Mr Lai.

The team is again seeking support from local businesses, to help with networking and mentoring, small in-kind prizes and motivational speakers. They have also enlisted a former winner of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Business Plan Competition, Michael Bryzek, as a business advisor.

An information session on LAUNCH 2007 will be held this Wednesday (7 March) at noon at the Japanese Lecture Theatre at the Palmerston North campus. The speaker is the perfect role model Simon Barnett, whose Manawatu company Obo supplies hockey equipment world-wide.

Date: 07/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North

Search engines emerge from Google's shadow

An Internet search engine designed by Wellington campus digital media specialist Mark Zeman has been voted one of the world's top 100 alternative search engines the only one from New Zealand to make the list.

The list of alternatives to the world's most popular search engine, Google, was assembled by [Read/WriteWeb](#), a leading blog that analyses trends in web development.

A [Searchbot](#) is a personal search tool that continuously searches the Internet for websites matched to your interests. It can be programmed with keywords and given a personality .

Mr Zeman, from the Institute of Communication Design, says [Searchbots](#) is an experimental search engine that investigates the use of mythology, personification and game theory as motivational strategies in creating a search community .

"It's great to see innovative web development in New Zealand recognised internationally. Our lacklustre broadband means that New Zealanders aren't aware of many new applications. They get more use overseas where people are familiar with the Web 2.0 wave of websites.

Even though Searchbots is a prototype, it's had great uptake and positive feedback from users. Users of Searchbots have responded enthusiastically to the idea of having a search agent or friend that searches on your behalf. It's about building up a relationship over time with your Searchbot so it can respond with improved accuracy to your needs."

Date: 08/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Awards and appointments; College of Creative Arts





Still shots from Rachael Rakena's film, and the suspended sculptures in which the film is projected.

Venice Biennale showing for digital media artist

Electronic media artist Rachael Rakena has been selected to exhibit a collaborative installation in the world's oldest, most prestigious international art exposition the Venice Art Biennale from June to September.

She and Auckland sculptor Dr Brett Graham need to raise \$350,000 to ship their installation to Italy and hire and prepare a venue for the four-month show.

Ms Rakena teaches digital art and the art of the moving image in the Māori Visual Arts programme in Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi (School of Māori Studies) at the University's Palmerston North campus. Dr Graham also taught in the school, and the pair collaborated for an exhibit in last year's Sydney Biennale.

Aniwaniwa, a sculptural and video installation, was exhibited at the Te Manawa gallery in Palmerston North for several months until February. It tells the story of Horahora, a village on the Waikato River that was flooded to create a new dam at Lake Karapiro for hydroelectricity.

The drive to get the project shown in Venice is the initiative of Te Manawa curator Alice Hutchison who, through her contacts with prominent Italian curators Camilla Seibezzi and Milovan Farronato, secured a venue for the show.

Ms Hutchison says Aniwaniwa is perfect for Venice.

The notion of submersion is highly pertinent to the slowly sinking city of Venice and our Italian colleagues are really excited about this work. While it tells a very specific and local story, its references are very international both in terms of environmental issues, with rising sea levels and global warming, and concerns about cultural loss in an era of globalisation, she says.

The installation features five large suspended sculptures in which film directed and produced by Ms Rakena is projected. The audience is invited to view from the comfort of mattresses and cushions on the floor marae style and a point of viewing difference the artists anticipate will be popular. Ms Rakena attended the Venice Biennale in 2005 while exhibiting in France, and says sore feet are a common complaint.

You're given a map and a programme and you just go for it, racing around the city's cobblestones. It's a wonderful experience. Venice is the apex of the art world and the biennale is a fantastic opportunity to have your

work seen at an event which attracts the most important art audience in the world.

Massey Māori Visual Arts students feature in the film, and the soundtrack is a collaboration between songwriter Whirimako Black, soprano Deborah Wai Kapohe, and electronic musician Paddy Free.

Professor Bob Jahnke, head of Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi says Ms Rakena's success has great ramifications for both her career and the University. Her hard work is a boost for both our PBRF requirements and for students and staff in the Maori Visual Arts programme.

An organising committee has been established, comprising the artists, Ms Hutchison and gallerists Jenny Todd and Alison Bartley. Ms Rakena says the costs involved in exhibiting internationally are huge. They will have spent \$150,000 before stepping foot in Italy, and it costs approximately \$40,000 to officially register for a place in the catalogues and guides.

New Zealand has participated in the last three biennales, funded by Creative New Zealand, but is not participating as a country this year. The artists' individual application to the funding body is being considered with a decision due in May. They currently have support from Massey, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement) and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.

They will be selling a series of prints from the installation, and on 27 March will be launching their fund-raising campaign at the Wellington City Gallery.

Date: 08/03/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

The future of farming in the Manawatu

Coming to the Manawatu a vision of farming in the year 2020, when property is surveyed from a plasma screen instead of the top of hill, and where GPS technologies allow livestock to be tracked and checked for illness at a touch of a button.

The Future Farming Roadshow is a high-tech interactive touring exhibition hosted by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. It will be based at the University's Palmerston North campus from March 19 to 21, and at The Bio Commerce Centre, Fitzherbert Science Centre, on 22 March

Designed to stimulate thinking about the future of New Zealand's primary industries, the roadshow is packed with audio-visual demonstrations. One of these, the Digital Supermarket, shows a futuristic supermarket display of milk cartons where consumers can use touch panels to trace the product to its source.

The exhibition is free to visitors and Massey will be setting up a complementary display of the University's capability and achievements in agriculture.

More information about the roadshow can be found at: www.morst.govt.nz/current-work/biotechnology/future-farming



Date: 12/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Fruit for the fridge or the bowl?

New-season apples will stay crisp and flavoursome in a refrigerator, but the best place for tomatoes is in the fruit bowl.

This is because less ripe tomatoes, like avocados and pineapples, are sensitive to chilling and will soften and lose flavour in the fridge, says Associate Professor John Mawson.

Director of the University's Centre for Postharvest and Refrigeration Research in Palmerston North, Dr Mawson says tomatoes have an optimum storage temperature of about 10 degrees, making the fridge too cold. The fruit bowl (at room temperatures of between 15 and 25 degrees) is close to the ideal ripening temperature but too warm for long-term storage.

Cold sensitive fruit such as tomatoes undergo a change in metabolism in the fridge, which leads to a loss of texture and flavour, so the best approach is to buy them close to their peak of ripeness and eat them soon, or ripen a little further in a bowl or paper bag.

Dr Mawson says some early varieties of apples like Royal Gala will soften in the fruit bowl comparatively rapidly, and if a crisp texture is preferred, are best kept in the fridge until a day or so before eating. Keeping them in a plastic bag will minimise water loss and prevent them from shrivelling.

Beyond New Zealand's consumer market, finding the optimum conditions for storage of fruit and vegetables has huge implications for the export market, and Dr Mawson is leading a research project into active packaging for fruit and vegetables. Active packaging aims to create conditions to optimise storage life by altering gas composition, as well as protecting the fruit against changes in temperature and humidity.

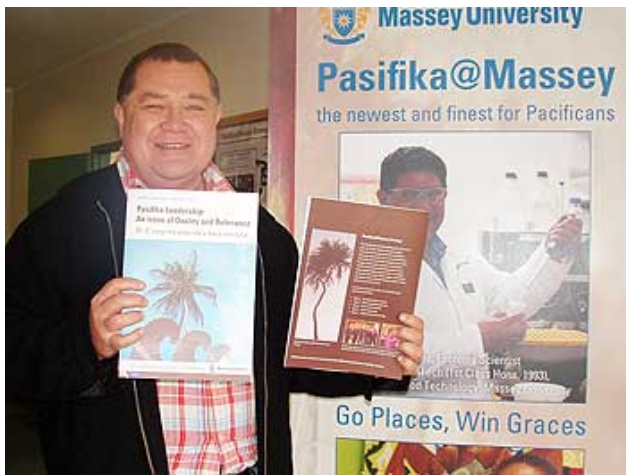
It's about working with the product's natural processes to slow down its metabolism and protect against disorders. For example, we are looking at using the natural anti-microbial activity of certain compounds in fruit and vegetables to minimise rot. These compounds are released as gases into the active packaging which works to fight rot and prolong the life of the product.

Dr Mawson is currently focusing on optimising feijoa storage for an increasingly interested export market. Native to South America, feijoas grow well in New Zealand but have a limited season despite a lengthy flowering period. This leads to trees full of fruit at differing stages of ripening, and, coupled with the tendency of feijoas to rot quickly, limits export opportunities. Research into the grading and storage of feijoas aims to reduce costs and increase opportunity for New Zealand growers.

Date: 12/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Professor Sitaleki Finau with the first in a series of published writings by prominent Pacific leaders, launched at the annual Pasifika@Massey conference.

Pasifika writings launched

A philosophic meditation on leadership by a former Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga is the first in a series of inspirational writings by Pacific Island statesmen and scholars published by the University, and launched at the fourth annual Pasifika@Massey conference recently.

Sprinkled with quotes from Confucius to Kipling, Aristotle to Einstein, the 32-page document penned by Dr Senipisi Langi Kavaliku is the first in the Pasifika Leaders' Forum.

It is the latest initiative of the Pasifika@Massey strategy, and is aimed at spreading the knowledge, ideas and experiences of respected leaders to a wider audience in education, development and community services in New Zealand.

Dr Kavaliku, the first Tongan to gain a Masterate and PhD prior to 35 years as a cabinet minister in Tonga, has held a swag of top-ranked positions in government, university and church governance throughout the Pacific.

He graduated a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, a Masters of Arts from Cambridge University and doctorate from Victoria University, and is currently Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

His authoritative, thoughtful dissertation, titled Pasifika Leadership: An issue of Quality and Relevance, touched on personal experiences of being educated abroad and the challenges of returning to Tonga and adapting to being appointed in a leadership role.

Knowledge of culture, creating trust among colleagues and with people he represents, professionalism, education, and seeking the support of mentors were among the critical qualities needed for effective leadership, Dr Kavaliku wrote.

For Pacificans in leadership roles in New Zealand, he cites the importance of being sensitive to the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society. "Emotional intelligence" was the new buzzword for good leadership generally, but has long been part of a Pacifican style of leadership, he says.

The two-day conference at the Auckland campus attracted about 30 Pasifika staff and students from all three campuses.

Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau gave an overview and progress report on achievements of the Whenua Research and Academic Pasifika Network, and Professor John Raine, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland) offered a perspective on Pasifika@Massey as keynote speaker at the conference.

Ten research students presented progress reports for discussion and feedback on their Pasifika-themed postgraduate research, with topics ranging from the efficiency of commercial banks in Pacific nations to the relationship between spirituality and education performance among Pacific tertiary students.

Sione Tu'itahi, chairperson of the Pasifika@Massey network, said the strategy had fostered many achievements since its inception in 2003, including the creation of Pasifika fale (spaces) on all campuses, more Pasifika staff and students doing Pacific-related research, a successful pilot project in several Auckland secondary schools to

encourage students to continue to university studies and an increasing awareness around New Zealand and the Pacific region of the Pasifika@Massey strategy.

Date: 12/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika

The Beatles as competitive innovators

There is international interest in a study by a New Zealand economics researcher on what drove the Beatles to success.

Dr Greg Clydesdale, who specialises in enterprise development, used the British pop group to explore the importance of competition in creativity and innovation.

He says the Beatles should be seen as a creative process rather than creative geniuses. A standout feature of their experience was that their creative improvements were a process of gradual, continuous improvement over time.

He says this process was enhanced by the structure of the group, as a working team with high levels of exchange, mutually reinforcement and complementary blends of expertise and thinking styles. This resulted in continuous improvement which in turn resulted in creative genius, he says.

The second force was the element of competition and rivalry. As an example, he cites the Beatles' desire to outdo their contemporaries, particularly the Beach Boys. When the Beatles first heard and analysed the Beach Boys' album *Pet Sounds*, they asked their manager George Martin if they could do as well. He told them they could do better. The Beatles' response was to produce *Sergeant Pepper*.

Dr Clydesdale says fame was a strong incentive but the Beatles achieved it strategically. They wanted to be bigger than Elvis. But their focus was always a few yards ahead.

He says the rivalry between John Lennon and Paul McCartney was also an important factor and supports earlier research suggesting competition and cooperation can be intertwined. He quotes McCartney as saying: He'd write 'Strawberry Fields' and I'd go away and write 'Penny Lane'. Dr Clydesdale says the rivalry was friendly, largely because the rewards were shared: The whole group benefitted from performing an excellent song. And regardless of which one wrote it, the song went down as a 'Lennon and McCartney' composition.

Dr Clydesdale says the Beatles' experience is useful in identifying what can drive creativity in business. Seeing it as a process suggests that experimental studies of just one creative act may have limited value to real world creativity which is often determined by knowledge and routines built up over time.

His research has appeared in the international *Creativity Research Journal*. He has also been invited to present his study as a keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Amsterdam Centre for Law and Economics in The Hague next month.

Dr Clydesdale is based at from Massey University's Auckland campus. A copy of his research paper is available [here](#).

Date: 13/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Breast implants risks underplayed, choices limited

Growing numbers of New Zealand women are having breast augmentation surgery but too little information is being made available about the choices available for shape and size of implants and the associated risks, according to a researcher in the Centre for Psychology.

In a study involving an examination of 15 websites offering breast augmentation surgery in this country as well as analysis of earlier research, health psychology masters student Veronica Hopner found that the surgeons are almost exclusively male and that they appear to effectively control the shape and size options available to women seeking breast surgery.

The breast as a commodity is understood and reproduced as a cultural object of femininity, Ms Hopner says. The notions of femininity reproduced in the websites were employed to limit possibilities of choice, for breast implant size, shape and position.

In New Zealand what women seeking information on the procedure are told, how much they are told and the shape and size of the breast they get after augmentation, is ultimately in the hands of male surgeons.

Her study looked at how the websites present women's bodies and breast augmentation, how they market the procedure, what they really offer and how much information they give about the risks and negative aspects of the procedure.

Although data on breast implants in New Zealand women is scarce, it was estimated in 1998 that about 3000 had had surgery. United States research found more than two million women had implants, more than 200,000 of them in 2003 alone with projections that the number would increase by up to 12 per cent annually.

Ms Hopner believes it is likely that New Zealand, along with other western countries, are increasingly likely to have breast augmentation but risks and side effects that can arise from breast augmentation are not adequately covered by the websites offering the procedure.

Although there are no conclusive links between breast augmentation and breast cancer or other serious illnesses, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reported 27 different risks and complications including infection, toxic shock syndrome, problems with breast feeding, wrinkling, asymmetry, scarring and chest wall deformity, which usually require further surgery.

Rupturing has proved to be the most common and potentially serious complication with implants and the FDA says the risk of rupture increases over time to 69 per cent for implants older than 17 years.

Breast augmentation has enormous value and many women report that such surgery has significantly enriched their lives, says Ms Hopner. However research indicates that women would rather know all the risks and complications in order to make informed choice about their bodies.

She says the websites offer further information about the surgery but such information is limited to implant manufacturers or other cosmetic associations' websites.

The websites of New Zealand cosmetic surgeons minimise the risks and complications associated with breast augmentation, giving little indication of the likelihood of further surgery.

Date: 13/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Researcher Pamela von Hurst, Sudersham Bajaj, Sunita Bajaj and Dr Shashi Bhuthoji at Massey University as participants in the health and nutrition study of Indian women in New Zealand.

Health study of New Zealand's Indian community launched

Massey University researchers are seeking more than 300 south Asian women living in New Zealand to study whether changes in diet and sunshine hours affects their health.

The health and nutrition study run from the Auckland Campus is believed to be the first wide scale observation of the health of this section of New Zealand's population, which includes women from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The research is led by doctoral student Pamela von Hurst from the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, who says South Asian women are known to have a higher predisposition to developing health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

We really don't know much about the health of Indian people living in New Zealand and the aim of the study is to look at their health status and to investigate diet and lifestyle and certain genetic characteristics of this ethnic group, Ms von Hurst says.

The latest census shows the Indian population has risen from 60,000 in 2001 to more than 107,000 last year. Ms von Hurst says different factors including diet and climate affect the health of this ethnic group when they come to a country like New Zealand.

Obviously there is going to be a change in diet. In India, diabetes has soared as the middle class has taken on more of the excesses of western lifestyle. The change of diet here is a factor but so too is the climate where there are fewer sunshine hours and it's harder for their darker skin to make Vitamin D.

There has been a lot of research interest in vitamin D and its role in a number of diseases. One of the aims of this study is to investigate the influence of vitamin D deficiency in type-two diabetes and to test the effectiveness of vitamin supplements.

It is important that we find out if vitamin D supplements work, and what dose is required, before people start taking supplements which may be ineffective.

The researchers are now calling for participants who must be 20 or older and either been born in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka or have parents or grandparents born in those countries. They must be willing to undergo blood testing and blood pressure testing.

Two North Shore based Indian doctors are advisers for the study, which is funded by a grant from the Lotteries Commission.

Date: 14/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Fly the Frasca

It's the most flying you can do without leaving the ground.

A new state-of-the-art flight simulator just acquired by the Massey University School of Aviation sets new standards in realism.

The United States-built Frasca Truflite light aircraft simulator has the capability to create a wide range of flying conditions. The school's general manager Captain Ashok Poduval describes it as an excellent training device that can simulate realistic scenarios, such as rain and thunder and lightening (including sound), fog, and day and night visual conditions, as well as various flight emergencies.

The Frasca takes the form of a cockpit module, equipped with aircraft kits that simulate the Piper Seneca V and the Piper Warrior. The main instrument panel features two large LCD flat screens, which display the aircraft instruments.

The new simulator will be used to train Bachelor of Aviation students as well as flight instructors. The school already has other light aircraft simulators but Captain Poduval says the Frasca is a giant step in enhancing the school's ability to produce excellent learning outcomes.

Education Minister Steven Maharey has accepted an invitation to fly the Frasca at an opening ceremony at the School of Aviation's Flight Centre in Palmerston North this Friday 16 March.

Date: 14/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation

New take on predicting stock market returns

International finance commentators are taking a keen interest in a challenge to conventional stock market forecasting from Massey University finance researchers.

A story in US based Barron's business media on a study by finance Professor Ben Jacobsen, has spread rapidly around the finance community. Professor Jacobsen, and his associates, have reported that conclusions on stock market return predictability vary drastically when the timeframes of observation are altered.

They say forecasts will vary, for example, if they are based on data from three or 11 days trading instead of on data from commodity prices over a month, a week or a day as is current practice. Data taken from varied periods of commodity trading gives surprising results that challenge the cornerstone of finance research, says Professor Jacobsen.

In their recently completed study 'The Interval of Observation,' Professor Ben Jacobsen and two senior lecturers in the University's College of Business, Drs Ben Marshall and Nuttawat Visaltanachoti worked with commodity prices and US,UK and world stock market indices.

We expect this study may be extremely important in the area of finance research. Issues of stock market forecasting are obviously very important. We have already had interest in our study from international mutual funds and hedge funds. Our results open a fundamentally new approach they can use, says Professor Jacobsen.

Our point is not so much statistical but that a slight change in an innocent looking assumption can have drastic consequences for research. Intuitively, one would not expect much difference whether one would consider four, five or six day intervals. This is surprising.

The Massey researchers say they were revisiting the Kendall study (1953) that has long been an 'empirical cornerstone' in what is known in finance research as the Efficient Market Hypothesis/Random Walk Model. Academic views on stock market investing might now have been fundamentally different if Kendal had used a slightly different interval of observation, says Professor Jacobsen.

For fifty years, people have ignored the impact a slight change in the interval of observation could have on our thinking with respect to financial markets. In fact, if you take the approach we took, similar changes in conclusions may occur in many other fields of finance and economics.

The full study 'The Interval of Observation' by Ben Jacobsen, Ben Marshall and Nuttawat Visaltanochoti is available on <http://ssrn.com/abstract=965336>

Date: 15/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Keas' taste for lead endangers wild population

The natural inquisitiveness of keas, combined with the sweet taste of some lead-based products, is endangering its health and population numbers.

Dr Jenny Youl, a veterinarian in the University's New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre in Palmerston North, has discovered high levels of lead in the population of wild keas living around Mt Cook.

Dr Youl's preliminary results from research undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and behavioural researchers from Victoria University, indicate that at least seven of 10 dead wild kea from the Mt Cook area died from toxic levels of lead in their body.

Dr Youl says that 16 of the 18 samples from live wild keas had lead levels greater than the allowable level in humans (0.1mg/l). Two of the birds sampled had levels high enough to cause serious disease and death.

She says lead is ubiquitous throughout the New Zealand environment due to its presence in construction materials, shot, petrol, paints and batteries. It can also be sweet tasting and may be sought out by animals feeding in a contaminated area. She says the particularly inquisitive and destructive nature of kea and the fact that they learn through manipulation of objects has led to incidences of ingestion of foreign substances. Likely sources for kea are lead head nails and lead flashing on old huts and homes.

She says lead toxicity in potentially declining populations of birds such as kea may have detrimental population effects, and its effect at even low levels can be detrimental. While higher levels of lead can cause obvious clinical signs like vomiting and ataxia, lower chronic levels are known to cause a reduction in intelligence and learning ability. Even once exposure stops, lead may be stored in bones, which is a risk for laying females using their bones to form egg shell.

Massey vets will continue working with the Department of Conservation to collect samples to determine the extent of the problem in the Mt Cook area and other populations of kea in the South Island.

Local conservation staff in the area have been working to identify the source of lead and produce a plan to reduce exposure, and this information will be used to reduce lead exposure in other kea areas.

Date: 15/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Vets investigating yellow-eyed penguin deaths

Veterinarians at the University's Wildlife Ward are investigating the cause of death of the last of a population of endangered yellow-eyed penguins hatched on Stewart Island this breeding season.

Dr Andrew Hill, a wildlife vet in the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, spent two weeks on Stewart Island earlier this year collecting blood samples, and another week on Southland's Catlins Coast studying the population there.

He says although all of the 32 chicks in the island's Anglem coast monitoring area died, the mainland population did not appear to be affected at this stage.

The last chick died of a blood parasite recently discovered on the island, but a number of diseases and environmental factors are believed to be involved in the overall mortality. Investigation is now being focused on the role of disease in Yellow-eyed penguin chicks and methods of reducing mortality.

The Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust says this year's breeding season is the worst since monitoring began four years ago, when the research programme into the island's declining penguin population began.

Date: 15/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Flight instructor Kelly Nathan, Captain Ashok Poduval and Education Minister Steve Maharey test the new flight simulator.

Maharey hails Aviation School's new flight simulator

Education Minister Steve Maharey decided on Friday morning that operating the Massey School of Aviation's new flight simulator was likely to be the most exciting thing he did that day. He wasn't disappointed.

Mr Maharey cut the ribbon, declared the Frasca Truflite simulator "open" then climbed into the cockpit and took off.

The simulator, at the School's Milson Flight Systems Centre at Palmerston North Airport, is probably the most high-tech available with any New Zealand aviation training provider.

Modeled on the interiors of the Piper Seneca V and the Piper Warrior it offers controls with actual "feel", accurate and realistic high quality Instrumentation, a high fidelity sound system, and, most importantly, a visual display system that provides 170 degrees of horizontal view, enabling pilots to look out of the side window. It has the capability to simulate various weather conditions, as well as day and night conditions.

Mr Maharey described it as "a very auspicious day. You are now looking at a mature relationship between Aviation and the University."

He said a lot of people had doubted the validity of having an aviation school in a University environment, but the decision had proved correct.

"Massey has been the cutting edge institution in New Zealand in taking in areas that have traditionally been outside the university environment.."

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, said the acquisition of the new simulator met an identified need in pilot training and was indicative of Massey's ongoing commitment to quality education and training programmes.

The school's general manager, Captain Ashok Poduval, says the Frasca is "an excellent training device and a giant step in enhancing the quality of aviation education and training within the Bachelor of Aviation programme.

"The School now has the capability to add a new dimension to their training – a module for training students in multi-crew co-operation competencies to bridge the gap and enable smooth transition from single pilot light aircraft operation to the multi crew air carrier environment."

Date: 16/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation

Dairy science leaders at the Riddet Centre

The three visiting scientists to the Riddet Centre say the centre's multi-disciplinary research platform holds a unique position in the international network of food research.

The three-month residencies of Professors Andy Rao (Cornell University, New York), Professors Jim Harper (Ohio State University) and Professor Douglas Dagleish (University of Guelph, Canada) fulfil one of the key roles of the Palmerston North-based centre.

Co-director Professor Harjinder Singh says the centre aspires to attract high profile visitors who will contribute to research and interact with post-graduate students and researchers. The eagerness of renowned food scientists to visit the centre is an indication of its growing international status.

Professor Rao, who holds the Chair in Food Science at Cornell University, has been studying highly-concentrated milk proteins during his visit, says the centre is leading the research that will further industry and create jobs. "The Riddet Centre is meeting the need for more top-level food scientists, by training a mentoring a new generation of researchers. Its unique networks with industry and other research institutes makes it an attractive workplace for the brightest of scientists and students."

Professor Dagleish holds the Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Science at the University of Guelph in Canada. He says the centre is an interesting place to visit and describes the recent milk proteins symposium hosted by the centre as "cutting-edge".

The success of the symposium was a highlight for the three visitors. Professor Harper says the calibre of delegates demonstrated the leading role of the centre, and that its research direction puts it on map in a number of different areas.

The Riddet Centre is a partnership between Massey and the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with core strengths in nutrition, food functionality and food processing. Its platform brings together researchers from several disciplines including biology, chemistry, food science, engineering, nanotechnology and medicine.

Date: 16/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Professor Nigel French in one of several state-of-the-art laboratories in the new Hopkirk Institute. Behind him, from left to right, are veterinary public health researchers, Jim Learmonth, Rebecca Pattison, Dr Eve Pleydell, Dr Julie Collins-Emerson and Lynn Rogers.

\$17m new home for animal health research:

Veterinary public health research at Massey has expanded to new dimensions of diagnostic capability with its relocation to the new Hopkirk Research Institute.

Led by Professor Nigel French, Co-Director of the EpiCentre, the team were one of the first from Massey's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Science and AgResearch to move in this year. The \$17 million state-of-the-art institute will be formally opened on 23 March by the Minister of Research, Science and Technology and Minister of Crown Research Institutes Steve Maharey.

The Hopkirk houses the largest concentration of animal health sciences in the Southern Hemisphere and scientists from Massey and AgResearch will collaborate to implement New Zealand's animal health research priorities.

Professor French's team leads one of the largest projects underway in the Hopkirk – to identify and predict the occurrence of food poisoning threats in New Zealand and devise strategies to minimise their effect. He says the advanced laboratories in the new institute allow his team to further their research, taking it into the rapidly growing field of molecular epidemiology, which focuses on identifying the source of infections.

Campylobacter is one of several infectious diseases transmitted between animals and humans that significantly threaten the health of New Zealanders. Professor French says 2006 was the worst year on record with around 16,000 reported human cases – a figure he says is a conservative, possibly eight-fold underestimation.

With AgResearch, the Massey team are investigating the cause of soaring campylobacter levels by building DNA databases of the genomes of strains found in human, animal and environmental sources. Professor French says that while many bacterial pathogens don't cause disease in animals, they become a source of infection for humans through food, drinking water and occupational exposure.

By looking at the strains at a genome level, the researchers can identify markers that may explain the difference between the strains that cause disease in humans and those that don't. This will help scientists find ways to identify and manage the sources of human infections, reduce symptoms and modulate human response to the campylobacter bacterium. Funded mainly by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, the collaborative research could ultimately lead to the development of vaccines against campylobacter.

Also within the veterinary public health research programme are research units looking at the spread and control of cryptosporidium and leptospirosis pathogens.

The Hopkirk Research Institute is named after Dr Cyril Hopkirk, who headed AgResearch's Wallaceville Veterinary Laboratory for 21 years from 1923 to 1945.

Date: 16/03/2007

Type: University News

Charges a barrier to using cellphones to pay for parking, concert tickets

The cost of transactions is putting New Zealanders off using cell phones to make payments.

Fees are the greatest barrier to uptake of "m-payment" options, says mobile technology researcher, Associate Professor Dennis Viehland.

Dr Viehland and a research team at the University's Auckland-based Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences last year surveyed 132 mobile phone users' attitudes to using and paying for mobile payment services.

The survey found both fees and security issues to be major deterrents and the lack of convenience also rated high and Dr Viehland says although consumers are beginning to expect they can use mobile phones to make payments, banks and telephone companies may have to rethink their offerings.

Dr Viehland is a founding member of his institute's Centre for Mobile Computing. He presented the survey highlights to Auckland's business community at one of a series of technology briefings initiated by the University's e-centre and sponsored by Connect New Zealand.

A small range of m-payment options have been introduced in New Zealand over the past three years. These include "HotLink", whereby people can use their mobiles to top up their prepay accounts. This service is at no charge and the survey found it to be the most popular m-payment system currently on offer.

Through 'TXT-a-Park' cellphone users can also pay for metered parking in Auckland and Wellington at a fee of 50cents; 'mTicket' enables the purchase of event tickets at a cost of up to \$2.50.

Although cost and security ranked highest in reasons for not adopting m-payment, 30 per cent of those surveyed said they found using cash easier, 11 per cent said they didn't want to change their habits and just over 8 per cent said they either didn't like texting or didn't know how to.

Dr Viehland's presentation was based on an honours research project conducted by Roslyn Siu Yoong Leong. The Centre for Mobile Computing is conducting ongoing research into the acceptance and use of new technology and Dr Viehland is seeking interaction with industry to provide industry-relevant research.

Date: 19/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Presidential post for Allan Rae

Professor Allan Rae from the Department of Applied and International Economics is now president of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.

He was elected president for a one-year term, at the society's annual conference in Queenstown last month, and is one of only a few New Zealanders to fill the role.

The conference was attended by about 200 delegates, from New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Canada, the United States and Europe.

Papers and presentations covered issues related to agricultural trade, fisheries, energy and natural resource economics and water management policy. Professor Rae says this year there was a greater emphasis on environmental economics. Also of note were papers by two World Bank representatives on the Doha round of world trade negotiations.

Date: 19/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Massey Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear inspects state-of-the-art laboratory facilities at the Hopkirk Institute with the Hon Steve Maharey and AgResearch chairman Rick Christie.

Hopkirk Institute opening signals new era in animal health research

The opening today (23 March) of the \$17 million state-of-the-art Hopkirk Research Institute, a collaborative venture between AgResearch and Massey University, signals a new era in animal health research in New Zealand – particularly for sheep, cattle, goats and deer.

The building was officially opened this morning by the Hon Steve Maharey, Minister for Crown Research Institutes and Research, Science and Technology and MP for Palmerston North.

"The Hopkirk Research Institute is a fine example of collaboration between a University and a Crown Research Institute, with two of this country's largest primary sector research organisations working closely together. I am confident that research and development conducted at this world-class facility will be a major benefit for the economy and lead to increased productivity and improved animal welfare within agriculture," he said.

Built on Massey University's Palmerston North Campus, adjacent to Massey's Institute for Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences (IVABS), it offers close to 4,000 square metres of laboratory space, sufficient to house approximately 90-100 research staff.

The Hopkirk Research Institute will focus on achieving and promoting scientific and technological excellence in areas relevant to the health and welfare of pastoral livestock, with an emphasis on infectious diseases endemic to New Zealand that threaten the livelihood of the pastoral sector.

Research and development will initially concentrate on three main areas: finding solutions for the control of parasitic diseases (primarily in sheep and cattle); developing more effective vaccines to combat infectious disease (chiefly tuberculosis, yet with a growing emphasis on Johne's disease); identifying and predicting food poisoning threats in New Zealand, and devising means to minimise their prevalence and impact.

AgResearch CEO Dr Andrew West said it is important that Universities and Crown Research Institutes collaborate where they have common areas of research expertise.

"Through creation of the Hopkirk Research Institute, AgResearch and Massey University now have a team of animal health researchers and developers of global scale and influence. Healthy livestock are essential to the prosperity of New Zealanders. We don't have BSE, Scrapie or foot and mouth in New Zealand, which is to our huge advantage, but we do have other diseases and parasites that we must defeat."

Professor Guilford, head of the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, says the collaborative venture benefits from the integration of Massey's clinicians, epidemiologists, pathologists and scientists, with AgResearch's microbiologists and parasitologists to anchor research in the practical reality of New Zealand's pastoral farming system.



He says the potential for commercial success is enhanced by the guidance of leading farmers and veterinarians participating in the associated Hopkirk Foundation, and by the region's reputation for innovative companies and product development.



“The Manawatu region already has a number of companies with an interest in animal health - such as New Zealand Pharmaceuticals, Estendart Ltd, Fonterra, and New Zealand Veterinary Pathology as well as organisations with more generic expertise in agri-bio products and development such as the Manawatu Bio Commerce Centre.

“This, along with the world-class 'process engineering' skills of Massey's Institute of Technology and Engineering, offers the Manawatu region a unique strategic opportunity that we must make every effort to capitalise on,” Professor Guilford said.

Dr Wayne Hein, AgResearch Animal Health Section Manager will be the inaugural Director of the Hopkirk Research Institute. “Establishing a new research institute is an exciting opportunity for all involved. There are many opportunities for collaborations – there is huge potential to leverage synergies,” he said.

Date: 20/03/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science

Fulbright award for sleep scientist

Sleep scientist Sarah-Jane Paine has won a Fulbright Travel Award to present her PhD research at a leading international conference.

Ms Paine holds the Health Research Council Māori Health PhD Scholarship, and is based at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre at the Wellington campus.

She will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, the world's premier meeting on sleep science and medicine, to be held in the United States in June.

Her PhD research, titled Circadian versus Psychosocial Factors in Habitual Sleep Timing, investigated the prevalence of morning-type and evening-type people. Morning-type people, or early birds, get up early and prefer to be active in the morning. On the other hand, evening-type people, or night owls, stay up late.

“The study found that one in four New Zealanders aged 30–49 are morning people, one in four are evening types, and the rest are in the middle,” says Ms Paine.

She also investigated the contributions of circadian physiology versus social factors (work patterns, family and social commitments) in determining individual differences in sleep timing.

Her research was innovative in that participants were able to sleep in their own homes and no restrictions imposed on their sleep prior to coming to the sleep laboratory at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. Additionally, the participants were aged 30-49 years.

“These features contrast with most other research in this area, which imposes regimented sleep schedules on participants, and/or restricts participation to young adults, who often experience different social influences on their sleep timing,” she says.

Ms Paine will meet leading international researchers at Harvard Medical School's Division of Sleep Medicine, participate in their Sleep Medicine Day and present a lecture.

The Sleep/Wake Research Centre is a multi-disciplinary team that works to improve the health, performance, safety, and well-being of New Zealanders through basic and applied research.

Date: 20/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Handpicking graduates for the sports industry

Wheeler Campbell Consulting and Massey University's College of Business have joined forces to implement a recruitment programme for sport management graduates.

Senior Lecturer in Sport Management Dr Andy Martin says the objective is to grow the capability of the sport and recreation industry by identifying high calibre graduates and providing support and guidance through a managed and targeted recruitment programme which enhances their career progression.

He says as sport has professionalised in New Zealand over the past 10 years, there has been a proliferation of available tertiary sport qualifications. "This has made it difficult for sport organisations to recognise graduates with the appropriate skills for the industry. Sport organisations need to be able to better target key people for both junior and senior management positions.

Dr Martin says through its Sport Management and Coaching programme, Massey University provides a distinct niche in the New Zealand sport education market by offering a management perspective on sport and coaching.

He says Stephanie Greene of Wheeler Campbell has been impressed by the quality of recent graduates.

Three young women topped the Sport Management class of 2006. Liesl Kemp for her sponsorship work with the World Squash Championships and Kelly Rofe who initiated and managed the Massey Academy of Sport were the top internal and extramural practicum students. Haylee Mutch, who was the top overall Sport Management student, was assistant event manager for the Manawatu Turbos home games.

Dr Martin says the strategic partnership between Massey University and Wheeler Campbell Consulting will be significant in linking a successful academic programme with tested recruitment knowledge, experience and credibility.

Date: 20/03/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Sport and recreation



All hands on deck for the Ruapehu lahar

Within 90 minutes of the first alarm triggered by the oncoming lahar from Mt Ruapehu, three teams of Massey volcanologists and students were dispatched to catch the phenomenon in action.



At the peak of the torrent they collected sediment samples, measured the speed and density of the flow, and hoped that instruments installed along the Whangaehu River would survive the tumult of boulders and trees.

PhD student Susy Cole was one of 17 postgraduate students and research officers from the Volcanic Risk Solutions research group and the Institute of Natural Resources waiting for the lahar.

An hour before the flow reached Collier's Bridge (approximately half way between the mountain and the coast), Ms Cole installed the last of three seismometers to gather information about the vibration of sediment in the flow. The instruments were purchased in December as part of a \$720,000 Marsden Fund project led by Dr Shane Cronin, director of the Volcanic Risk Solutions Group and Dr Vern Manville from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS).

Dr Cronin says the technique used to gather information about the internal dynamics of the lahar, using the seismometers, is a world-first in volcanology. In the past two years Dr Cronin and Ms Cole trialled instruments and fine-tuned their technique at the site of lahars in Semeru, Indonesia, and their results will be crucial to global volcanology.



At a meeting hosted by the group, the Massey team met with researchers from Horizons Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and GNS to swap data and share experiences after a week of intensive fieldwork following the event.

Dr Cronin says all the sensors and instruments installed in the path of the lahar worked perfectly and that several significant results have emerged from the data. The most surprising result relates to the high density of water compared to the sediment-heavy lahar that broke from Mt Ruapehu's Crater Lake in 1995.

"We were able to measure the density of a lahar for the first time using a pore pressure sensor installed in the bedrock of the river, and a radar suspended above the flow," Dr Cronin says.

He says the "lighter" more watery flow may be the reason for the comparatively mild amount of damage in its wake.



"The main problem with lahars is the amount of sediment they pick up. More sediment typically means a heavier, faster, more devastating lahar."

He says the time of year impacts on the amount of sediment, which may account for the differences between the 1995 (early spring) and most recent lahar.

By measuring the pH of water throughout the flow, his team found that the

lahar up to the peak of its flow was “normal” water from the river followed by water from the Crater Lake.

“The majority of sediment, including trees from the Kariori forest, was picked up much lower down the channel than in 1995. This pushed the river water ahead of it like a piston.”

The impact of the lahar on the riverbed and mountain will be established in the near future when Drs Cronin and Manville conduct an aerial survey using digital laser technology to take up to 83,000 measurements of the land surface per second. Using this data they will create a 3D topographic numerical model of the channel, and compare it with that created before the lahar in February 2006.



Dr Cronin says the flow matched a predictive model developed by PhD student Jon Procter.

“Significantly, Jon's model predicted almost perfectly the impact of the lahar on the bund structure that protects the Tongariro River and Lake Taupo from contamination.”

Drs Cronin and Manville recommended the bund following the 1995 lahar, and later installed it at the base of the mountain where it spills onto the surrounding fan of flat slopes.

Professor of Earth Science Vince Neall was positioned at Collier's Bridge with three postgraduate students. They estimated the lahar travelled at peak speeds upstream of about 35km/h, dropping to 20km/h in the lower reaches of the Whangaehu River.

In mid-February Professor Neall made a field trip with Department of Conservation scientists to study the tephra dam, and the consensus was made that the damn would break in March or not again until next summer.

He says the lahar was a “purely gravitational event” in a total absence of volcanic activity. Of the possibility of volcanic activity related to the lahar, he says it is generally accepted among scientists that the hydrostatic pressure of a crater lake can reduce small-scale volcanic activity.

“The pressure of the geothermic field under the lake must exceed that of the lake itself for surface activity to occur, and most scientists agree that crater lakes can act as valves on comparatively smaller eruptions. This is not the case for larger, more serious eruptions however.”

For more information about research underway in the Volcanic Risk Solutions Centre go to:
<http://volcanic.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 20/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Research to drive the success of SMEs

The latest research on small business will be presented at a one-day seminar in Wellington next month.

The seminar is an annual event organised by the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research at Massey University's Wellington campus. This year the focus will be on using research on SMEs to inform policy, under a theme of Building Synergies Through Partnerships.

Director Professor Claire Massey says the programme for 2007 demonstrates the centre's commitment to its role in building knowledge on New Zealand SMEs.

Researchers from the centre will present the results of a number of studies and there will be an update on the pilot of the BusinessSMEasure questionnaire - the first longitudinal study of SMEs and the largest project of its type ever undertaken in New Zealand.

An international perspective will be provided by Dr Francis Greene from the Centre for Small & Medium Sized Enterprises at the University of Warwick, one of the key centres for the research, teaching and training of SMEs in the United Kingdom.

A number of government agencies will also present their research. Professor Massey says an important aspect of the symposium will be the opportunity for discussion between policy-makers and researchers.

The Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research was established in 2000 as a way to contribute to maximising the contribution to the economy of New Zealand's more than 350,000 SMEs. The centre brings together researchers whose focus is SMEs, a broad category which includes micro-enterprises (enterprises with fewer than 5 staff), small enterprises (fewer than 50) or medium enterprises (fewer than 100).

In New Zealand these enterprises make up more than 99 per cent of the business population and account for about 60 per cent of all employment.

Date: 20/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Cuts in working hours alone won't solve junior doctors' fatigue and error risk

One in four junior doctors say they have fallen asleep at the wheel of their car while driving home from work, a study into fatigue levels has found.

But cutting junior doctors' working hours and giving them more rest breaks is not enough to reduce fatigue or the risk of error, according to the study.

"We found that long work hours are not the only aspect of work patterns that needs to be managed to reduce sleepiness and fatigue related clinical errors," says Professor Philippa Gander, Director of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, who led the study.

"Our findings support the view that a more comprehensive risk management approach is needed to reduce doctors' sleepiness and improve patient safety," she says.

She says other options need to be explored, including redistributing nightshift duties.

The doctors were working 40 or more hours a week in accordance with schedules designed to limit weekly working hours, ensure adequate rest breaks, and reduce the associated risk of errors. Each doctor was given a fatigue risk score by combining 10 aspects of work patterns and sleep in the preceding week.

Thirty per cent of respondents were classified as "excessively sleepy" according to a recognised sleepiness scale. Two thirds said they had come close to falling asleep at the wheel in the previous year, and one in five said that this had happened on at least five occasions.

Two thirds said that they had made a mistake associated with fatigue at some point in their careers, while more than four out of 10 said that this had happened in the preceding six months.

Night shifts and unscheduled changes to rosters were more consistently linked to sleepiness and errors than the total number of hours worked, after taking account of age and other factors.

Conversely, regular access to supervision reduced the likelihood of sleepiness and errors, irrespective of the total hours worked.

The study was published in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. It was authored by Professor Philippa Gander, Heather Purnell, and Associate Professor Sandy Garden from the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, and Professor Alistair Woodward, from the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland.

Date: 23/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators



Bachelor of Design graduate Sara Smeath at Karen Walker's workshop in Ponsonby, Auckland.

Taste of Big Apple inspires young design graduate

In the thick of the world's most glamorous top models, esteemed fashion gurus and trend-hungry international media at the New York Fashion Week – that's where young Māori fashion designer Sara Smeath (Ngāti Manu, Ngāpuhi) found herself earlier this year.

The Massey graduate joined top New Zealand fashion designer Karen Walker at the event for a week to help behind the scenes preparing Walker's latest collection for showing.

“I was very lucky to have been there,” says the 22-year-old from Kawakawa, who gained a Bachelor of Design in fashion and textiles after four years at Massey's Wellington campus in the College of Creative Arts.

Sara's entry into the upper echelons of couture was the result of winning the Air New Zealand Inspiring New Zealanders in Fashion Scholarship last year. Her collection, consisting of layered combination of a dress, tights, coat and t-shirt and titled “Onions Don't Make Me Cry” earned her a three-month internship with Walker and apartment accommodation in downtown Auckland.

Despite being “hard work” and “very hectic”, Sara says her initiation at the New York fashion scene was eye-opening in terms of the massive preparation, detail and work that goes into presenting a top-level collection. It also gave her a taste of what she'd like to aspire to and an insight into the variety of fashion-related job opportunities that exist – from casting agents to hair and makeup artists, stylists, publicists to name a few.

Back home, Sara is busy at the Ponsonby workroom preparing samples from Walker's latest winter collection for London, Japan and Australian fashion press and buyers.

She has a weekly one-on-one mentoring session with Walker during which time the successful designer gives feedback on the results of the design brief she's given Sara for the week. She answers questions and shares advice on any aspect of the fashion industry.

“Karen is very inspiring,” says Sara. “She's a very savvy businesswoman. She's very serious and passionate about her work. She has high aims, and really makes you push yourself.”

Sara, who won a Hundertwasser Scholarship in 2001 which gave her \$1000 towards her study in the arts field, says her parents, Lorna and Richard, are very proud of her achievement – “especially Mum” who shares her love of fashion.

Date: 23/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Student profiles



Satellite-tracking the flight of the godwit

▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE News item: [dialup 56k](#) or [broadband 128k](#)

▶ AUDIO Listen to the BBC Radio 4 interview (MP3)

As the last bar-tailed godwits leave New Zealand estuaries on their northern migration to Alaska this week, Massey scientists will trace their journey using satellite-tagging.

Dr Phil Battley, an ecologist at the University's Palmerston North campus, says the shorebirds' northern migration is of particular interest because the birds touch down in Asia and are potential carriers of the H5N1 bird-flu virus to the Alaskan region.

Dr Battley says that while the 11,000 km southern migration of the godwit from Alaska to New Zealand is thought to be the longest non-stop migration of any bird, not much is known about their northern route.

He is leading the New Zealand component of a collaborative research project with the United States Geological Survey and PRBO Conservation Science in the US to learn more about global migration patterns of declining shorebird species in the Pacific Basin.

With Dr Brett Gartrell, a wildlife veterinarian with the University's New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, and veterinarian Dan Mulcahy from the United States Geological Survey, Dr Battley oversaw the tagging of 16 godwits in the Firth of Thames and Golden Bay.

Eight of the birds were fitted with backpack tracking devices, and another eight had devices surgically implanted. Dr Gartrell says the implants are more secure than the backpack harnesses and do not affect the aerodynamics of flight.

The information gathered from the birds' flight will answer questions about their stops en route and their routes from New Zealand to Alaska. Dr Battley, who has been working on movements and demographics of godwits for the past three years, says the birds have a major stopover in the Yellow Sea region of eastern Asia.

He says four birds have recently landed in the Yellow Sea, all covering more than 10,000 km in six and a half to seven and a half days.

"These make godwits as arguably the champion migrants of the bird world. Everything points to these birds having flown non-stop from New Zealand to China and Korea."

Other birds have stopped in Papua New Guinea, the Southern Philippines and on an island in Micronesia, and the rest are flying towards China or the Korean peninsula.

"They fly in reasonably small flocks of 30 to 70 birds, and if one has touched down somewhere it is probable that a flock has landed."

The tagging project will also provide crucial information about the migratory behaviour of declining species. Throughout the East Asian and Australasian flyways, 85 per cent of shorebird populations are declining, and 40 per cent of shorebirds inhabiting Oceania are classified as threatened or near threatened.

Godwits arrive in New Zealand in September each year and the adults leave in mid-March, with adolescent birds staying until they are up to three or four years old. They are widely distributed, and the largest populations are

found in the Kaipara Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Farewell Spit.

Dr Battley says annual population counts at these major sites show a decline in numbers, the reasons for which are not yet known. The increasing reclamation of tidal mud flats in Korea and China and the change in geography due to dams such as the Three Gorges Dam are also impacting heavily on bird life.

“We are entering a critical decade for these birds, so the research is timely and crucial,” he says.

The satellite track of the godwits' navigation can be viewed online at:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sattrack/shorebirds/overall.html> and more information on the project is available at <http://www.prbo.org/cms/index.php>

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Sciences; Research

Appointment for engineering professor

Professor Bob Hodgson, Director of the School of Engineering and Technology, has been appointed as a trustee for the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand's Foundation.

The institution is the professional body representing professional engineers, and the foundation is a charitable trust with a public-good role on behalf of the engineering profession.

Its objectives include: encouraging school leavers into tertiary education in engineering and technology; educating New Zealanders on the role of technology and engineering in sustainable economic, environmental and social development, and educating New Zealanders on significant engineering and technological achievements.

Professor Hodgson's areas of research include applied digital image processing, technology transfer, systems reliability engineering, and remote sensing and scanning systems.

He is based at the Palmerston North campus in the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Fulbright award for sleep scientist

Sleep scientist Sarah-Jane Paine has won a Fulbright Travel Award to present her PhD research at a leading international conference.

Ms Paine holds the Health Research Council Māori Health PhD Scholarship, and is based at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre at the Wellington campus.

She will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, the world's premier meeting on sleep science and medicine, to be held in the United States in June.

Her PhD research, titled Circadian versus Psychosocial Factors in Habitual Sleep Timing, investigated the prevalence of morning-type and evening-type people. Morning-type people, or early birds, get up early and prefer to be active in the morning. On the other hand, evening-type people, or night owls, stay up late.

“The study found that one in four New Zealanders aged 30–49 are morning people, one in four are evening types, and the rest are in the middle,” says Ms Paine.

She also investigated the contributions of circadian physiology versus social factors (work patterns, family and social commitments) in determining individual differences in sleep timing.

Her research was innovative in that participants were able to sleep in their own homes and had no restrictions imposed on their sleep prior to coming to the sleep laboratory at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. Additionally, the participants were all aged 30-49 years.

“These features contrast with most other research in this area, which imposes regimented sleep schedules on participants, and/or restricts participation to young adults, who often experience different social influences on their sleep timing,” she says.

Ms Paine will meet leading international researchers at Harvard Medical School's Division of Sleep Medicine, participate in their Sleep Medicine Day and present a lecture.

The Sleep/Wake Research Centre is a multi-disciplinary team that works to improve the health, performance, safety, and well-being of New Zealanders through basic and applied research.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



NZ quail may not be extinct say scientists after Hauraki Gulf island discovery

An isolated population of quail on Tiritiri Matangi Island, could prove to be New Zealand quail – a bird considered to be extinct since about 1875.

While many of New Zealand's endangered birds have made headlines in the world famous conservation success story surrounding the Hauraki Gulf island, no one has paid much attention to the long established quail population.

Now the birds are the subject of a genetic and ecological study by a Massey doctoral student who says it's possible they may be the New Zealand quail, *coturnix novaezelandiae*. Once abundant throughout the country and on Great Barrier Island, these quail were thought to have been wiped out through habitat destruction and predation soon after European settlement.

Mark Seabrook-Davison is part of the University's Auckland-based Ecology and Conservation Group. With his co-researchers he has a close connection with projects on Tiritiri Matangi and says that although the quail are known to have been on the island for at least 100 years, there are no records relating to them.

Genetic testing will be carried out at the Allan Wilson Centre laboratory at Albany. The samples will be compared with genetic samples from other locations and from the populations of introduced Australian quail.

“At this stage the notion that these quail may be a surviving group of New Zealand quail is quite speculative. It's also been suggested that they may be a hybrid,” says Mr Seabrook-Davison.

He says that the ecological study he is carrying out in conjunction with the genetic testing will also have important implications for future conservation projects in the Hauraki Gulf Islands.

“There is keen interest in the possibility of putting these quail on to other islands. Because they are a ground bird of a particular type, they play their own part in the bigger ecological picture. They are very good at distributing seeds and tilling the leaf litter.”

Both the Australian quail and the more widespread Californian quail, were released into New Zealand as game birds.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues



Doctoral student Jane Legget, with one of the contributors to her research, Larry Robbins who is CEO of the New Zealand National Maritime Museum in Auckland. Mr Robbins is also guest speaker at the College of Business graduation ceremony in Auckland where Ms Legget will receive her PhD in Management.

Mapping what matters in museums

Mapping what matters in New Zealand museums, took doctoral student Jane Legget on a fascinating journey through the nations' museums.

It has also led to a challenging job at Te Papa and to her graduation this year. Now travelling the country as Museum Development Officer for Te Papa, she will be awarded her PhD at the University's graduation ceremonies in Auckland in this month.

Against a backdrop of greater accountability for publicly-funded institutions, Ms Legget's research investigates how managers of museums report on performance and what stakeholders perceive to be evidence of sound performance.

In essence she found that visitor numbers were often the sole indicator in accountability reporting by museum managers.

However she found that what mattered most to community stakeholders was not the number of visitors, but the quality and care of the collection and the calibre and effectiveness of the staff.

“Stakeholders want to know that their heritage is being looked after appropriately by qualified people,” she says.

She surveyed museum directors nationwide to gather data about performance assessment and a range of stakeholders, including Māori groups. She says her research contributes to assessing museum performance in the future.

“Findings suggest that museum performance indicators in New Zealand should extend beyond a focus on visitor numbers and satisfaction to include collection health, staffing quality, Māori concerns and community relationships. Assessment of these factors would enable museums to better account for their performance as community assets.”

She says she is delighted to now be working in a museum and to be able to contribute to insights within museum management, as the result of her studies.

As a member of Te Papa's National Services team, she has played a role in the 'graduates into museums initiative', which is effectively a paid internship for graduates in museum studies, including those from Massey's pioneering programme.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Dr Jon Dron, PhD student Margaret Hartnett, and Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya.

Collaboration looks at diversity in online learning

Recognising the impact of cultural diversity in online learning and assessment is an important priority for effective education across global communities, according to College of Education lecturer and researcher Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya.

This is well illustrated in her partnership with British academic Dr Jon Dron, with whom she is collaborating on research into online learning environments for multicultural audiences.

Dr Bhattacharya is the inaugural New Zealand recipient of a Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP) award from British Council – an award designed to develop research links between Britain and other countries.

“The globalisation of education cannot be achieved without adapting resources to different cultural values and ways of thinking,” Dr Bhattacharya says.

“The UK and New Zealand are similar in their multicultural make-up, which is why this collaboration has come about.

“In the area of teacher education, our shared experiences are extremely valuable, and it is of great benefit for both students and staff to see how teachers from different cultures and backgrounds respond to the same case in problem-based learning,” she says.

Dr Dron is a principal lecturer and head of Learning Environments at the School of Computing, Mathematical and Information Sciences at the University of Brighton. He is visiting the Palmerston North campus for three weeks, where he will work on the joint research project with Dr Bhattacharya, and will also give a presentation on 4 April titled: *Insidious Control in Online Learning*.

Dr Dron will pay particular attention to the ways that cultural expectations and assumptions are embodied in learning environment design.

“There are potential problems for learning, when a person's cultural embodiment is at odds with the culture of learners and even teachers,” he says. “There are certainly areas needing further research and development.”

PhD student Margaret Hartnett is fortunate to have the international collaborators supervising her doctoral research: *Organic and Adaptive Learning Technologies in a Multicultural Context*.

They will also co-chair a panel session for the 7th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies in Niigata Japan in July.

In July, Dr Bhattacharya also plans to visit Britain and co-present in a conference at the University of Brighton on: *Technology in a multicultural setting*.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education



Professor Manfred Cramer second from right, with (from left) Auckland Regional Registrar Andrea Davies, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Auckland & International) Professor John Raine and Regional Director Auckland Professor Paul Spoonley.

Munich University in study exchange with Massey

Massey students now have the opportunity to study at a top social sciences university in Germany.

The Munich University of Applied Sciences and Massey University have signed an agreement to allow four undergraduate or post-graduate students from each institution to study for a semester.

Professor Manfred Cramer, from the Munich University (or FHM for Fachhochschule Muenchen) visited the Auckland campus recently for talks to finalise the cooperative agreement which was signed last month.

The Munich university offers a range of interesting study and research opportunities, including a Masters in Mental Health, said Social Sciences Professor Paul Spoonley. Likewise, Massey University offered German students a wide range of social work and psychology papers, he said.

Although speaking German would be an advantage, students interested in the programme did not need to be fluent German speakers as the university teaches a number of courses in English, he added.

Exchanges will be available from October this year.

Students wanting more information on the programme should contact Rachel Fenton at the International Office in Palmerston North on ext: 2159 or check the website <http://www.studentexchange.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Scholarships; Uni News

Students tackle da Vinci challenge

Public relations students are embarking on a challenge to change the world by rebranding people with ADHD as da Vincis.

As part of their coursework, the students are designing a range of events and written material to raise awareness of the positive qualities of da Vincis to students, staff, and the Wellington community.

Public relations lecturer Elspeth Tilley says producing events and working directly on a community-based project enables students to get hands-on experience that complements classroom learning.

“Studies indicate that, while experiential learning is undeniably a challenge, it increases motivation to learn, improves long-term retention of material, develops the ability to apply theory to a range of life situations, and leads to a greater sense of personal accomplishment,” she says.

“I see this in the feedback from public relations students, who tell me running live events has been simultaneously the most stressful and most rewarding part of their university careers.”

Researcher and mother of two children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Deb Gilbertson told students that, while 50 per cent of prison inmates were ADHD, so were 50 per cent of entrepreneurs.

She says ADHD can be thought of as “a set of extraordinary qualities with exhausting side effects”.

Ms Gilbertson is passionate about challenging the stigma attached to ADHD, by rebranding what is currently seen negatively as “deficit and disorder” to be seen as a different kind of personality type—one that could be considered typical of some great entrepreneurs, artists, adventurers, and leaders, from Leonardo da Vinci to Edmund Hillary and Nancy Wake.

Along with colleagues in her consultancy business, Te Kaihau, Ms Gilbertson is working on a pro bono project to focus attention on the unique qualities and acknowledge the challenges that people in the ADHD spectrum face.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Is immigration driving trade?

Professor Srikanta Chatterjee, from the Department of Applied and International Economics, is investigating the relationship between trade and inward immigration in New Zealand.

Overseas studies have shown that using immigrants to advise and open doors in their home countries results in increased export deals.

Professor Chatterjee says it is likely a similar pattern is developing in New Zealand although he says it is possible we may have been slower than some other countries to make use of immigrant skills and their knowledge of their homelands.

He says the study is of particular interest because of the substantial growth in immigrants coming to New Zealand from Asia, particularly India and China.

He says both countries are experiencing significant economic growth. This increases their need for imports from countries like New Zealand which are rich in the resources and knowledge that they lack. Key areas include technology, horticulture and the dairy and meat industries.

Marketing lecturer Dr Henry Chung is also continuing a series of research projects into the use of immigrants by New Zealand businesses seeking to export their products.

His latest study, to be published in *The European Journal of Marketing*, looks at the contribution to New Zealand-based businesses of immigrants from Europe. He studied 77 firms, operating in 11 European markets.

He found only 10 per cent hired immigrants from Europe to assist with their marketing activities in the European Union. He concludes that the strategy of using European immigrants to help firms market successfully in the immigrant's home country was still in its infancy.

Companies that did employ immigrant help were typically larger operators with more international business experience and mostly operated in the industrial and consumer durable sectors.

However Dr Chung detected a shift in behaviour. "There is a change of attitude in business," he says. "Some are waking up to immigrants as an undervalued resource. Some are realising there is a difference between the New Zealand and European perspective that has a significant bearing on success in European markets."

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

From the Business bookshelf

Academic staff members from the College of Business have produced a crop of recently published books, including two in Business Law.

Associate Professor Lindsay Trotman and assistant lecturer Debra Wilson co-authored *Fair Trading: Misleading or Deceptive Conduct* which examines 20 years of case law and lays out the consequent principles from the Fair Trading Act 1986.

The publishers, LexisNexis, say that as knowledge about and expertise in fair trading actions have become an integral and daily part of commercial law, the book will become the essential resource for commercial lawyers, litigators and students.

Regulatory and Enabling Approaches to Corporate Law Enforcement, by Dr Matthew Berkahn, was published by the University of Canterbury.

It traces the patterns of litigation between 1986 to 2002 and the impact of corporate law reforms in New Zealand. The work is based on Dr Berkahn's thesis for the degree of Doctor of Judicial Science at Deakin University. He is now a senior lecturer in Business Law.

Professor Srikanta Chatterjee, from the Department of Applied and International Economics, edited *Readings in World Development: Growth and Development in the Asia Pacific* with Associate Professor K.C.Roy from the University of Queensland. Professor Chatterjee also co-authored two chapters.

The book, published in New York by Nova Science Publishers, deals with important issues in poverty and development in poor countries, with particular reference to Asian countries

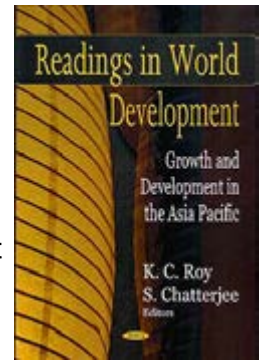
Lecturer Lin Tozer from the Department of Accountancy has published a third edition of *Accounting: A user/decision perspective*, co-authored with colleagues Carolyn Black (now Wirth) from the Department of Finance, and Fin Hamilton, now with the Eastern Institute of Technology.

A new book by Associate Professor Roland Kaschek, from the Department of Information Systems, looks at computer support software known as "intelligent assistant systems". Published by IGI Global, *Intelligent Assistant Systems: Concepts, Techniques and Technologies* looks at the technology for effectively implementing these systems, their scope, purpose, architecture, theoretical background, and use.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Business





Dr Tracy Riley.

Teaching excellence awards recognise the best

Four Massey staff, all based on the Palmerston North campus, are this year's winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards.

Dr Tracy Riley, from the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy in the College of Education, won one of three awards for sustained excellence in teaching.

Dr Riley has been at Massey for 11 years, teaching teachers how to teach gifted children. She has a PhD in special education, with an emphasis on gifted and talented education from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and a Masters in education from the same university. She has also taught gifted programmes in public schools and in courses for schoolchildren run at the University.

Dr Riley earlier graduated with a BSc in elementary education from the Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

She believes the same principles apply to teaching the teachers of gifted and talented children as to teaching the children themselves: playing to their strengths.

"I want to focus on meaningful learning, relevant learning; I don't just want them to write a bunch of essays, I want them to find practical applications with the real world of teaching."

Dr Bryan Walpert, from the School of English and Media Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, has been at Massey for three years, teaching creative writing and specialising in poetry.

From Baltimore, Maryland, he has a BA majoring in international relations from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, a Masters in fine arts from the University of Maryland and a PhD in English from the University of Denver, Colorado.

"What's really important is helping students to see the excitement that I feel about the material," says Dr Walpert, who worked as a newspaper and magazine journalist in the United States for more than a decade.

"Helping them to discover what they are capable of, to discover they are capable of more than think that they are."

Dr Andy Martin, from the Department of Management in the College of Business, also won an award for sustained excellence in teaching.

Dr Martin has a BSc in mathematics and computer science from Bristol University in England, a Masters in recreational management and a post-graduate certificate in education from Loughborough University.

He has been at Massey since 1994, completing a PhD in management and teaching a range of sport-related papers. He currently teaches sport management and coaching.



Dr Martin says the key to his teaching is an “experiential learning philosophy”, largely summed up in a Chinese proverb, often attributed to Confucius: “Tell me, and I will forget; show me, and I may remember; involve me, and I will understand.”

Dr Sharon Stevens, also from the School of English and Media Studies, won the award for excellence in first-year teaching. Originally from Oregon she has a BA in English literature from the University of Washington, and an MA in English and PhD in rhetoric, composition, and the teaching of English from the University of Arizona in Tucson, where she worked before joining Massey 21 months ago.

“I think one of my main goals, as a writing teacher, is to help students become conscious of how they are using language and how others are using language and help students become independent learners.” She added, “I want to make sure first-year students have the academic writing skills they need to succeed in their studies, but I want to teach them how to adapt those skills to new contexts as well.” Dr Riley and Dr Walpert are the Vice-Chancellor's nominations for consideration for National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Teaching



4SHORE - rising to the expo challenge

Budding young fashion designers and film makers on Auckland's North Shore rose to the University's challenge at the inaugural 4SHORE Expo recently.

Massey University was a significant backer of the youth event as sponsor of a fashion design competition and a digital media competition.

Former Westlake Boy's student Alex McDonnell won the digital media competition with his short film *Caffeine Overload*. Alex (above) is now a first year student at Massey but made his film at school last year. The competition was judged by the University's media studies lecturers Dr Brian McDonnell and Dr Simon Sigley.

Fashion design tutor Mary–Ellen Imlach came from Wellington campus to judge the competition. She's pictured right with the winner Louise Priestley (right) and runner up Tamsin Fraser (both from Carmel College).



Date: 24/03/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Four-year primary teaching qualification a national first

The University's College of Education is to launch a new four-year primary teacher education programme that will bring New Zealand in line with international teacher training standards and mean higher rates of pay for graduates.

The programme – a national first – will consist of a four-year combined Bachelor of Education (teaching) and a Diploma in Education Studies.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says that the initiative addresses curriculum changes and best teaching practices. It also puts the training on a similar footing to other professions with four-year qualification programmes including social work, engineering, and veterinary science.

“The new programme recognises the value of educators, the challenges they face and ensures graduates a salary advantage when they enter the workforce,” Professor Chapman says.

“It is essentially the reform of a degree, a substantial change that started three years ago in response to the major changes that have been taking place in contemporary education.”

The new dual qualification includes four years of compulsory literacy and numeracy components, fully interwoven bicultural, inclusion and e-learning programmes and an emphasis on integrated curriculum as well as an increased amount of supervised teaching experience in schools.

“New Zealand is one of the only countries in the OECD that retains a three-year teacher preparation programme, so the move to a four year programme brings us into line with other countries.”

The primary school teachers' union collective employment agreement with the Ministry of Education provides for a teacher with the postgraduate diploma to start on an annual salary \$1161 higher than otherwise.

At the top of the pay scale they receive an additional \$3000 a year and on current pay rates a teacher with the diploma would receive about \$30,000 more in their first 10 years in the job.

The College of Education undertook an extensive consultation process when developing the new programme, which is the result of comprehensive and ongoing research into teacher education and best practice, Professor Chapman says.

“More than 70 per cent of college staff have been involved in shaping it – which is twice the number of those who will actually teach this particular programme. The result draws on a wealth of expertise and represents the true merger of pre-service teacher education in a university environment.”

Teacher Education Professor John O'Neill says that society makes huge demands on today's primary teachers and the new programme has been specifically planned and designed to develop student teachers' knowledge and confidence in much greater depth.

“Primary school principals, teachers' groups and the Ministry of Education have all told us how excited they are at the prospect of having teachers in primary schools from 2012 who will have been prepared so rigorously at Massey for the classroom challenges they will face.

“They will be highly skilled teachers of literacy, numeracy, integrated curriculum assessment and e-learning to meet the needs of children in increasingly bicultural and socially diverse classrooms,” Professor O'Neill says.

The College of Education plans to introduce the programme next year in anticipation of receiving approval from the Committee on University Academic Programmes and the Teachers' Council.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Teaching

Council report

Five new members were welcomed to the first University Council meeting of 2007 on 2 March. Two are new members elected by the Court of Convocation - Susan Baragwanath, of Auckland, and Bruce Ullrich, of Christchurch.

Dr Baragwanath is a former Massey extramural student and research affiliate and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Massey in 2005.

Mr Ullrich, OBE, is an accountant who runs an international business firm with close links to the Chinese education sector.

Dr Colin Anderson, from the School of Language Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, is the new academic staff member.

The new student members are Palmerston North Students' Association president Paul Falloon and Veronica Tawhai, who was nominated by the Māori Students' Association. Andrea Davies, Regional Registrar of the Auckland campus, was re-elected by the general staff for a further four-year term.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear spoke to her comprehensive report, highlighting strategic items relating to research and creative works, teaching and learning, staff, students, the university and the wider community, internationalisation and organisation and management.

She pointed to some examples of successful research bids the University has led or has been part of recently, saying that they illustrate the scope of the activities Massey is involved in, some being straight research and some looking at education or teaching initiatives.

She noted that among the nine successful bids to the Innovation and Development fund last year, Massey secured three, as did Auckland University.

Under teaching and learning she said the launch of the four-year teacher education programme was supported by Minister of Education Steve Maharey, who has granted Massey an exemption to the moratorium on the creation of new pre-service teacher education programmes.

She says New Zealand is one of the few countries where teacher training was still three years and that four years was the norm in other nations.

The four-year programme will position the College of Education as a leader in particular areas of education training, she said. The formation of the College of Business Advisory Board was another highlight, as was the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Symposium, held in September and November.

A low light was the approval by CUAP of Victoria University of Wellington's engineering degree, despite reservations expressed by the Institute of Professional Engineers to CUAP, TEC and NZVCC about the sustainability of two engineering programmes in Wellington.

Along with listing staff and student achievements over the past months, Professor Kinnear noted that the opening of the Student Centre building at Turitea by the Prime Minister Helen Clark gave closure to the development of the facilities and the creation of a real 'heart' for the campus.

Under organisation and management the Vice-Chancellor outlined two reviews currently under way.

A review of the senior management structure, based on a set of principles that reflect the University's current structure and organisation, would ensure minimisation of duplication and that the senior management team was operating as effectively as possible – just as is being asked of all staff, said Professor Kinnear.

The review of business processes and systems is ongoing; identifying how best the University's support services can be structured to ensure the University most effectively achieves its core function of research and teaching.

She also gave an update on the proposed Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Teaching and Learning role. This role is to be undertaken by a new position – Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Teaching and Research.

Two new directors are to be appointed – Extramural, and Teaching Support and Development, who will be supported by two part-time seconded Associate Directors who will oversee the implementation of two key

projects, one in extramural and one in e-learning.

These projects were identified as priorities at the Vice-Chancellors Teaching Symposium, held last year.

Date: 24/03/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; University Council

Supporting upcoming dairy leaders

Scholarships worth \$4000 were recently presented to 23 students enrolled in agricultural Bachelor programmes by Dexcel Ltd.

A commercial trust owned by New Zealand dairy farmers, Dexcel Ltd offers 50 scholarships annually to undergraduate students at Massey and Lincoln Universities.

The scholarships aim to build capability in the dairy industry by supporting top students who are likely to become industry leaders. Information on the scholarship scheme can be found at: <http://www.dexcel.co.nz>



The 2007 recipients are: Caitlin Berry, Masterton; Samuel Howard, Palmerston North; Abby Hull, Masterton; Nathan Nelson, Tuakau; Rodger Douglas, Whangarei; Neil Best, Drury; Wayne Hofmann, Waihi; Gregory Buhler, Hawera; Glenn Chambers, Pukekohe; Paul Edwards, Warkworth; Emma Field, Feilding; Charis Rigler, Wellington; Ryan Luscombe, Manaia; Roseanne Algie, Eketahuna; Andrew Bouton, Masterton; Ross Neal, Wellsford; Sophie Stanley, Taupo; Duncan Wait, Hamilton; Samuel Werder, Patea; Simeon Ward, Hamilton; Andrew Beijeman, Taupo; Paul Hopkins, Tauranga; Louise Robinson, Cambridge.

Date: 27/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Scholarships

New Zealander amongst world cricket injury experts

Sport injury expert Darryl Cochrane will represent New Zealand at an international congress in Barbados timed to coincide with the World Cup series.

Mr Cochrane, a Massey University lecturer in sport management, is being sent to the World Congress on Science and Medicine in Sport by Cricket New Zealand. Apart from his research on sport injuries, Mr Cochrane has also had practical experience working with the Black Caps as a fitness trainer during the Commonwealth Bowl series in Australia earlier this year.

He will report back to Cricket New Zealand on fresh information on sport in injuries delivered at the conference. "We have a particular interest in injuries to fast bowlers," he says. "It has become a big concern. They are the players most prone to injury, largely because of their workload as well as the nature of their conditioning and physical training."

He says the workload for fast bowlers is now heavier, with an increase in international and one day matches, leaving them less time to turnaround after what may originally be a minor problem. "A niggle gets neglected, becomes rose and turns into an injury."

He says the sport has also become harder, faster and more vigorous. "In the days of, say, Richard Hadlee, the game was still played hard – but certainly not as frequently."

The congress will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 4 to 7 April, just before the Super 8 series in the Cricket World Cup. It will feature sport science and medicine experts, physiologists, researchers, coaches and administrators from the major cricket playing nations.

Date: 27/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Sport and recreation

Misleading food claims cause fresh health concerns

A recent Commerce Commission case against Ribena highlights researchers' concerns that health claims about foods may give rise to misleading impressions, says marketing professor Janet Hoek.

Professor Hoek says it is important to build on the lessons learned in the Ribena case, which saw the company fined \$217,000 after admitting it had misled the public over the levels of vitamin C in the drink.

GlaxoSmithKline, which produces Ribena, claimed blackcurrants had four times more vitamin C than oranges, when in fact the product had only very small amounts of the vitamin. Tests also showed Ribena had more sugar than Coca Cola.

Professor Hoek says there is a danger that this incident will be seen in isolation. "It doesn't take more than an educated guess to realise that other food products marketed as beneficial to health, for example by being low in fat or sugar, may also be misleadingly or deceptively labelled."

She says it is reassuring that the Commerce Commission took a court case against GlaxoSmithKline but disturbing that the two school girls who did the initial tests on the product in 2004, said they were brushed off when they took their findings to the company, the Advertising Standards Authority and marketing organisation Brandpower.

"However there is now an even higher awareness of the danger of obesity and the importance of consumers having access to correct and easily accessible information about food. The use of health-related claims has a very clear potential to mislead and deceive consumers.

"The Ribena case highlights the need for clear food labelling such as a traffic lights system, where consumers do not need to interpret complex nutrition information before making a purchase decision," she says.

Professor Hoek says although the Ribena case has received wide publicity, the public are exposed to many advertising claims, at least some of which they will accept at face value. "Over time, consumers become conditioned to respond to claims such as 'lite' or 'high fibre', which imply a product is healthy when it may, for example, contain very high sugar levels. Marketers are adept at using puffery to imply benefits that do not exist."

She is calling for more research to explore how consumers access, use, understand and respond to health claims.

Date: 28/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Further deterioration in home affordability

[Click here to download the report \(PDF\)](#)

More bad news for first home buyers – confirmation that national home affordability continued to deteriorate in the quarter ending February 2007.

Affordability is now the most difficult it has been since the Massey University Home Affordability series commenced in February 1989.

Property Studies Professor Bob Hargreaves says the good news is that the current quarterly rate of decline in affordability of one per cent is lower than the previous quarter (5.2 per cent) and the average of the last four quarters (1.8 per cent).

However, in the affordability equation he says escalating house prices (up 1.5 per cent) over the last quarter, combined with increases in mortgage interest rates (up 0.88 per cent) more than offset an increase in the national average wage rate (up 1.41 per cent).

On a regional basis, quarterly improvements in affordability were recorded by Otago (5.6 per cent), Nelson Marlborough (5.4 per cent), Taranaki (2.0 per cent) and Wellington (0.4 per cent). The largest declines were Central Otago Lakes (13.1 per cent), Southland (8.8 per cent), Northland (6.1 per cent) and Manawatu/Wanganui (5.0 per cent).

Professor Hargreaves says the all districts annual decline in house affordability was 9.8 per cent. “As expected, this is mainly due to house prices increasing about twice as fast as average wages.”

On an annual basis, the only region to show improved affordability was Central Otago Lakes (2.6 per cent). The largest annual regional decline was in Southland (31.1 per cent), followed by Wellington (17.4 per cent), Manawatu/ Wanganui (13.5 per cent) and Northland (13.4 per cent).

A snapshot on overall affordability continues to place the Central Otago Lakes area as the least affordable region. with an index of 146.7 per cent of the national average (set at 100 per cent).

The Auckland region (121.7 per cent) remains in second place followed by Nelson/Marlborough (104.4 per cent) in third. Southland remains easily the most affordable region at 55.4 per cent of the national average. Manawatu/Wanganui is next at 73.2 per cent followed by Otago at 73.3 per cent.

“No doubt the underlying demographic trends of population drift and north and east continue to be reflected in regional home affordability,” says Professor Hargreaves. “The Central Otago Lakes region appears to be the exception but this market is driven more by international buyers.”

Key points:

- House prices continued to increase in the February quarter.
- A record high affordability index creates more difficulties for first home buyers.
- The rate of deterioration in affordability moderated in the February quarter.
- Average wage rate increases continue to keep ahead of inflation.

Date: 28/03/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Top scholarships for PhD students

Two Massey PhD students have been awarded the Government's top scholarships with a total value of more than \$152,000.

Nick Albert and Rachael Bell are among the 50 students awarded more than \$4.7 million in scholarships over the next three years, announced by the Minister for Tertiary Education Dr Michael Cullen yesterday.

Ms Bell, under the supervision of Dr Kerry Taylor in the University's School of History, Philosophy and Politics in Palmerston North, has been awarded \$71,488 for her doctoral thesis entitled: National History/National Memory: New Zealand's Official histories of WWII.

Ms Bell's thesis will investigate the recording of New Zealanders' experiences during the Second World War in the series of Official Histories produced following the war. It will assess the methodology employed in the Histories and the social and political factors that influenced their production.

Mr Albert, under the supervision of Associate Professor Michael McManus in the University's Institute of Molecular BioSciences in Palmerston North, has been awarded \$81,078 to study the regulation of anthocyanin pigment production in Petunia plants.

Mr Albert says anthocyanins are important plant pigments providing colour to flowers, fruit and leaves. The genes that encode the enzymes in this pathway have been cloned and characterised in many plant species, and the petunia is a model species for investigating anthocyanin biosynthesis and regulation.

Date: 28/03/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

Anti-design for designers

Dutch designer Gert Jan Leusink will visit Massey's Wellington campus to talk about his experience in the early years of Droog design. Droog is a collective formed in 1993 to "re-think" industrial design.

Droog's products consist of common, industrial or recycled materials resulting in close-to-home objects that deliver a social commentary with a highly individual character – be it mischievous, spunky, puckish or coy. In Dutch, droog means “dry” (as in "dry wit"), and unadorned or simple.



Massey design lecturer Matthijs Siljee says Droog design is described as anti-utopian, or anti-design. “It looks at the gritty parts of life, such as wet bathmats and a chair that you shape by hitting it with a hammer.”

Gert Jan Leusink's talk will cover the background to the birth of Droog design from a sub-culture to commercial success and the role of industrial design for the economy and culture in the Netherlands and abroad.

Mr Leusink will also talk about his latest project, bliin. As Droog design is about identity in the material world, bliin is about virtual identity. Bliin (<http://bliin.com>) is a real-time social networking service where users can share experiences – pictures, videos, audio and text – on a map.

Gert Jan Leusink will speak at 1:30pm on Wednesday 4 April, at the Museum Building theatre, Massey University, Buckle St. Entry is free.

His visit to New Zealand is sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Massey University and the Designers' Institute of New Zealand.

Droog: Dutch Design Showcase is on at TheNewDowse in Lower Hutt until 15 April.

Date: 29/03/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Conference/Seminar; Exhibition/Show; Wellington

Spate of good weather tipped to lift spirits

Better weather over most of the country today and through tomorrow is tipped to have a big impact on morale.

The respite may be brief with more wind and rain forecast for the weekend in some parts but Massey psychologist Dr Lisa Wu says the chance to get out and about will lift spirits depressed by weeks of bad weather.

Dr Wu, who is with the University's Wellington-based Psychology Clinic, says poor weather inevitably raises stress levels for most people. It's likely that many have been stuck inside, which could lead to greater stress and feelings of isolation. And of course it affects holiday plans.

She says being unable to get outside and exercise and a tendency to eat more during bad weather could also make people feel down.

She suggests people make the most of the opportunity to get outside and complete everyday tasks, like supermarket shopping, without the hassle of coping with high winds and rain. Taking advantage of better weather to visit friends and family is also important for improved well being.

Dr Wu says over the past month some of the clinic's clients have mentioned that the weather was getting them down. However she says cases of seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can only be diagnosed after two years of observation.

Date: 01/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Former librarian jailed for book thefts

Former Massey University librarian Karen Dale Churton was sentenced to 11 months' imprisonment in the Palmerston North District Court yesterday for stealing rare books from the University Library.

Mrs Churton had been employed at Massey in Palmerston North since December 1991 and had been responsible for the New Zealand Pacific collection since 2001. Police say that in 2002 and 2003 she stole six books from the closed access Bagnall and Rare Books collection, for which she was responsible, removed University markings and sold them at auctions for a total of more than \$23,000.

She was arrested at work by police on 22 February this year, confessed to stealing and selling six books and was dismissed by the University the next day. On 16 March she admitted representative charge of theft and was convicted by the court.

University Librarian John Redmayne says the situation is very sad one for Mrs Churton, her family, her library colleagues and the University, which has lost numerous rare and valuable books.

Mrs Churton was responsible for the deleting 19 items from the Library catalogue relating to the Bagnall collection over 10 days immediately after she was questioned by Christchurch police about the origins of books she had sold at auction. The same police investigated a group involved in a national book theft operation that has seen more than \$1 million worth of books stolen from libraries over the past decade.

After being alerted by police, Library management confronted Mrs Churton in December with the allegations. She denied them and continued to do so throughout a formal serious misconduct investigation that ended with her arrest and subsequent confession.

Two of the books stolen by Mrs Churton have been recovered by police under warrants and will be returned to the University. Mrs Churton has agreed to pay \$23,310 in reparation, \$17,110 of which will be paid to the University Library and the balance to Bethunes Rare Books of Otaki.

Mr Redmayne says the Library security procedures have been reviewed and updated as a result of what occurred. Other rare books have been found to be missing that are of a similar theme to those Mrs Churton had removed from the catalogue.

In total about 24 books appear to have been removed from the library's closed access collections, which would have a likely market value of about \$40,000.

"Like any employer, we are always at some risk from people in positions of trust and this was clearly a gross breach of that trust. Karen was a valued and respected staff member who made a significant positive contribution in her years here. This has come as a shock to all staff who knew her and it is the first such incident I have come across in nearly 30 years working in university libraries."

Date: 03/04/2007

Type: University News

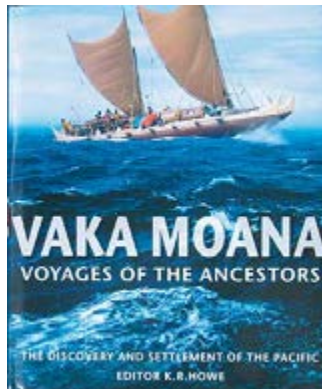
Categories: Library; Uni News

Bookshelf - In Print

Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors. The Discovery and Settlement of the Pacific.

Edited by K.R. Howe. Auckland: David Bateman/Auckland Museum, 2006. ISBN: 9781869536251. 360pp. Plates, maps, index. \$90.00.

Reviewed by Barrie Macdonald



Few who have lived, worked or travelled in the Pacific Islands can fail to ponder on questions posed by Captain James Cook 250 years ago concerning the origins of the Polynesians. How did the Polynesian peoples, with their similar languages and cultures reach their remote and scattered islands, and where did they come from?

For me, these questions were first posed in the late 1960s, before I even went to the islands. At the Australian National University, I had the office next to that of Dr David Lewis who gathered and preserved ancient navigational knowledge that was remembered but not written, and helped to encourage a renaissance of canoe building and inter-island voyaging.

A few months later, as I was engaged on research in the islands of Kiribati, located where the equator intersects with the international dateline, I sat as an audience of one as Lewis gently interrogated a renowned navigator. He led his informant through intricate matters of navigation and land-finding. The old man explained how, when sailing between the island we were on and its neighbour, he could always identify his position by interpreting waves, swells and currents even when cloud prevented his use of sun, moon or stars.

With regard to land-finding, the navigator spoke of bird flight paths and the interpretation of cloud patterns. At one stage it was clear, even to me (for I had witnessed it from the trading vessel on which I had travelled to the islands) that Lewis wanted comment on the colours reflected on the underside of clouds (especially the milky green that indicated an atoll lagoon). The navigator spoke in great detail about the building of clouds and the subtle interpretation of their shapes and movement, but made no mention of colour. Making no progress, Lewis finally asked a direct question and after a short silence, was given a gentle explanation. Lewis's reputation had come before him from the Micronesian islands to the north; he was himself a navigator and had proved this by turning up in his small, battered ketch. The cloud effect he referred to was so obvious that anyone could see it; for a real navigator, it was merely confirmation that land already identified from a much greater distance was now close at hand.

The next revelation came a few weeks later when, on a larger island to the south – in reality, several scattered islets along a reef and enclosed by a large lagoon – I needed to travel between two villages almost at opposite ends of the lagoon. Too impatient to wait for the government ship that was not due for several days (or might take weeks), I decided to hire the Island Council's canoe which came complete with boatman and a prisoner as crew.



As an aside, under British colonial regulations, our crewman was an 'Extramural Prisoner', my first introduction to extramural anything. Extramural means 'outside the walls' after all and, in this case, it meant living at home, providing your own meals, and working on public works for no pay. For small remote islands, extramural imprisonment, despite its contradictions, made sense. The main offences were drunkenness (from fermented sap of the coconut tree) and fighting with (very sharp) knives, usually in combination. Until I came to Massey, I assumed the words extramural and prisoner to be inextricably bound, which is, perhaps, why I have always preferred "distance education" to "extramural studies".

The canoe was about eight metres long, pointed at both ends, with the hull standing 1.2 metres high but less than half a metre across the top at its widest point. The timber may have been imported, but the construction was all traditional. Thin, narrow planks, most no more than a metre or two long, were tied and caulked with string and wadding made from coconut husk fibre. All was tied; no nails, screws or glue were used. A lattice of poles about three metres wide provided a deck from which was suspended an outrigger float shaped from a single log. There was a triangular sail suspended from a central mast.

We had a journey of two halves – the first laboriously tacking across the lagoon making, it seemed, little progress towards our destination. Laborious because every tack meant that the boatman and prisoner had to change ends – the former carrying his steering oar, and the latter having to transfer the downward point of our triangular sail from one end of the canoe to the other so that the outrigger would always stay on the windward side.

The second half was altogether different. After a final tack, we turned towards our destination, now too far away to be seen, and began an exhilarating downwind run of some 35 km. As the passenger hung on grimly, the prisoner tried to maintain his balance as he moved in and out on the outrigger to the shouted instructions of the boatman so that we obtained the maximum speed with the outrigger float staying largely clear of the water and just skimming the top of every fourth or fifth wave. For his part, the boatman seemed to have no difficulty in managing the steering oar by tucking it under one arm while rolling a smoke (using pandanus leaf rather than paper), and singing 'It's a long way to Tipperary', the only discernible evidence of his mission education at the hands of Irish nuns.

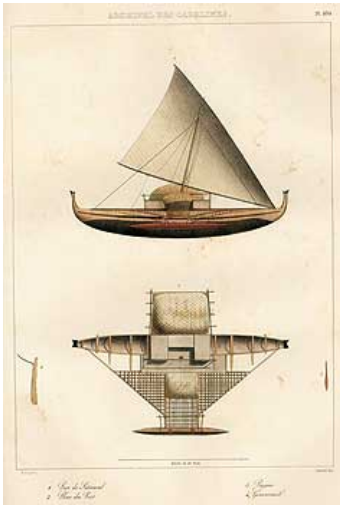
Decades later, the fascination and questions remain, which is why I picked up Vaka Moana with keen interest, and I was not disappointed. At the heart of Vaka Moana is that same question posed by Captain Cook – of where the Polynesians came from and how they reached their widely scattered islands with cultures and languages that were clearly related. And what was the stepping-off point – Asia, specifically Southeast Asia as commonly assumed (even by Cook on the basis of his observations of material culture) or South America, India, or the remoter reaches of the Nile, or were they one of the lost tribes of Israel? All have been the subject of speculation across the past 250 years.



To make the puzzles even more intriguing, the movement of Polynesians to colonise the south and eastern Pacific – the last region on earth to be settled by humans – was the first migration to cross significant stretches of water. In other words, after the end of the ice age and the consequent expansion of the oceans, Polynesians reached the remote islands of the Pacific with boat-building, navigation and land-finding skills thousands of years in advance of any other population of the time. Whereas most of the rest of the world was settled by people who walked to their destinations, crossing short stretches of water using primitive craft and a measure of hope, the Polynesians sailed. Even if they did not know what lay ahead, they knew where they had come from and where they were, and were confident upon the ocean. The DNA evidence suggests a 'founding' female population for New Zealand of between 70 and 190, which means that the canoes reaching New Zealand were bent on exploration or settlement and not warfare or fishing, both of which were male preoccupations.

It is, perhaps, the romantic heroism that was constructed around this great undertaking that has perpetuated the myths promoted by the likes of Thor Heyerdahl (South American origins) and Percy S. Smith (the settlement of New Zealand by a great canoe fleet) long after they had been discredited, and has kept scholarly interest in the subject alive over recent decades despite the resolution of most of the unanswered questions, using new scientific techniques.

In its own origins, *Vaka Moana* is the book of an exhibition of the same name that opened in December in the Auckland Museum. The exhibition is a huge undertaking – demonstrating not only the 'family tree' of Polynesian settlement (where DNA sequencing is finally resolving arguments carried on by generations of archaeologists, linguists and plant biologists), but the means of migration and the evolving material culture and social organisation of the newly settled societies. As well as the expected canoes, carvings and stories of the founding gods and goddesses of Polynesian mythology, there is a chance to see original works from Cook's voyages by Webber and Hodges, and to explore islands and oceans for oneself through artefacts and multimedia displays; a real highlight is a night sky as it was seen, and used, by Micronesian navigators. *Vaka Moana* is the book of the exhibition, and a valuable complement to it, but it is also much more.

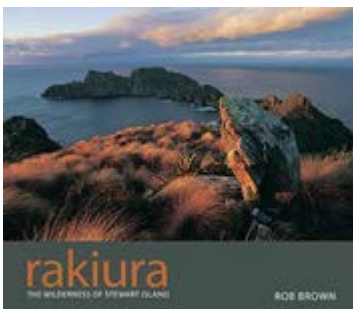


Vaka Moana has more maps, reproductions of artworks, and photographs of people, places, events and artefacts than an exhibition could possibly accommodate. It also has a broader scope, with an extensive coverage of canoe and sail types, the star compasses and other concepts and devices used for inter-island voyaging, and land-finding techniques. It covers post-settlement societies, later voyaging (including for head-hunting) and the later interaction of the 'two worlds' – Polynesian and European. Just as fascinating are the accounts of the dispersal of plants and the non-human (and often unintended) migrants, notably the Polynesian rat and dog.

As editor (and with a hand in the curating of the exhibition), Massey University's Professor Kerry Howe has gathered an international who's who of scholars to provide this state-of-the-art-account of Polynesian migration and settlement. Under Howe's over-arching editorship, each section has a lead author and may include contributions by a number of others. It includes, among others, Rawiri Taonui on oral traditions, Geoff Irwin on the archaeological evidence of voyaging and settlement; Ben Finney on canoes, navigation and the voyaging renaissance, Roger Neich on voyaging in the post settlement period, and Anne Salmond on European voyagers and the meeting of Polynesian and European cultures. Howe rounds off the book with an analysis of western views of Polynesian migration and the ways in which these have been bounded more by European perceptions than by Polynesian realities.

The book is well written, lavishly illustrated and beautifully produced; it gathers the current state of knowledge and packages it well. It is a fitting tribute to epic voyages, Polynesian and European, and brings great credit not only to the editor and authors but also to the museum and publisher who have sponsored the whole enterprise; it has been an epic journey of its own.

So: should you buy this book, despite its price? Absolutely, if you are fascinated by the sea or want to learn and understand more about New Zealand's past and its Pacific connections. If you buy a copy from the museum, you could get the exhibition T-shirt and cap as well, and have a matching set.



Rakiura: The Wilderness of Stewart Island

**by Rob Brown, Craig Potton Publishing,
ISBN: 1877333476, \$64.99
Reviewed by Gavin Hipkins**

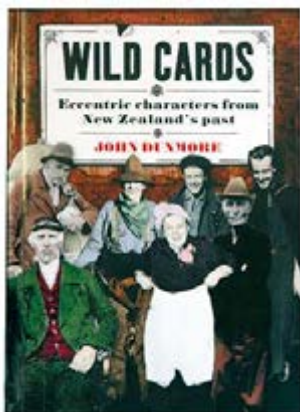
Craig Potton Publishing specialises in richly printed collections of New Zealand landscape photography. This focus reflects Craig Potton's own status as a celebrated landscape photographer and his broad interest in preserving and creating personal engagement with New Zealand's extraordinary landscape. In this light, Rob Brown's Rakiura is certainly Pottonesque. Stewart Island (Rakiura) is presented in luscious plates interspersed with short essays.

The essays provide an engaging account of Stewart Island's history from pre-European contact onwards, covering the island's social, cultural and economic changes. Absent is the visual complement: photographs showing the presence of people and their impact.

In 2002, Stewart Island became a national park. In one essay Brown reminds the viewer to remain ever-conscious of the increased demands that tourism and national-park-as-commodity can have on local communities and unspoilt nature. He hopes that the island will retain its wildness and survive the potential threat of "crowded viewing platforms."

Of course there is an irony here. In recording an idealised nature the book is also functioning as postcard for the reader. Having seen these beautiful – at times sublimely otherworldly – photographs, and noted that the last chapter is titled 'Tramping on Stewart Island', I too now want to visit. In celebrating the apparently untouched beauty spots on our most southern island, Brown cannot help but invite the very tourism of which he himself is so wary.

Rob Brown holds a BTech (Hons) Product Development from Massey and featured alongside Shaun Barnett (see the back inside cover of this issue) in MASSEY issue 8.



Wild Cards: Eccentric Characters from New Zealand's Past

**by John Dunmore, Auckland: New Holland Press, ISBN: 186966132X,
\$34.99
Reviewed by James Watson**

In this book John Dunmore, Professor Emeritus of this university and pre-eminent historian of French exploration in the Pacific, has gathered together a substantial pack of 'wild cards', colourful characters from New Zealand's past, and has provided short biographies of each, highlighting their eccentricities. Some of these characters are comparatively well known, having been the subject of full-length books, while others are obscure to most of us. Individuals who arrived during the gold rushes are particularly prominent, the South Island seems to make a disproportionate contribution, and many of those covered had literary inclinations. On the

other hand, some, like James Mackenzie, the sheep stealer or Russian Jack, the itinerant, may well have been illiterate, at least in English.

It is tempting to imagine what might happen if the characters in this collection were ever brought together in one room. Baron Charles de Thierry, who had proclaimed himself Charles I, King of Nuku Hiva (in the Marquesas Islands) and Sovereign Chief of New Zealand, might well find a natural conversation partner in Geoffrey de Montalk, poet and claimant to the throne of Poland. They might have deigned to include William Larnach, who aspired to be a laird in his castle out on Otago Peninsula. Lionel Terry, hopefully required to leave his revolver outside, would doubtless be reassured to find that there were no Chinese in the gathering. The Reverend Norman McLeod, the fiercely Calvinist Presbyterian minister who led a party of Scottish immigrants from Nova Scotia to Waipu, would be glaring across at the women who had been admitted to the gathering. These included Flora MacKenzie, sex therapist, brothel keeper and heavy drinker; Amy Bock, cross-dresser and thief; and Katherine Mansfield, the brilliant writer with a decidedly bohemian lifestyle. Even more offensive to him might well have been the presence of the charlatan known in New Zealand as Arthur Worthington, who founded the Temple of Truth in Christchurch and whose liaisons amongst some of the pious and gullible womenfolk of that city provoked an outburst that necessitated the reading of the Riot Act. Chances are that Worthington would be chatting with the ladies, focusing on the comparatively well-heeled Flora and on Katherine, a possible heiress. Having been married innumerable times himself, he might be a subject of interest to Professor Alexander Bickerton, the socialist scientist who lost his job at Canterbury University College for, amongst other things, denouncing the institution of marriage. Charles Thatcher, 'the balladeer of the goldfields', would probably find much common ground with the iconoclastic poet Rex Fairburn and they might have struck up a tune with the diminutive pipe-smoking goldminer Bridget Goodwin, 'Biddy of the Buller'. A trio of 'hermits in the bush', Donald Sutherland, Ma-ori Bill and Jules Berg, if they attended at all, would be standing wordlessly and uncomfortably on the margins of the gathering, wishing they could return to their chosen solitude. On the other hand, John A. Lee's voice would certainly be heard booming away, perhaps being heckled by an irate Mabel Howard, denouncing him as a traitor to the Labour Party.

When one considers this collection and then adds to it a few of the great range of possible additions that could be made, I'm not sure that New Zealand society has ever been quite as 'drab and conformist' as the introduction to this book implies. Again and again one finds fascinating characters cropping up in the columns of old newspapers, not least in the accounts of court cases. If "Ordinary mortals vanish into the pattern of daily life and become the wallpaper of existence: eccentrics are its ornaments", then the room that represents New Zealand is positively cluttered with bric-a-brac. There are some splendid examples here and Professor Dunmore is to be congratulated on writing up such lively accounts of some of the characters that illustrate the diversity in our country's past.

Massey Emeritus Professor John Dunmore is a pioneering historian of the French exploration of the Pacific. In February he became the first New Zealander ever to be awarded the French medal of Officer of the Legion of Honour.



Adverse Reactions: The Fenoterol Story

by Neil Pearce, Auckland University Press, ISBN-10: 1869403746, \$40.00

Reviewed by Patrick Morgan

Beginning in 1976 deaths from asthma in New Zealand rose suddenly, tripling by 1979. In *Adverse Reactions: The Fenoterol Story*, epidemiologist Professor Neil Pearce tells the story of how he and a group of researchers discovered that the asthma drug fenoterol was the cause of this alarming epidemic.

Facing pressure and opposition from conservative medical opinion and the drug industry, they persisted in exposing the link between fenoterol and asthma deaths, and finally saw their conclusions accepted, the drug restricted, and the death rate fall.

Dr Pearce draws attention to many issues about drug safety in New Zealand and internationally, and about the contest between money and science in medical research.

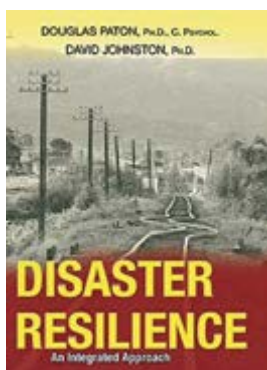
He says the same problems have occurred many times when university-based researchers have discovered that a particular drug or chemical is dangerous.

“Other examples include the controversies about oral contraceptives and stroke, the toxicity of benzene, diesel fumes, passive smoking and chromium (the chemical featured in the Erin Brockovich film).

“The usual approach is for the company concerned to hire consultants to criticise the research publicly, either when it appears in print, or even prior to publication. In recent years, these efforts have been further developed and refined with the use of websites and publicity that stigmatises unwelcome research findings as ‘junk science’. In some instances these activities have gone as far as efforts to block publication.

“In many instances, academics have accepted industry funding which has not been acknowledged, and only the academic affiliations of the company-funded consultants have been listed. Thus, the fenoterol story is still relevant today.”

Neil Pearce, PhD, DSc, FRNZ, is an epidemiologist (a health researcher who studies the causes of epidemics). A professor at Massey's Wellington campus, he is Director of the Centre for Public Health Research, which he established in 2000. The centre conducts a wide range of public health research including respiratory disease, cancer, diabetes, Ma-ori health, Pacific health and occupational and environmental health research.

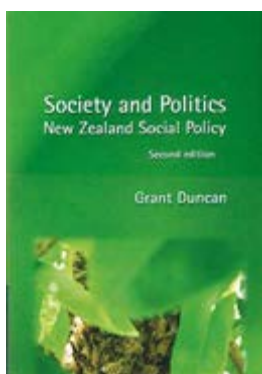


DISASTER RESILIENCE: An Integrated Approach

by Douglas Paton and David Johnston, Charles C Thomas Publisher, ISBN: 9780398076634, US\$48.95

Explored here are the factors that make communities resilient to disaster impacts. The authors discuss how risk can be managed by identifying factors that influence individuals and communities capacity to coexist with hazardous events and adapt to their consequences.

David Johnston heads the Disaster Research Centre, a joint initiative between Massey and the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

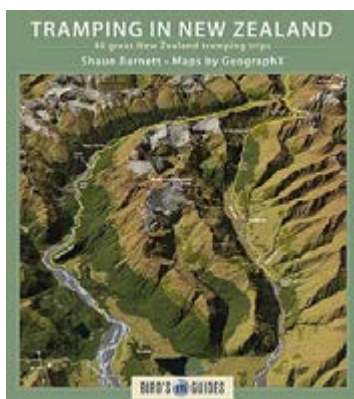


Society and Politics: New Zealand Social Policy

by Grant Duncan, Pearson Education New Zealand, ISBN: 9781877371646, \$34.99

In a review in the New Zealand Journal of Tertiary Education Policy, Steve Matthewman of Auckland University described the first edition of this text as “a refreshing antidote to customary works of social policy” and “a timely and able publication”. Among the topics covered are sovereignty, social contract and the Treaty of Waitangi; liberalism; socialism; feminism; nationalism, imperialism and racism; neoliberalism and conservatism; and the contemporary third-way model.

Grant Duncan is a Massey senior lecturer in public policy.



Tramping In New Zealand

Bird's Eye Guide Tramping in New Zealand, written and photographed by Shaun Barnett is a guide to 40 of New Zealand's best tramps. Set apart from other guides in its use of the latest generation of 'bird's eye' computer-generated maps, the book is published by Craig Potton Publishing and retails for \$34.99.

Shaun Barnett developed an interest in mountains and tramping whilst a teenager living in Napier. Since then he's tramped throughout New Zealand, visiting all of the country's National and Forest Parks. He has also hiked in Australia, Nepal, South America, Italy, Canada and Alaska. Sea kayaking and climbing are activities he enjoys too.

A full-time writer and photographer since 1996, he has written over 450 articles for popular magazines and newspapers both in New Zealand and overseas. His publishing credits include NZ Geographic, The Listener, the Dominion Post, Forest & Bird, Action Asia, Geo Australasia and NZ Wilderness magazine. From December 1999 to May 2003 he was the editor of NZ Wilderness magazine, and since June 2003 he has been roving editor.



He is the author of *Classic Tramping in New Zealand* (1999) co-authored with Rob Brown, (winner of the 2000 Montana Book Award for the Environment category), *Natural New Zealand* (2001), *North Island Weekend Tramps* (2002, revised 2004) and *Tramping In New Zealand, 40 Great New Zealand Tramping Trips* (2006) with Roger Smith (who did the maps).

He is currently researching and writing another book, this one on the history of New Zealand's Forest Parks, which has been supported by grants from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC).

Since 1999 Shaun has been an active member of the FMC executive. In this role he has produced several posters (on hypothermia, the Adams Wilderness Area, and celebrating clubs) attended many DOC hut and track review meetings, written submissions, advocated for Wilderness Areas, and edited a booklet on high country tenure review called *Freedom of the Hills*.

His tramping ambitions include a piecemeal traverse of the Southern Alps from St Arnaud (Nelson Lakes) to Milford Sound. This has involved linking

tramps, completed in stages, with various companions. In 2001 he completed the most arduous section of the traverse on a 28-day, 250-kilometre trans-alpine tramp from Aoraki/Mt Cook to Arthur's Pass, and in 2003 completed another significant chunk when he walked from the Karangarua Valley to Haast Pass. Shaun now has just one five-day trip and one four-day tramp to complete the traverse.

Shaun, 37, lives in Wellington with his wife Tania, and two sons, Tom and Lee.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Book; Library; Massey Magazine

A flying start

Imagine that you are Yanina Kovalchuk. You are 19 years old and a graduate of the St Petersburg Forestry Academy, with a degree in forestry business. You enjoyed the study and are thinking about doing a masterate. You pay for your studies by working at Subway outlets in St Petersburg and you rather enjoy that as well. But you love surfing and fresh air, and you miss your mother who is a long, long way away; four years ago she followed her new partner to his farm at Akitio, a tiny coastal settlement in New Zealand. What is a girl to do?



Yanina, known as Yana, took the plunge. Two years ago she left Saint Petersburg (population approximately 4.5 million) for New Zealand. When she arrived she decided, in words she uses often, to “start my life again”. She discovered that her forestry degree “was not much use in New Zealand and the cross crediting process was too complicated.” She lived briefly in Palmerston North, where she attended English speaking classes, then enrolled as an extramural student at Massey before joining her mother at Akitio (permanent population perhaps 300).

She is now half way through a Bachelor in Aviation Management degree and has a particular interest in the human resources aspects of the industry. She plans a career in aviation, and after she graduates she may start her life again, with a move to Australia where she perceives there may be more opportunities.

To fund her studies she set up a novel business at Akitio Beach with her mother, Tanya Banks. The township sits alongside one of the best beaches in the Wairarapa region, with fine views and rolling surf. But it is isolated and there is certainly no Starbucks or Subway outlet. “I loved it immediately,” Yana says. “But I missed my lattés.”

Mother and daughter bought a caravan on TradeMe, painted it and set it up as a mini café. They called it ‘Rush In Takeaways’: “Two Russian girls, what else?” says Yana. They sell espresso, latté, cappuccino, sandwiches, salads, sushi and fish and chips. In the summer, they have good takings and they do well during a special event, such as the Shark Hunt competition at Akitio in February. Other times, they may take the caravan into Dannevirke, 75 kilometres away, to a sports event.

On a typical day, Yana will study in the caravan between customers, help out on the farm, grab her board in the late afternoon to catch some surf and work on her computer in the evening.

She expects to finish her degree within two years and has used summer school to fast track. Extramural study, she says, is exactly right for her. “I love the freedom of it and the way it requires you to practise good time management. Every day here is like a holiday but with study part of the holiday. It is perfect for someone like me who likes the fun of making big changes to her life.”

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Features



Courtesy of The Christchurch Press

Casting off

Peter Montgomery, has invented a vacuum mooring system which makes hawsers redundant. He talks to Gerry Evans.

It is small wonder that alumnus Peter Montgomery's new vacuum mooring system initially met some resistance from ship owners. His brilliant concept for mooring ships is now working successfully on the interisland ferry the Aratere, and on many other ships worldwide. But the idea is as revolutionary to the maritime industry as space travel would have been to the pilots of Tiger Moths. His system does away with mooring ropes, and the ship is held alongside by a powerful vacuum system.

Ship owners have always been conservative, especially the European ones. They resisted steamships. The Finns and the British had square-rigged sailing ships, which were sailing the seas carrying cargo long after other nations had changed to steam. It took the Second World War to convince them that ships could be built by welding instead of riveting. They thought a welded ship would break its back in heavy seas and would not stand up to Atlantic gales. During the Second World War, American liberty ships, often built in three days, were welded, and were still sailing the sea 20 years after the war ended.

Many ship owners also refused to fit radar to their ships until the sixties. They were convinced it would cause accidents by making officers neglect to keep a good lookout. Steel hatches and hydraulic hatches were also resisted, as was automatic steering, and any other labour saving device.

To understand just how revolutionary Montgomery's invention is, you need to know how the present mooring system works. Ships are normally moored by sending heavy hawsers to the quayside, which are then secured to bits (or bollards) embedded on the wharf. The hawsers are mooring ropes. They are fixed to winches on board that heave the ship alongside the quay. It is a dangerous procedure because it places a great strain on the ropes, which sometimes part under the strain, dismembering crew members or mooring gangs handling the ropes on the quayside. When a nylon rope parts under strain it will slice through steel as though it wasn't there.

The new system is a great saving in time for ship owners. Mooring a ferry, for example, can take up to 15 minutes, which, over the course of 24 hours of operation of a ferry, can amount to a several hours. The old system also requires all the deck crew and the deck officers to be present when the ship is moored - which breaks the sleep of those off watch.

Peter Montgomery's invention has changed all of that: no ropes, no men, and no winches groaning as they tighten the lines. His system, initially marketed by his small Christchurch company, Mooring Systems, is changing work practices in ports throughout the world.

The impetus for the invention was an incident he witnessed when he was a deck officer in the 1980s. "I was in Melbourne on a Tasman Express Line cargo boat, discharging paper pulp," he says. "We were shifting the ship to the dry-dock when one of the nylon mooring lines parted and killed an able seaman. It was a shocking moment. I still remember it vividly, and that was more than 25 years ago.

“He was a nice guy and hadn't long been married. I wrote to his wife to express the feelings of all aboard the ship, and give our condolences. Then I started thinking that there must be a safer way of mooring ships. It has taken years of design and trial and error, but it is now up and running. We will continue to refine and improve the system but it has already made the mooring of ships a safe practice.”

All the same, Montgomery appreciates that it is a big investment to make. Typically, it will cost around \$2 million, rather more than a set of mooring ropes. Those costs will be recouped over a period of years, with savings from greater safety, productivity and speed. However, Montgomery acknowledges that it is a big decision for a port operator or a shipping company to remove ropes and go to an unfamiliar vacuum system.

Before offering the system on the world market, Montgomery and his team first had to overcome an early hurdle: how to design around the different structures of wharves worldwide. That solved, he then started the hard slog of trying to convince multinational companies that the investment was worth their while. Frequently asked questions included whether the company would still be there in a year's time, and whether Montgomery's group could support the product from the other side of the world.

An impressive number were convinced. Clients now include Australia's top shipper, the Patrick Corporation, which has two vacuum mooring systems, Britain's Port of Dover and the St Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. The Port of Salalah in Oman is testing a system.

In April last year the company signed a contract worth up to \$45 million to supply the United States Navy with another of its products. Working with an American partner, Texas-based Oceaneering International, Montgomery's team will develop mobile sea bases, to provide high capacity transfer of 20-foot containers between big ships at seas.

Toll New Zealand is using the mooring system for the ferry Kaitaki and it is also in use on the rail ferry Aratere. Wellington Harbourmaster Captain Mike Pryce is convinced of its value and admires its ingenuity. “One item of equipment which has been working well are the ‘iron sailors’. There are four units, all fitted on the port side, and grouped together in twos. Each unit consists of two square-section rubber pads. Which, when gun port doors in the ship's side are hydraulically lifted inwards and upwards, extend outwards through the opening and make contact with steel plates specially fitted to the wharf. These plates are supported by wires and pulleys and can move vertically over a limited distance.

“When contact is made, a vacuum is mechanically produced, ‘sticking’ the ship to the wharf. It is all done solely from the bridge, with the Master merely pushing a button marked ‘moor’ to extend the pads, and ‘unmoor’ to retract them. That is amazing!

“It usually takes a few minutes for anyone seeing the system in use for the first time to realise what is different about the berthed ship – there are no mooring lines out. And at sailing time, there's no early warning of departure, which used to be given by linesmen in high-visibility jerkins who made their way up to the bollards and stood by to let go. Now the only indication is a burst of smoke from both funnels as she suddenly pulls away from the wharf.”

Peter Montgomery is well equipped to make a success of a maritime-based world business. He learnt his craft on New Zealand ships, sailing as a cadet on Union Steamship vessels and is a qualified Master Mariner. He also has a Masterate in Business Administration, graduating from Massey in 1995.

In early February his company officially become part of an international group, merging with the Netherlands-based Cavotec Group to form Cavotec MSL Holdings. Cavotec MSL Holdings will be 80 percent owned by 65 shareholders of Cavotec, with New Zealand shareholders holding 20 percent.

Cavotec companies have customers in 30 countries, and seven manufacturing plants in Canada, France, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Australia, and Germany. Cavotec have predicted the mooring system will be worth billions and its new chairman, Stefan Widergren, is confident that what are now called MoorMaster products are increasingly gaining recognition as a state-of-the-art mooring system for ferries, roll-on-roll-off-vessels and container ships.

For Montgomery the merger also brings much needed organisational and financial support.

He remains in charge of the bridge in the local company, renamed Cavotec Moon, as a subsidiary of Cavotec MSL Holdings, and will be one of three local directors on an eight-man board.

In the meantime he is already a hero to New Zealand shareholders who have seen the value of their shares increase nine-fold over the last six years. He took the trouble to ring more than 300 of those shareholders during the merger negotiations to explain why it was a good move.

Montgomery describes his work as “not a job but a way of life” and he is already planning future projects: His goal is to create a stable of about seven innovative *MoorMaster* products.

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Fine wines and high finance

John Williams talks to Rachel Donald.

In May 2003 marketers and brand strategists were smiling. For years they'd been trying to convince clients that success was all about the brand – not the product, not the bricks and mortar, but 'the story' – and that it was worth something on the bottom line.

They were smiling because they'd just been proved right by an international wine company that was willing to pay \$18 million for a New Zealand name.

While the Crawfords owned land in Marlborough and Blenheim, none of that was included in the sale. What was sold was Kim Crawford Wines (KCW) brand and Kim and Erica Crawford's commitment to stay on for five years to realise the potential of the company that had so attracted North America's fourth largest wine company, Vincor.

The sale rattled the wine glasses in the industry as well. While there had been recent sales of other New Zealand wine companies to overseas interests – Montana sold to Allied Domecq for \$1 billion in 2001, Wither Hills Winery was bought by Lion Nathan for \$52 million and Ponder Estate went to Foster's Group for \$11 million – they had all included land and physical assets in their deals.

For Massey graduate John Williams the 2003 deal was breaking new ground – not only for the wine industry but for him also. The accountancy graduate – "whatever you do don't call me an accountant" – was the business manager of KCW at the time. He had joined the company in 2000 to provide the business and financial expertise that the entrepreneurial couple lacked. It was he who had to work out how to maximise the sale of the virtual winery to the Canadian company Vincor International.

"I'd never sold a business before. I'm reasonably proud of what we achieved. We had the business professionally valued – and threw the valuation away. It wasn't enough. We knew what we wanted. We wrote up a heads of agreement and then started negotiating the sale and purchase. Vincor came all the way out here but in the negotiations we couldn't agree on some things – so we said 'no' and sent them home."

A month later they came back to sign the deal. "We were country boys from down under. I was a young, wet behind the ears accountant who didn't know anything about business, but I was fortunate to have good advisors and an experienced board and the Vincor head said it was one of the toughest negotiations he'd been through."

The sale of the Kim Crawford Wines brand was a logical progression for the company that started out as a 'virtual' winery. Normally anyone getting into the wine industry sinks a lot of money into a vineyard, into the romanticism

of growing grapes, but that path is very cash intense for little return. “To grow, you need a lot of cash. But if you sink all your capital into your vineyard you can’t develop your brand,” says John.

The Crawfords did exactly the opposite. Cash poor, they couldn't afford a winery but Kim had the awards to prove he was a very good wine maker and Erica had the strategic vision to market it. So they formed strong partnerships with contract growers, rented space to actually make the wine – and grew from nothing to become the fifth biggest wine company in New Zealand in just nine years.

From the beginning the focus was on the export market. In 1998 the company sent its first cases to the United States, Canada and Australia and began its long-term relationship with a United States distributor that eventually become the owner of KCW. Hogue Cellars distributed Kim Crawford Wines in the United States via its marketing arm, Vintage New World. In 2001, Vincor bought out Hogue Cellars, which eventually led to the purchase of the brand and intellectual property of KCW by Vincor in 2003.

From the outset the export strategy was to position the brand at the top of the market. The Crawfords had identified a place on the United States wine shop shelf for a premium priced wine. “We owned the \$15 price point while others were squabbling over \$8 to \$10.”

KCW launched their US invasion with a sauvignon blanc right when the world was recognising the quality of sauvs from down under. “You’ve got to have a good product but the branding, timing and positioning was also right,” says John.

In New Zealand, while the Kim Crawford brand was becoming established in restaurants and off-licenses, the Crawfords realised that to sell volume in New Zealand you have to be in supermarkets, where 65 percent of wine is sold. Not wanting to diminish the quality of their brand, they developed Kim Crawford diamond label to be sold only through supermarkets.

“From brand point of view (selling in supermarkets) drives the brand down but it adds to the bottom line.”

John joined Kim Crawford Wines in 2000 in a roundabout fashion that began as a favour to the fledgling company from some Hawke's Bay investors with whom Kim and Erica had formed a joint venture. The board were providing the corporate governance the company needed to grow and John was offered to KCW on a part-time basis to help implement the directives.

Kim had the winemaking ability and Erica contributed hugely to the company through management of the KCW brand, says John, but they needed someone to focus on the financial management of the business. “Fortunately we got on. They were able to let go and for me, it was like running my own business. I had a lot of autonomy.”

“I’m an entrepreneurial person, so we got on well. None of us get bogged down in detail – one year I produced a one-page three-lined budget. And we learnt to focus on what was important. We were growing so quickly we didn’t have time to be bogged down in detail. We knew what was important – sourcing grapes, sourcing cash to pay for the grapes and keeping control of costs – that was our financial management.”

But the company was growing and it needed to be able to talk the language of business. It needed backing from banks and investors and to do that it needed to provide financial information in their language. With Kim's proven wine making ability, Erica's strategic marketing vision and some business management from John, the company flourished.

At the time of sale to Vincor, KCW was the tenth largest winery in terms of global sales and the sixth largest in New Zealand sales; in 2002 it sold

86,000 cases. In 2001, the company was exporting 15 containers a year to the United States. Soon after the sale it was sending 15 containers a month.

The decision to sell the brand was made to realise the potential of the business.

Says John: “Kim had a vision – to increase production from 80,000 cases to 300,000 in three years. To achieve that they needed a major investment.”

At the time, the Crawfords said the sale would provide the company with the advantages of scale, streamline the operations and enable Kim to concentrate more on making quality wine, while remaining “a proudly New Zealand label”.

The final price - \$18 million - recognised the then value of the business and the growth and profit potential of the company over the next three years. But the Crawfords had to stay on and deliver on the vision of increasing exports to the US four-fold in three years, while maintaining the \$15 price point.

“It was good for both sides,” says John. “They got growth, we got to achieve the vision.”

But there was a downside. “Suddenly we had to have monthly accounts, auditors, internal controls. It was a great learning curve but three years working for a public company – I never want to do it again.”

Since 2003, KCW has changed ownership again. In April last year, Constellation Brands, the world's largest wine company, merged with Vincor International, buying the KCW owner for C\$1.27 billion. The merged company, which already owned Nobilo, Selak and Drylands in New Zealand, now has over four percent of the global wine market.

John saw this as his opportunity to exit KCW. He's still heavily involved with Kim and Erica, spending two days a week managing their trust. He's also a part-time director, sitting on the boards of other wineries and wine industry companies. As a manager of the Kim and Erica Crawford Trust, he has the opportunity to identify business opportunities for the couple to invest in “We have a lot of intellectual property between us and there is a lot of opportunities out there.”

Kim Crawford

Kim Crawford, the man behind the \$18 million brand, first arrived at Massey intending to become a vet. Thankfully, say those that swear by his unoaked chardonnay, a lecturer suggested that he instead consider the rapidly expanding wine industry. In 1983 Kim, having pursued majors in microbiology and botany, graduated with a BSc. He followed this with a postgraduate diploma in winemaking at Roseworthy College in South Australia and winemaking experience in Australia, California, and South Africa where he met Erica, the other half of Kim Crawford Wines.



Arriving back in New Zealand in 1988, Kim started at Coopers Creek as assistant winemaker. A year later he was the winemaker. During the decade he was with them, Cooper's Creek claim to have won more medals and trophies than any other small-to-medium scale New Zealand winery.

He also developed a consultancy, working alongside smaller wineries in the increasingly important Marlborough region.

In 1996, while still working about a day at week at Coopers, he and Erica formed Kim Crawford Wines, a 'virtual' wine company run from a spare room in their Auckland home. Kim sourced grapes from contract growers, and made the wine in leased wineries; Erica managed sales and marketing from home. Although it owned neither vines, nor land, nor a winery, the winery produced 4000 cases of wine that year, half exported to London.

They have since focused on sauvignon blanc, merlot and chardonnay, producing natural, uncluttered, frequently medal-winning wines using the best grapes from every premium wine-growing region in New Zealand.

In 1999, in a joint venture with Te Awanga vineyards, the company opened a cellar door to public. Nonetheless, Kim Crawford Wines still remained a 'landless' winemaker.

In 2000 the Crawfords themselves, in a joint venture with other Marlborough wine companies, acquired a winery and land in Marlborough. This supplies quality grapes that can be harvested at their best.

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The Place

Julie-Ann Bell redefines an iconic restaurant. Di Billing catches up with her.

There was a time when Iguazu restaurant was the toast of Auckland. The city's glitterati simply couldn't afford not to be seen there. As celebrated as its downtown rivals like Cin Cin on Quay and The French Café might be, Iguazu had an edge. It was one of Auckland's biggest and most elegantly decorated restaurants. It had the right address in the heart of wealthy Parnell.

The restaurant and its habitués regularly featured in the monthly glossy Metro, often behaving with newsworthy disgrace. In the food pages, it was lauded as one of the first restaurants to introduce fusion food and a Pacific influence.

Iguazu reigned in Parnell for a memorable eight years but in the early years of the new millennium it stagnated. More moderately-priced restaurants and cafes were opening. In a period when change was fashionable, even Iguazu's familiarity and former popularity worked against it.

By late 2005, when Julie-Ann Bell was completing her MBA, the business was struggling, with no clearly defined style, ambience or client base. Julie-Ann was looking for the right investment. Having sold her online travel business (the first of its kind in New Zealand when she started it in 1998), she wanted a business with the potential for development, with weaknesses that could be identified and corrected and strengths that could be enhanced. She had no experience in the restaurant trade but she had done her research: few New Zealand restaurants, she found, were managed according to good business practice.



By the time she had completed due diligence on Iguazu, she was confident she had a potential winner. "The tired decor could be brightened and modernised, still keeping the natural, rustic feel of the place. The furniture definitely needed replacing. The size – 1,100 square metres – was an asset that was not being exploited.

"Staff training was almost non-existent. There was room for a much greater focus on customer service, which has always been a priority for me and was certainly reinforced during my MBA studies. Some members of the management team clearly didn't have the right skill set – nor any sense of working as a team."

Julie Ann bought the restaurant at a price that reflected the red in the balance sheet. Then she prepared a strategy. Among other things she planned to redefine Iguazu's clientele: They were to be people in their late thirties upwards, already doing well in their careers and with disposable

income. They would perhaps have children. They would appreciate quality food and wine but at the same time prefer a more relaxed dining environment. Perhaps they would retain some loyalty to the Iguazu of their youth.

One of her first moves was to create a staff-training programme, bringing in expert tutors and preparing a blueprint based on advice from the Hospitality Standards Institute. "It was all about customer service and communication. That means looking after people from the moment they walk in until they leave the restaurant. It means taking a constructive approach to any complaints: if someone isn't happy with their food, our staff replace it immediately. It also means understanding that all customers are different in their expectations and needs."

She introduced a system, again supported by MBA wisdom, under which staff would classify customers' personality styles by colour as they came in the door, and plan their approach accordingly. "A Red person, for example, is likely to be flamboyant and to enjoy being made a fuss of. They love to talk and engage in conversation with restaurant staff and are always looking for recommendations on what to order.



"A Blue person is very focused, strong-willed and decisive. In all likelihood they are in a position of authority in their career. A Blue person has high expectations: they know what they want and would be insulted if you told them otherwise.

"A Green person is often a perfectionist who likes facts and precise information. They tend to like assurance that they have made the right choices, so this type of person appreciates a detailed explanation of menu items.

"A Yellow person is very warm and most concerned about the needs of others. They present the greatest challenge from a satisfaction perspective: they dislike confrontation so they may not give you their honest opinion. Body language is the best way to determine if you have met the expectations of a Yellow diner."

The training programme, plus regular staff awards for good performance, improved customer service and produced an added bonus, "Staff turnover dropped dramatically," says Julie-Ann. "Some of the casual staff, who are usually the bane of the restaurant trade, asked for permanent jobs. Several who were studying for other degrees, one in IT for example, decided to study for a hospitality qualification instead."

A vision statement was established, a rarity in the restaurant business, and, in a still rarer move it became a prominent feature of the menu: "To develop a lifetime relationship with our customers by delivering an experience that consistently exceeds their expectations."

It runs just below the welcome to Iguazu by Julie-Ann herself. This touches on the many awards the restaurant has recently won and reveals that its kitchen team make many of the items that other restaurants have to buy in. The bread, the biscotti, the chocolates... all are made in house. Iguazu is also one of the very few restaurants in Auckland to pickle its own pickles and smoke its own meat.

Most important to Julie-Ann, the welcome urges diners to tell her what they did or did not like so that improvements can be continuously made. A simple questionnaire – almost always filled out – also helps.

"I haven't made any changes without getting feedback from the customers," she explains. "I didn't even buy new chairs until we had trialed them in the

restaurant to make sure diners found them comfortable. We consult them all the time. And they like that.”

Before Julie-Ann arrived, she says the printed menu left a lot to be desired. “Cumbersome and uninviting with paper pages that often showed traces of the food and wine chosen by previous diners.” The new professionally-designed “sales tool” is laminated and features vivid, clearly-written prose complemented by photographs of the food, the restaurant and the featured wines.



A neglected separate private dining room complete with open fire was renovated and is now regularly hired for private functions. Up to 65 people can be seated here and in the adjoining enclosed pergola. Because Iguaçú has the rare asset of a double kitchen, these events can be serviced without disrupting regular business.

The mezzanine floor, which includes the area known as The Landing, also received a spruce-up. Overlooking the main dining area, The Landing is ideal for avid people-watchers. Here new furniture was installed, including clean-lined, tall, bentwood chairs, but the famous big gilt mirror, and the photograph of Iguaçú in an earlier life as the Alexandra Hotel, remain.

Live music was introduced one night a week and on Sunday afternoons and evenings. On Sundays the private dining room is turned into a dedicated children's' area, with games and a 42-inch flat-screen TV to screen the kids' favourite movies. A new eight-page kids' menu encourages children to “build their own meal” and includes puzzles and colouring-in pictures as well as a section on how to find fun in healthy foods. A Sunday ‘kids' club' is a meeting place for the offspring of regulars.

For the grown-ups, special event nights have become a popular feature: Iguaçú is now the place to be for the Melbourne Cup and New Year's Eve, and plans are under way for a themed mid-winter's ball in June. The restaurant's website was extended and restyled and an e-mail newsletter introduced for regular customers and other stakeholders.

But Julie-Ann had the ace of hearts in her sleeve. Throughout the restaurant's lean times, the quality of the food, with its emphasis on Pacific meets European, had remained high. As a long-time patron, she had first-hand knowledge. Iguaçú's food had always been her favourite. Award-winning head chef Mohammed Arun has been with Iguaçú since leaving Cin Cin 12 years ago.

In February, diners voted Iguaçú Best Fine Dining Restaurant in Auckland in the authoritative, international Entertainment Guide, beating the likes of Cin Cin, Sails and the Hilton Hotel's White. This, and the black in the balance sheet, proves the pudding, says Julie-Ann.

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Chosen Land

New Zealander-by-choice Kefeng Chu talks to Malcolm Wood.

The first time Kefeng Chu came across New Zealand it was in the pages of a textbook. Kefeng was a high school student in China's Fujian province, and the textbook talked of Ma-ori culture, of the beauty of the countryside, and – in a chance mention – of “the best race relations in the world”.

Now New Zealand is very much his home. He has a wife and two children here. (His New Zealand-born son will turn seven shortly.) He has a mortgage. He's acquired the national weakness for beaches and barbeques (if not for beer, cricket or rugby), and he holds a highly responsible job as one of three strategic Ma-ori/Pacific/ethnic advisers in Police national headquarters. “I look after the portfolio of Asian, Middle Eastern, African, Latin American and some Eastern European communities,” he explains, in well-articulated if Chinese-accented English.

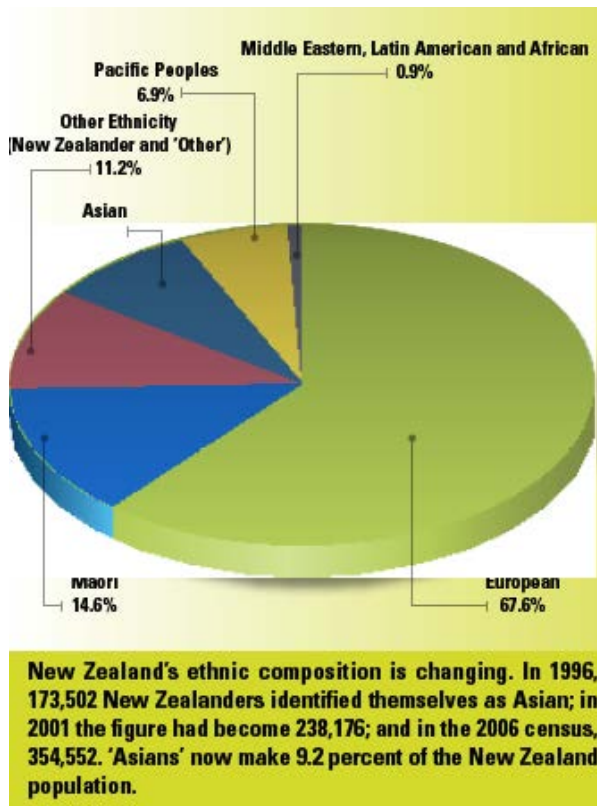
Kefeng is trim and smartly dressed. The 40-year-old has an angular face and a well-barbered brush of black hair, and there is a barely-contained energy to him. From his small glass-walled office overlooking the Government precincts of Wellington's Molesworth Street, he is doing his bit to realise “the best race relations in the world” he once read about. And while there remains plenty to be done, he and his colleagues are making progress. There are websites, publications, and an 0800 telephone interpreting service that attest to their success. There is a formal ethnic strategy, launched in 2005. There is the composition of the Police service itself, especially in Auckland, which in the last three years has changed to better reflect New Zealand's increasingly cosmopolitan society.

Kefeng's one frustration is that things can't be made to happen more quickly. It is no criticism of the New Zealand Police, more that the country in general lacks the frenetic pace of post-economic liberalisation China.

On the other hand, a more leisured approach to life has its up side.

“My problem is that I want some things done yesterday. Being here has slowed me down in some ways, but it has given me the opportunity to think and to plan and to advance the things I want to do.”

Kefeng Chu was born in China's mountainous coastal province of Fujian in 1966, the year the decade-long chaos of Mao's cultural revolution began. China's gaze may have been fixed firmly inwards, but, as he made his way through childhood and into adolescence, Kefeng's wasn't. He was intensely curious about the world beyond China's borders.



In his town library he found Chinese editions of those Western novels admitted into the Communist canon: works by Mark Twain, Hemingway and a number of Russian authors. They were his window into the outside world. "A very narrow window," he admits.

Meanwhile China was changing. In 1976, the year Kefeng turned 10, Mao died, and university entrance exams – in abeyance for a decade – were reinstated. Three years later, Deng Xiaoping introduced the new era in Chinese history labelled officially as "Reforms and Opening up to the Outside World".

At 16, Kefeng took his university entrance exams, winning marks that put him among the elite four percent of high school students who would go on to university. He embarked on first a bachelor's and then a master's degree in British literature and English language.

His English was learned while studying the Jacobean language of Shakespeare and the Scots dialect of Robert Burns under the tutelage of a medley of lecturers from across the English-speaking world: English, Canadian, American and Australian. "They messed up our accents, but they taught us there was no one way to speak correctly," Kefeng says cheerfully.

On graduating, he taught English at Fouzhou University for a year, then applied to become an official with the Fujian's Department of Foreign Affairs. (Fujian is a province of more than 30 million people.) After two days of exams, he was declared one of two successful applicants.

During his three years with Foreign Affairs, Kefeng met foreign diplomats, experts, businesspeople and investors, and travelled the cities and counties of Fujian talking with officials. "We were starting to get overseas investment. It was a very exciting time," he says.

His personal life also prospered. He was now married, and his wife, a former classmate, had a skilled job in an import-export firm. They had a daughter, and Foreign Affairs provided them with an apartment at a nominal rental. But he still had aspirations, and in 1993 he left Foreign Affairs and China itself to head for New York University. He took papers in natural history and American literature and he nurtured hopes of bringing out his wife and child. New York, however, was not quite as he had expected. The modernity, the universities, the American democratic process: these things

impressed him. But he also met many “not-so-lucky people”: new migrants working in poorly paid jobs in factories and restaurants. “It wasn’t really the land of milk and honey. There was poverty I had never expected.

“I also saw the difficulties involved in obtaining a green card. If I stayed I would join that first generation of many migrants who sacrificed their lives in the hope that their children might prosper.”

In the meantime, however, his wife, who had heard good things about New Zealand, had successfully applied for the family to emigrate here. So it was that in 1995 Kefeng found himself flying over the Manukau estuary to the shed-like Auckland terminal, scanning the green surrounding fields in vain for the sheep he was sure must be there.

Kefeng and his wife both had masterates; both had successful careers behind them; both spoke good English. Neither could find satisfying work that would draw on their work experience and academic background. “I thought that with my master’s degree I could teach in a secondary school. But I was told I lacked the New Zealand teaching qualification.” says Kefeng. “Then I decided I should study educational psychology but again I was told that to gain entry I would have had to have taught for two years in New Zealand. I thought it would be easy to find a job; I couldn’t even become a student.”



As a Chinese migrant with fluent English he had quickly been seized on as an interpreter by friends who needed to deal with agencies like Income Support (now Work and Income) and the health system. The experience prompted him to rethink his aspirations. “I was interested in psychology, and I saw the difficulties they faced. So I chose to study social work.”

Kefeng was accepted for a master's degree in social work at Massey's Auckland campus. “It taught me about the history, culture and social policy. It was a really good choice. It helped me adapt to this new society.”

When he graduated in 1997 he became a portfolio worker: he taught English for beginners at a language school, did contract work for Child, Youth and Family and started working part time for the Compulsive Gambling Society (now the Problem Gambling Foundation). Soon part time became full time, and Kefeng became one of the principals behind the creation of the Asian Problem Gambling Service.

Is gambling then a particular problem for Asians? Not so, according to Kefeng.

He says the perception is an artefact created by the way we view different forms of gambling. Some forms of gambling – feeding the pokies, taking a punt at the TAB, buying a Lotto ticket – are seen as simply being a part of normal social life. Some, such as visiting a casino, are not. (And this is irrespective of relative social harm, a measure by which the pokies would surely be damned.) It’s not that Asians have a particular predilection for

gambling. It's the type of gambling where they have a visible presence: casino table games.

"Table gambling involves more money," explains Kefeng, "and it is more conspicuous. When you visit a casino you see this beautiful space, and these large tables, and they seem to be packed with Asians. They have black hair, dark eyes. They are simply more visible."

Figures showing that New Zealand's Asian population has a lower incidence of problem gambling than the general population are powerless in the face of an entrenched stereotype.

"I met an artist in a flea market when I was working for the foundation. He said, 'You Asians are all problem gamblers'. And then, when he realised he might cause offence he said, 'Well, I'm a West Aucklander and all Westies are problem drinkers.' Of course neither statement is true."

Meanwhile New Zealand's demographic mix, and particularly the percentage of Asian New Zealanders, was changing dramatically. In 1996 the Asian population was 173,502; in 2001 it had reached 237,459; in 2006, 354,552.

In 2003, the Police national headquarters, aware of the need to work more closely with the Pacific Island, Ma-ori and Asian communities, set up an office of Ma-ori Pacific Ethnic Services. Kefeng, who took on the Ethnic portfolio, was one of the first appointments.

Ethnic Chinese, like Kefeng, are probably the best recognised face of New Zealand's Asian population. And in the 2001 census over 40 percent of New Zealand's Asian population identified themselves as Chinese. But New Zealand's Asian population is multifarious. That other 50-something percent includes Tamils, Pakistanis, Japanese, Koreans and many others. Even to regard Chinese New Zealanders as anything resembling a homogeneous mass is a mistake. They can be Northern, Southern, Taiwanese, Malaysian or Singaporean Chinese. They can be first generation, second generation, or the descendants of nineteenth century gold rush immigrants. Some have permanent residence, some work permits. Some are refugees, some international students; some are residents, some New Zealand citizens.

What they and other New Zealand 'Asians' share is a vulnerability to prejudice.

Asian Angst, Is It Time To Send Some Back, screamed the inflammatory cover headline of the December 2006 issue of North & South.¹ Written by former ACT MP Deborah Coddington, the article recounts a number of high-profile criminal cases in lurid detail. Then – lest it be seen to generalise from the particular – makes some oddly ingenuous use of statistics.

Coddington cites a 53 percent increase in total offences committed by Asiatics (not including Indian) between 1996 and 2005, but omits to mention as an explanatory factor that the Asian population doubled over this period.²

All of which is but a distraction from the one commanding statistical comparison. In 2006, 9.2 percent of the New Zealand population identified themselves as Asian, yet, according to 2005 police statistics, Indians and Asiatics together make up less than three percent of apprehensions for crimes.³ Cut it as you will, how menacing can the "Asian crime menace" be?

Of course there is little defence against the innumerate, as Kefeng well knows. "I read an article a few years ago which said that Asians were two percent of total apprehension and 6.7 percent of the population, so one in three Asians walking down the street was an offender. There are lots of people who aren't particularly good at maths."

For Kefeng, articles like Asian Angst are nothing new. All that is unusual is the timing: immigrant scare stories are more usually instigated in the lead in to elections.

“Some people just don't realise the extent to which the comments they make hurt these communities. People don't feel as secure. They become uneasy.”

Sometimes legitimately so. Race hate crimes, ranging from harassment to property damage, do occur in New Zealand. An internal Police website details eight successful prosecutions. Here are two, not high profile but surely distressing. While travelling on a train, a woman spills cold water over two Chinese women for talking in Chinese. A man tells a woman to go home and accuses her of being a terrorist for wearing a hijab (Moslem headscarf) in public.

And when it comes to making judgements about ethnicity, what of those other high profile crimes? What of Graeme Burton, who gunned down a father of two and wounded four mountain bikers while fleeing police? What of Daniel Moore who stands accused of murdering Tony Stanlake, allegedly his business partner in a drug-growing enterprise, and of dumping the headless body on Wellington's coast? Burton, Moore, Stanlake: names as British as Coro Street.

“Do we talk about Caucasian crime or British crime?” asks Kefeng. “Of course we don't.”

One of the major problems facing a significant number of migrants is their lack of English. “One of my Chinese professors used to say the best way to punish a person is to get him to learn English. The grammar, structure and pronunciation are very difficult,” says Kefeng. One initiative he has launched is a pocket-sized multilingual phrasebook; another, a Police public website with basic safety information in 12 language options. And a handbook has been published to help the Police understand the differences between cultures and religious observances.

But for Kefeng the most important thing is that the Police themselves should include Asian New Zealanders in their ranks. This is happening. Consider Auckland, the most ethnically diverse region in the country and the home to its largest Asian population. In 2003 it had a handful of bilingual Asian police officers; today there are more than 50.

In the next few years, Kefeng hopes, New Zealand will have its first Asian inspector and in maybe 10 years its first superintendent.

“I want to have more young people join the police. I want to have parents tell their teenagers, ‘After university, maybe you should consider the police as a career option.’”

By joining the police young people can participate in society and change the way it works. Few other vocations offer as much.

Although now very much a New Zealander, Kefeng has not sundered all of his ties to China. His most recent visit to his home province in December 2006 was the fourth in two years. His friends and former colleagues drove him around Fuzhou. “I couldn't recognise it.” A landscape of farmland and rundown houses was now a lively and prosperous metropolis. They ragged him about his circumstances. How could it be that he, a New Zealand government official, still had a mortgage? Their dwellings were all freehold. Some had become landlords themselves.

He quotes Napoleon: “China is a sleeping lion, when it wakes the world will tremble”. China, says Kefeng, is waking.

Kefeng believes China's destiny is to become a wealthy superpower, and that political freedoms will be an inevitable consequence of growing

economic prosperity.

“When I was last there China announced media freedom for foreign journalists visiting for the Olympics. I believe the trend is for China to open up. It can't go back.”

1. While Kefeng studied towards a masterate in social work, his wife studied towards a masterate in business studies, also at Massey. Her class was full of Chinese who, like her, had found it difficult to find employment commensurate with their skills. She is now with the Ministry of Education.

2. *The article generated responses in the form of blogs, an article in the Listener, and numerous letters to North & South. At going to print, the article is the subject of complaints to the Press Council.*

3. *A 104 percent increase can be observed between the 1996 and 2006 census figures. The 2006 figures were not available when North & South went to print.*

4. *'Asiatic' makes up 1.64 percent of apprehensions and 'Indian' 0.94 percent.*

For these and other figures see www.statistics.govt.nz

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Massey Magazine

Fine tuned

Prague-based epidemiologist Naomi Boxall talks to Jennifer Little.

There you are, chatting to a bunch of suspected bird flu carriers in remotest Azerbaijan – surely a nightmare scenario?

Not for 29-year-old New Zealand epidemiologist and former Massey student Naomi Boxall. Interviewing families last year in the impoverished rural backblocks of the little-known Caucasian state about a mysterious disease that had claimed a life and put others in hospital was for her a career highlight.



During a mission to Azerbaijan to assess whether the nation could handle an outbreak of avian flu, she was on hand when a dead swan tested positive for H5NI (avian flu).

“We interviewed the most affected family,” says Boxall, from Prague where she is spending two years with the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) – a scheme which places an epidemiologist from one EU country into another for field work experience.

“All the sick members of the family were, by then, in hospital under the care of the clinicians.”

Aided by a translator, she set out to determine the relationships within the family, where everyone usually slept, and what they'd done in the days before becoming sick.

“I also had to try to convince everyone to give throat and blood samples. Some did, some didn't. If someone coughed, I had to be extra persuasive.”

One woman had lost a daughter already, with another severely ill in hospital and thought to be close to death. The woman at first refused to be tested, but was heartened when she learned that her hospitalised daughter was still alive.

“By the end of the day, she was making sure that all the 25 children in the village lined up for their test. The sweets in my purse were handy, as I had something to give the children who were crying after their blood sample withdrawal,” Boxall recalls.



Her last visit was to a neighbouring family who had lost their 17-year-old daughter. She was the first person in the area to have died of avian flu, so it was imperative to collect information on her history, Boxall explains.

The father related details of the daughter's illness and hospital visits, while the mother “sat on her chair sobbing her heart out”.

Boxall, at the time, wondered “how on earth I could sit there passively writing down notes”.

During the heart-wrenching interview, Boxall sat next to, and comforted, the distraught woman; they hugged tightly when it was over.

Afterwards she found herself in tears. “It was emotionally exhausting, but that day was the best day of my mission,” she concludes.

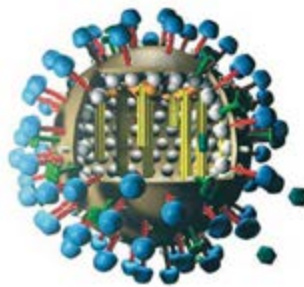
So just how risky was it?

Before going, Boxall had updated a couple of vaccinations and been vaccinated against seasonal influenza. In her baggage she carried a kit of personal protective equipment.

“You're at little risk of exposure when you interview people outside in the wind and sun,” she says reassuringly.

Vigilant hand-washing is also a very effective safeguard against infection, she adds.

Back in her Prague office, where she works for the Czech government under the EPIET scheme, it's business as usual: there is an outbreak of mumps in Moravia in the eastern part of the Czech Republic, which must be investigated (6000 people have fallen ill), and a project investigating side effects attributable to a mass vaccination campaign of Czech Republic newborns is under way. The infants are vaccinated with the BCG vaccine to protect against tuberculosis (TB). Boxall collects data on the extent of adverse effects and where in the country they are occurring.



“We'd ideally like to change the vaccination schedule to only vaccinate babies in high risk groups: those born into families with a TB history, the Roma (gypsy) population and those with HIV exposure. We'll lend strength to this proposal by measuring and creating a baseline of adverse events.”

Boxall comes across as feisty, fearless and funny – qualities that stand her in good stead. She is, after all, the first EPIET fellow to be sent this far into central Europe. What's more, she understands she's the first New Zealander to land a job with the Czech government.

Getting into the EPIET programme in the first place was no mean feat. She had completed her doctorate, having gained a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Biochemistry and Genetics, followed by a Master's in Veterinary Studies at the Palmerston North campus, and was working for the Institute of Environmental Science and Research in Wellington, dreaming of being a field epidemiologist studying Ebola outbreaks in deepest Africa.

A colleague in the United States mentioned the EPIET programme, which she was eligible for, thanks to her British passport.

After a rigorous application process and several nail-biting telephone interviews – one of them conducted in high-speed French – she was granted a face-to-face interview. Abandoning a role in the Porirua stage show of Les Miserables, she flew to Stockholm to compete with 21 other hopefuls for one of eight EPIET positions. A month later, back in New Zealand, she learned she was in.

Now into her second year of the programme, Boxall is challenged by some aspects of life in Prague and charmed by others. The intricacies of the Czech language are a daily struggle. “It's one of the most difficult languages to learn, ever,” she says. She has found that her Czech colleagues are less

familiar with the team approach to sharing scientific knowledge, and she observes that many more people smoke.

The compensations? One is the city itself, with architectural splendours that span a thousand years. The blog she maintains to stay in touch with family and friends records a lively social life. She performs in an ex-pat jazz a cappella group around the city, and manages the occasional weekend trip to London for shopping and catching up with friends.

But it is easy to imagine Boxall taking her leave of cosmopolitan Prague to head to the disease hot zones of Africa.

She wants to do good. For her, the practice of epidemiology is above all a humanitarian enterprise.

“I want to feel like I've made a difference and helped people. That's all I want to do.”

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Massey Magazine

Fine tuned

Kevin Clark has a hearing problem: a preternaturally acute sensitivity to pitch. An out-of-tune piano is not to be borne. So he has taken to carrying his own remedy, a mahogany-handled piano tuner's spanner, which he now pulls from his briefcase with a flourish, his eyes glinting behind thick bifocals.

Though the days of honky tonk pianos in halls are over, it is there in case of need.

It is mid November, the start of the Christmas season, a frenetic time for a jobbing jazz musician and band leader.

Clark's most recent gig was a corporate Latin-Mexican evening; his next, in a couple of days, is to be a music-of-the-twenties event "Cole Porter's Begin the Beguine played very tinkly, that sort of thing."

I wonder how many among his convivial yuletide audiences will realise that their piano player has a Tui Award-winning pedigree, that he was formerly a distinguished and prosperous Wellington architect, or that once the Christmas period is over he will head south to the Mackenzie country to spend his leisure time flying gliders.

The 66-year-old has notched up an extraordinary c.v., one that in many ways seems to embody the virtues of jazz: discipline, improvisation and a sense of play.

Plimmerton-based Clark, architect, composer, musician and glider pilot, was born and raised in a small town in South Africa's Eastern Cape.

As a child he fell asleep to the lilt of lullabies sung to him in Xhosa by his Bantu nanny, and he remembers the call-and-response work songs of the black work gangs digging the trenches for a sewage reticulation scheme on his street – an event that drew tape-recorder carrying ethnomusicologists from Rhodes University.

Clark's own musical career began with the ukulele. At seven his rendition of Home on the Range won him the under-10 section of a talent quest. And at age 15 he had progressed to playing the trumpet at church concerts and in the school marching band.

Jazz, however, was no part of his upbringing and when, as a university student studying architecture, he ended up with a jazz musician as a flatmate he needed him mercilessly: "I said, 'There's no tune. You can't whistle it.'"

Famous last words. Soon Clark – by now having heard jazz live and seen several jazz shows during a trip to the States – was hooked, playing in jazz bands himself, learning from and mixing with the likes of jazz musician/composers Hugh Masekela and Dollar Brand (Abdullah Ibrahim).





Clark then headed to London where he practised architecture and played in rhythm-and-blues bands and pubs on the side. In 1962 he and a fellow architect rode a Matchless motorbike from Europe, across Asia Minor and into the Middle East, stopping along the way to research the works of the 16th century Ottoman empire architect Sinan and passing through the middle of an Arab-Kurdish war in Iraq.

London was also where he met and married Barbara, a Kiwi from Wanganui.

In 1967 the couple moved to Wellington. It came as a shock. Capetown, even if blighted by the iniquities of apartheid (Clark's friend Hugh Masekela, for one, was forced into exile in 1961) had been vibrant and multicultural. London had been grimy, but again a wellspring of culture. Mid-sixties Wellington felt like dropping off the edge of the world.

His first impressions of New Zealand as an architect? "Where ever man had been he had made a mess of it: old corrugated iron, wrecked buildings, ugly towns and cities with poles and wires everywhere. But the landscape was fantastic."

Nonetheless, he and his wife settled in. They started a family, and within three or four years Clark had his own architectural practice. "Eventually we became Kiwi-fied." And he began playing gigs, his first being at the Las Vegas Cabaret in Miramar.

Through the late sixties and seventies, Clark played in dance bands for a succession of weddings, parties and rugby club socials, in the process discovering New Zealanders' peculiar love affair with alcohol. Looking to find a more sophisticated – and less inebriated – audience, he formed The Kevin Clark Group (aka, for obscure reasons, Gruntphuttock's Revenge). Soon the group was featuring in jazz festivals, radio programmes and – in something of a coup – as a fixture in Brian Edwards' new weekly television show, *Edwards on Saturday*. "Very, very scary," Clark terms the experience of being broadcast live to air.

How influential was Edwards? You could call it compulsory viewing; with much of New Zealand receiving only the one channel, for many viewers it was Edwards or nothing.

Overnight, Clark and vocalist Fran Barton became national celebrities, launching an era in which Clark would appear on numerous television shows, ranging from pop to jazz, often alongside overseas artists and the New Zealand Jazz Orchestra.

And while Clark of the Kevin Clark Group was becoming familiar to middle New Zealand, Clark's other band, the 40 Watt Banana, was building another audience with a repertoire of experimental music, blending jazz with traditional Indian musical forms utilising ragas and Indian instruments, such as the tabla and sitar. They recorded with the renowned mridungum (double-ended drum) player Dr Balu Balachandram.

One pop track, Nirvana, made it into the New Zealand top twenty and the group became a darling of the student circuit, with the early Split Enz playing, on one occasion, as the supporting act - "an event one of my sons dined out on for years," says Clark. Concurrently, Clark the architect worked on a gamut of projects: sports stadia (the Renouf Tennis Stadium is one of his); commercial residential and industrial buildings; churches; electrical

substations, water and sewage treatment plants. Commissions took him overseas to work on urban design in Brunei and Malaysia.

But by the late nineties it had all begun to pall. The Resource Management Act was becoming, as Clark terms it, a drag. He and Barbara had a house on the beachfront in Plimmerton; the children had left home. "I would get up in the mornings and say, 'Why am I doing this? Another day hassling with bureaucracy? I really don't need this any more.' I think I had just run my course."

At age 57, Clark threw it in, selling his practice, to become a student, musician, composer, ethnomusicological explorer, and, more recently, a part-time jazz tutor.

Now would be the time to explore some of the musicological questions that had long intrigued him. When he set out to complete his bachelor's degree in jazz at what is now the New Zealand School of Music (he would later complete an honours degree, again with an emphasis on ethnomusicology and jazz), he had his thesis topic already in mind. "I was interested in the differences between Cuban music and music in the southern states of America, when both had drawn African slaves from the same source."

The allure was more than intellectual; for a proper investigation, he and Barbara would need to make an odyssey to Cuba, a place the two inveterate travellers had long wanted to visit.



Cuba, Clark remembers, was falling to bits, but the people were "fantastic, absolutely marvellous" and the experience of playing and learning with Cuban musicians was a revelation.

"They were so relaxed and easy. I would be trying to play something on the piano and the guy would push me aside saying 'muy mecánico' – too mechanical. But then when I tried to teach him some jazz, I would say 'muy mecánico!'"

And what of the musicological question he was trying to answer?

He attributes the differences that emerged between the evolution of the musical traditions of the slaves brought into Cuba and America's South to differences in the social and religious environment. Protestant America vigorously tried to deAfricanise the slaves, whereas the Roman Catholic church in Cuba was somehow more laissez faire. "That, or they were conned," says Clark. Either way, many African traditions that failed to survive in North America would persist in Cuba. (For example, even as their forms evolved, African deities would live on in Cuba rebadged as Catholic saints).

Another musical conundrum that had puzzled him for years – the origin of a Latin American-type rhythm called the ghouma or sachie sachie used in the music of the Cape Malays and Boers – resolved itself recently when he attended a lecture about the folk music of Indonesia.

"I heard that rhythm again, and it dawned on me. In the Middle East and the Arab traders and Muslim missionaries had taken their music and religion to the Spice Islands - now known as Indonesia. This rhythm became

embedded in the folk music. The Dutch later colonised these islands [The Dutch East Indies] and when they in turn settled the Cape they brought their Malay and Indonesian slaves to Cape Town. I then started hunting round and I found some interviews with old Cape Malay musicians and there it was. Their ancestors had brought the rhythm of their music to Capetown from Java and Sumatra. The Arabs also took that rhythm to Spain, and as a result that rhythm is an essential ingredient of Latin American music. Fascinating stuff.”



How did it feel at 50-something to be studying alongside students as young as his sons? Age didn't come into it, he says. In jazz circles all that matter are talent and skill. “I was asked by other chronologically-challenged people, ‘How did you get on? How did you feel?’

‘About what?’

‘Being old?’

I said I didn't notice. It didn't occur to me.”

Clark is no jazz purist. Rap and hip hop get short shrift, but otherwise he is man of few prejudices.

Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music were staples when Clark and his group played regular gigs at Paremata's Sandbar Pub (no longer, alas, a jazz venue), but there was always a certain unpredictability. “Sometimes we'd play jazz interpretations of pop songs or Duke Ellington or bizarre renditions of corny old tunes that you'd never expect in a jazz setting.” How eclectic is he? “I have a two piece band, called The Two Man Band that does idiotic things with tuba, piano, trumpet, trombone, double bass, swanee whistle and vocals. We sometimes do reharmonised versions of Stairway to Heaven, Smoke on the Water and other rock anthems. It's all deliberately absurd, but audiences love it.”

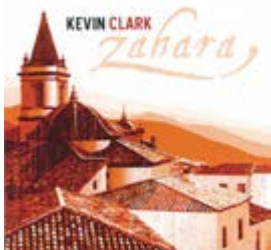
Light jazz, boogie woogie, classic hits, Dixie. old-time... as Christmas draws nigh Clark will play a repertoire to suit his audience's tastes, appearing either solo, in a jazz trio or quartet, or as part of a larger band. Vocalist Fran Barton often joins him, extending the musical possibilities still further. One of his bands, Los Gringos, specialises in Afro-Cuban and Brazilian jazz. Another, the Dixie Dudes, plays traditional Dixieland, music that is, according to Clark's website, “Fun, Frolicky and Festive”.

This is the lot of the jazz musician in New Zealand. Pure jazz has a small following; to make a living, you must be prepared to turn your hand to anything. Not that Clark seems to mind.

“As long as the music is good and played well you can always have fun.”



Building a new home: At press, Wellington MPs had set aside political differences to lobby the Government to give the New Zealand School of Music a new home in Wellington's Civic Square, at a cost of up to \$50 million. MPs Chris Finlayson (National), Marian Hobbs (Labour), and Heather Roy (ACT) are working with the Wellington City Council to lobby the Government. The New Zealand School of Music is a joint venture between Victoria and Massey universities.



Clark's latest album, *Zahara*, shares its name with the small, sleepy, Spanish hilltop town in the mountains outside of Cadiz where Clark and his wife Barbara sojourned while he pursued an interest in flamenco.

Clark's interest in flamenco, and particularly jazz flamenco, was first awakened by two films: *Latcho Drom*, about the Roma, the travelling people better known as Gypsies, and *Calle 54*, a documentary about Latin-jazz, which crucially featured a segment by flamenco jazz musician Chano Domínguez. He began ordering in CDs from Spain. "Eventually I thought I really have to go to Spain and see what I can find."

From the town of Zahara, Clark made excursions to gypsy bars in the major cities (some very seedy), to CD stores, and to flamenco dance classes. "Not to learn to dance, but to understand the connection to the music." Sometimes the music would come to Clark, as when in a bar or restaurant people would spontaneously take up instruments, sing, clap and dance.

Is *Zahara* then a flamenco album? Clark would not call it that, even though a number of the tracks employ flamenco forms, such as the solea and buleria, and feature palmeras (flamenco hand clappers) and the cajón (flamenco box drum). Better to say, as do the liner notes, that these original Clark compositions exhibit "a healthy dose of the Spanish tinge". Jazz with a flamenco flavour.

To play flamenco, explains Clark, you must grow up immersed within the traditions and rhythms of flamenco, some of which, using the additive rhythms of Middle East rather than the West's divisive rhythms, are alien to the Western ear. "The closest we get to a flamenco jazz feel is a solea track, which is of those nasty 12-beat cycle things with the harmonic rhythm in a strange place. We have barely scratched the surface."

Zahara follows 2002's *Once Upon a Song I Flew* and 2004's album of live performances, *The Sandbar Sessions*, both of which won Best Jazz Album in the New Zealand Music Awards.

Wellington's DominionPost reviewer has described *Zahara* as Clark's best work yet. *Zahara* is available from all good CD stores or directly from clark@xtra.co.nz.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Features



Monuments, Memory and Meaning

Fine artist Kingsley Baird talks to Malcolm Wood.

The monument stands two metres in height, a sinuous curve of stainless steel cleanly incised with a kowhai motif; the Escher-like pattern of interlocked flowers throws a fretwork shadow across the pebbled mosaic at its base as the sun moves across the sky. To the untutored eye it is simply a beautiful object.

But when you know where it stands – close to the epicentre of the Nagasaki atomic bomb blast – it takes on a terrible ambiguity. So too does the text running across the top, which appears in English, Ma-ori and Japanese: “Remember winter. Spring's welcome consolation.”¹



“You might think of the work as a cloak sheltering and protecting you against the elements or, in the Ma-ori context, about the korowai, or cloak, as symbolising mana,” says the monument's designer, artist Kingsley Baird.

Or side-by-side you might apply another meaning: “A cloak can also be about smothering.”

That bright, fretwork shadow: for Baird it summons one of the images taken of the bomb blast survivors – a young woman with the pattern of her kimono burned onto her flesh by the nuclear flash.

Kingsley Baird is no stranger to designing memorials. His first memorial commission (a joint partnership with the Studio of Pacific Architecture), the New Zealand Memorial in Canberra, was unveiled by Prime Ministers John Howard and Helen Clark in 2001. His next, the Southern Cross-inspired Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in front of the National War Memorial in Wellington, was completed in 2004. For his master's degree project he created an installation and video exploring the unresolved grief surrounding the death of his brother in a motorcycle accident many years earlier.

The Cloak of Peace – Te Korowai Rangimarie was donated by the Government and people of New Zealand to Japan to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. It represents the unity of peoples for peace and the determination that weapons of mass destruction, capable of destroying humanity, should never be used again.

It is difficult to argue with these sentiments. Who would not wish for an end to the threat of nuclear destruction? The cold war may be done with, but the

issue of nuclear proliferation remains. North Korea, one of Japan's immediate neighbours, is newly in possession of nuclear weapons (the first test took place during one of Baird's visits to Japan) and countries such as Iran are perhaps on their way to obtaining them. The 21-kiloton yield of the bomb that destroyed Nagasaki and killed more than 70,000 people now seems puny; today the average yield of a nuclear missile is 20 times that.

But Baird knows that it is all more complicated than that: memories can be constructed and construed in many ways, and memorials can be put to many uses. In the World Peace Symbol Zone of Peace in the Nagasaki Peace Park, for example, it seems likely that some of nations that donated memorials may have done so for reasons of realpolitik as much as idealism. How else do you explain the overrepresentation of the states of the former Eastern Bloc: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Cuba, East Germany.

Nor is Baird unaware of Japan's complicated relationship with the events of World War II. Japanese textbooks have tended to gloss over historic atrocities such as the Japanese Imperial Army's Rape of Nanking in 1937 and the forcible recruitment of 'comfort women', and there are Japanese right-wing readings of history that depict the nation at least as much as victim of the War as an aggressor within it.

At Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, which Baird has visited, 14 Class-A war criminals from World War II are among the 2.5 million war dead honoured.

In Japan there has been nothing akin to Germany's contrition.

Baird has no time for those who would excuse Japanese aggression, militarism or atrocities, but at the same time, he says, there are things the victor's history has been inclined to forget. That Japan was an aspiring colonial power which had come late to the table. That most of the territories Japan invaded (China and Thailand excepted) were not sovereign nations but European colonies. That the 'war criminals' commemorated at the Yasukuni Shrine were condemned under a set of conventions their nation had not been party to and had behaved according to Japanese military mores.

Nor was the dropping of the bomb less than morally complicated. "True, from the official American perspective the dropping of the bomb saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of men. But it is also true that in the lead in to the dropping of the bomb the United States stopped the conventional bombing of the candidate cities because they wanted to see how much damage the bomb would do."

Why was Nagasaki bombed and not some other city? Historical contingency. It just so happened that on the morning of August 9 1945, Kokura, the designated primary target, was under cloud cover.

Is nuclear-free New Zealand implicated? "We didn't drop the bomb, but we were on the same side that did," says Baird.

"I am certainly going to write about these things. It won't be about blame; it will be like my artwork, that is, attempting to express the complexity of such events."

Most of the sculptures in the Peace Park are of figures. Baird's sculpture neighbours a skillfully carved peace maiden donated by the Peoples' Republic of China, and the centrepiece of the park is a 30 tonne bronze of a seated, heavily-muscled man, one hand outstretched and open in a gesture of peace, the other warningly pointing skyward. Memorials like these lend themselves to a particular form of interaction, says Baird. "People arrive, stand there, have their photos taken and move on. I didn't want that."

He prefers human-scale, abstract, understated memorials to which people can bring their own stories.

In Nagasaki he wanted a work that would invite people onto the site. “I wanted people to stand within the concave form of cloak.”

During Baird's two visits to Nagasaki – the first to inspect the site, the second to oversee the final work and attend the unveiling – he was the guest of local peace activists. Most, like Baird, were baby boomers, at a generation's remove from the horrors of the bomb. He attended a family tea ceremony put on for his benefit and a Noh theatre performance in Tokyo. His hosts were warm, hospitable and open. There was none of the reticence or formal etiquette he had read of when researching the trip.

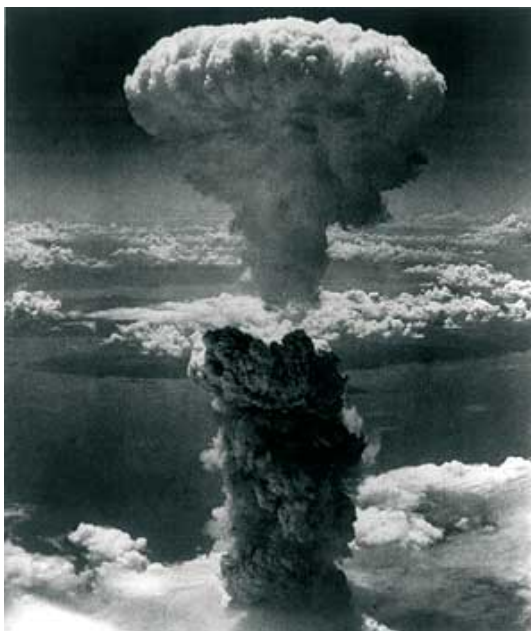
They made the memorial and it's meaning much more immediate. “I realised that the Nagasaki bomb fell on people like these. My sense of empathy became that much stronger.”



The Cloak of Peace Te Korowai Rangimarie (at top left and right) was commissioned by the Peace Foundation and funded by contributions from the New Zealand Government and six local authorities: Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Whakatane, Waitakere, and Napier.

It was unveiled by Disarmament and Arms Control Minister, Hon Phil Goff, on behalf of the New Zealand Government in a ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park on 21 October.

In early 2007 Baird will take up an inaugural two-month residency at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium. As part of the residency he will create works on themes of memory, remembrance, loss and reconciliation.



The view from a B-29 Superfortress of the Nagasaki bomb blast on August 9, 1945.



Nagasaki before and after August 9, 1945.



Skin burns on a woman replicate the darker patterns the kimono she wore.

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•Community Boards, 144 of which were created as a tier of local government to recognise existing distinct, identifiable communities that had been governed by the small local authorities now absorbed into much larger authorities. Essentially these boards provide a mechanism for their councils to consult with these communities and seek advice on projects affecting the community. The boards also assumed an advocacy role for their communities.¹

The structure seems to have suited most of New Zealand well enough. So what happened in Auckland?

The problem, as I see it, is that the reforms failed to take account of the historical governance of the Auckland region.

From the days of Auckland Mayor Dove-Meyer Robinson, Auckland had had its own unique regional government in the form of the Auckland Regional Authority (ARA) which built and managed all major infrastructure projects in the Auckland region. The ARA was heavily involved in delivery of services to the region, with little formal separation of policy, regulatory services, funding and service delivery.

However, this concept did not sit well with the structure imposed by the Bassett reforms or with the public management theories of the day, which held that policy, funding and purchasing should be organisationally separated from operational service delivery. So the operational functions of the ARA were given to a new body, the Auckland Regional Services Trust, the ARA was renamed the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) and its activities were restricted to those carried out by the other regional councils. Eventually, the assets and services taken over by the Trust were either privatised or transferred to companies owned by the councils in the region.

Thus Auckland's local government came to consist of a regional council with limited powers over regional infrastructure and seven councils, three of them district councils and four of them city councils. New Zealand's largest city had been Balkanised.

To make matters worse, while the three district councils served distinct, natural communities of interest, the four city councils did not necessarily do so: they were created as so-called economic units.

For example, although they fall under the same unit of local government, the residents of Devonport and Takapuna have little community of interest with Northcote and Birkenhead, and even less with Albany.

While the ward system of electing councillors has helped, there is still no sense of the individual city council belonging to its ratepayers and citizens.

The creation of community boards has been the only move that has kept citizens connected to their local government.²

Nor has the current arrangement been good for the delivery of services.

The decision to reduce the old ARA to a regional council with limited powers meant that any rationalisation of infrastructure in the region could only take place with the agreement of the other councils in the region. Unfortunately these had a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Thus we have seven different water and sewerage systems and seven different roading systems (although in the latter case the ARC has assumed responsibility for some arterial 'regional roads'). All these infrastructure systems are local monopolies but, unlike other local monopolies, they are not subject to external regulatory regimes. This means that the consumers of these services are unprotected against predatory pricing by the councils that use their unrestricted monopoly powers. If such a regime applied to power line companies there would be outrage.

Over time, various attempts have been made to provide Auckland with the mechanisms to create long term strategies and articulate a representative voice. Take the Mayoral Forum, the Auckland Regional Transport Authority, and the Auckland Land Transport Strategy. Worthy initiatives all, they fall down because the model for the governance of Auckland is flawed.

The Local Government Act of 2002, which this Government sees as its landmark approach to local government, hasn't addressed Auckland's particular problems either.

So where to from here? The following is a set of moves that would effectively reform the governance of Auckland.

•Convert the Auckland Regional Council into a strategic authority with powers of direction over the other territorial local authorities on all matters other than those of a purely 'local' character – with either 'local' or 'strategic' being defined in statute. A corollary is that the regional body's presiding officer would be the effective voice for the Auckland region.³

- Convert the current infrastructural systems into economic units, with pricing structures subject to regulation by the Commerce Commission in the same way that it regulates line companies in the energy industry.⁴
- Abolish the four city councils and replace them with local authorities serving districts with genuine common interest. These may well conform to the current boundaries for parliamentary general electoral districts. If such a model was adopted, the need for community boards as an extra tier of local government might well disappear.⁵
- Allocate the roading taxation collected in the Auckland region to the ARC with the stipulation that it only be spent on land transport solutions.⁶
- Remove Transit NZ's responsibility for state highways in the Auckland region.⁷

Of course, I am not the only one to think that something needs to be done about Auckland's governance. The Government has signaled that it will consider legislation to reform Auckland governance structures before the local authority elections in October 2007.

Well and good, you might think, but I have two reservations. The first is the likelihood that the legislation will be based on submissions received within Auckland's current local government system – submissions that seem likely to favour the interests of those making them.

The second is the 2007 deadline. Locating the deadline in a local authority election year will almost certainly involve the sort of hurry and political horse-trading unlikely to serve Auckland's best long-term interest.

My suggestion is that the local authority elections in Auckland be deferred for two years, allowing the current systems to carry on until suitable legislation can be passed in 2008. This time round, Auckland has to get it right.

1 The members of these boards are elected at the triennial Council elections, with 48 of the 74 city and district councils currently having one or more community boards.

2 The electorate boundaries under MMP (though these obviously weren't around at the time of the reforms) represent more suitable communities on which to base new local authorities.

3 While not essential to satisfactory reform, a strong case can be made for this officer to be elected at large by the region's electorate as is the case in Greater London.

4 The question of ownership of these entities (public or private) is irrelevant to this issue. Either way they are local natural monopolies where the consumer needs protection from predatory pricing policies. Public ownership of itself, without regulation, offers no such protection.

5 There are currently seven councils and 30 community boards in comparison with 19 parliamentary electorates (20 after the 2006 Census).

6 Clearly central Government will still need to specify the roading standards to be adopted for state highways and motorways, and employ some agency, possibly Land Transport NZ, to monitor compliance with those standards.

7 These last two points would make a major contribution to shifting decisions about Auckland from Wellington to Auckland. Such a shift however can only occur where the regional body in Auckland has appropriate powers to formulate and implement strategic infrastructure decisions.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators; Massey Magazine

He Iwi Tahi Tatou?

Professor Paul Spoonley writes.

Captain William Hobson's statement in 1840 that “we” are now one people was always rather ambiguous, but in 2007, the question of how best to describe, and to acknowledge, New Zealand's growing cultural diversity is challenging.

In 1840, the issue was to find common ground as the basis for colonisation to proceed. The subsequent dismissal of what was agreed in the Treaty of Waitangi, and then the initiatives to more adequately recognise Ma-ori interests in the latter half of the twentieth century, provides one major strand in debates about equitable citizenship in New Zealand.



The other is associated with two waves of non-European immigration. The first came from the Pacific in response to labour needs in expanding urban economies in New Zealand from the 1960s. The second was a product of the changes to immigration policy in 1987.

In 2007, the result is what Steve Vertovec (University of Oxford) labels “superdiversity”.

New Zealand has more overseas-born as a proportion of its population than Canada, and only slightly less than Australia. Auckland has more overseas-born than any other Australasian city.

Non-European migrants and their descendants now comprise a much more significant presence in New Zealand, a factor which will be emphasised by future trends. New Zealand's Asian communities are expected to grow by almost 400,000 in the two decades from 2001 to reach 700,000 by 2021; Pacific peoples will grow by 170,000 to reach 420,000 in the same period.

The effects will be seen most obviously in Auckland as the major destination and residence of many of these communities. By 2016, Auckland's Pakeha population will have dropped to 54 percent while Asian communities will make up 25 percent of the city's population.

The size of these populations and the fact that many are recent immigrants is part of superdiversity; but there is also the range of different ethnic groups as Auckland's growing calendar of festivals and events reflects. New Zealand is the destination for significant numbers of migrants and refugees from many parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as from Europe (but no longer confined to the United Kingdom) and the Americas.

The rapidity with which this superdiversity has emerged has, understandably, created a certain anxiety and a political reaction. The most obvious negative response was apparent in New Zealand in the mid-1990s, particularly in the 1996 election. Since then, public opinion polling indicates that New Zealanders are becoming more accepting of the diversity of their country, city or neighbourhood. This is partly driven by the recognition that immigrants from around the world are important for our collective economic future.

It is ironic then that the economic contribution of immigrants is not being maximised. The human capital that immigrants bring is inadequately recognised by employers in particular, and overseas qualifications and

experience, particularly from Asia, is quite significantly discounted. Research with both employers and immigrant job seekers shows that there are significant barriers to employment, not the least in surname and accent discrimination, despite the best efforts of organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Employers and Manufacturers Association.

This prompts the question of how well our major institutions are responding to superdiversity. The age profile of immigrants means that they are concentrated in the school and working age populations. Whether it is our education or health system, or gatekeepers such as employers and landlords, the challenge is to welcome and respond appropriately to cultural diversity.

This, in turn, has focused attention on New Zealand's policies and approach to immigrant integration: how should we recognise and incorporate cultural diversity? Are we doing enough to encourage successful integration? Is our understanding and practice of citizenship appropriate?

New Zealand, like Canada or Australia, along with a number of countries in the European Union, is considering high level policy goals such as social cohesion. Biculturalism provides some important examples (e.g. language maintenance) and a touchstone, but the details of a local multiculturalism are still some way off, even if superdiversity is already apparent in the demography of our communities.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Massey Magazine

Five Massey players make NZ Universities rugby tour



Five players from the Varsity rugby club in Palmerston North have been selected for the New Zealand Universities tour of Malaysia, Japan and Australia, which begins this weekend, while Varsity A co-coach Professor Steve Morris will be team manager.

Three of the Varsity players selected for the team, wing Cameron Hayton, second five-eighth Louis Maxwell and prop Grant Polson, are current Massey students, while hooker Willie Tran and flanker Josh Bradnock are former students.

Bradnock is a Manawatu representative and Grant Polson is expected to play for the Turbos this season.

Professor Morris, a professor of animal sciences and a former NZ Universities coach, says players must play for a university club and be current or former students to be eligible for selection.

The tour will involve a match against a Malaysian XV in Kuala Lumpur on 11 April, one game against Japan's national under-21 aside and two against Japan under-23, and finish in Sydney on 24 April against Australian Universities.

Matches against Australian Universities were played regularly in the 1990s but have not been as frequent since, Professor Morris says.

University rugby clubs are among the strongest in many New Zealand club competitions, particularly Auckland and Otago but also Wellington and Manawatu, he says.

Varsity A will be weakened by the loss of five of its best players for the first few rounds of the Manawatu competition, in which they were last year's beaten finalists.

"But a tour like this is also an incentive for students and former students to stay at Varsity rather than join the city clubs."

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation



Georgie Fame at the piano, with Jazz School tutor Phil Broadhurst and jazz vocals students Maria O'Flaherty and Verity Burgess.

Music legend lends ear to Massey jazz vocalists

Jazz legend Georgie Fame held a workshop for students at the NZ School of Music in Auckland and Palmerston North this week.

A household name in Britain since the early 1970s, when he and musical partner Alan Price (former keyboard player with The Animals) did a television series called *The Price of Fame*, his 40-year musical career encompassed 20 albums and 14 hit singles. He has toured, recorded and performed with many musical greats, including Joan Armatrading, Eric Clapton and Van Morrison.

Fame's ongoing friendship with Auckland jazz musicians based at Massey led to the workshop being organized for eight jazz vocal students. At the Auckland campus Fame spent an afternoon with old musical comrades Rodger Fox, Phil Broadhurst and Brian Smith and their students.

He spoke for an hour then spent the next at a keyboard doing a vocal workshop for jazz singers – a unique and valuable experience, according to Broadhurst.

He continues to tour and perform his blend of jazz and rhythm and blues with big bands, jazz groups, orchestras and rock groups.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Music and campus life; Teaching

Former refugee graduates with a Social Work degree

Somalia-born Mohamud Mohamed has overcome a lack of schooling and English language to complete a Bachelor of Social Work at the Wellington campus.

The Port Nicholson Rotary Club acknowledged his achievements last month with a Rotary Goal Setter Award.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrea McIlroy says the Awards recognise young Wellingtonians who have shown outstanding achievement and leadership.



“Mr Mohamed has overcome significant barriers to accomplish his goals.”

After being forced to leave school at the age of 10, Mr Mohamed spent nine years in Kenya before resettling in New Zealand in 1999.

One of the coordinators of the Social Work degree, Dr Carole Adamson, says that Mohamud's achievement exemplifies his positive attitude to life.

“We congratulate him and admire his determination, humility and willingness to explore cross-cultural and professional issues. We are really proud of his success.”

Mr Mohamed says he has a passion for education and intends to complete a master's degree.

“I've seen people face many difficulties and want to make a positive difference. I chose a social work career because I want to help people.”

Mr Mohamed is employed by Barnardos as a community development co-ordinator in Lower Hutt and at the National office.

He also works as an interpreter, helping people with health and immigration matters. He lives in Karori with his wife and two daughters.

He will graduate at the University's Wellington graduation ceremony this week.

Date: 05/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Student profiles



Professor Lawrence Rose, Professor Claire Massey, Hon Lianne Dalziel and Dr Francis Greene.

Latest research on small business

The annual seminar on research into the backbone of the economy – small businesses – will be held in Wellington tomorrow.

The event is organised by the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research at Massey University Wellington. This year the focus is on using research to influence policy.

University researchers and government agencies will present the results of recent studies and there will be an update on the pilot of the BusinessSMEasure survey – the first ongoing study of SMEs in New Zealand.

Dr Francis Greene from the Centre for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises at the University of Warwick in Britain is keynote speaker and the Minister for Small Business Lianne Dalziel is opening speaker.

New Zealand has more than 350,000 SMEs, making up more than 99 per cent of the business population and accounting for 60 per cent of all employment.

The seminar starts at 9 am Thursday 12 April at the Museum Building, Massey University, Buckle Street.

Date: 11/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



New survey on the Government's performance

The Government gets ticks from the public for its performance in protecting the environment, fighting unemployment and dealing with security threats.

But its performance in providing a decent standard of living for the old and health care for the sick is rated less highly, and it gets the thumbs down for failing to control crime. Taxation is another big source of dissatisfaction.

A new survey, by Massey University's Department of Marketing, also provides evidence that a decade of MMP has increased satisfaction with New Zealand's political system, though the report's author, Professor Phil Gendall, says perceptions of being disenfranchised remain high.

The survey is part of the International Social Survey Programme, which involves leading academic institutions in 40 countries. Surveys cover a different topic every year in a roughly seven-year cycle: The last on the role of government was in 1997.

Key findings include:

- Perceptions of the role of government have changed relatively little over the past 10 years, except for a sharp decline in the expectation that the Government should provide a job for everyone who wants one.
- Most people favour cuts in Government spending but there is strong support for more spending in health, education and law enforcement.
- The belief that low and middle-income earners pay too much tax is widespread and has increased since 1997, most sharply amongst middle-income earners.
- The introduction of proportional representation (MMP) has reduced dissatisfaction with the political system, but the feeling that ordinary people have little influence over the Government remains widespread.
- New Zealanders have liberal views on actions designed to challenge the Government. Most believe organising public meetings, protest marches and demonstrations should be permitted. Even when people with extreme views want to overthrow the Government, most believe they should be allowed to publish books or hold public meetings to express these views.
- Concerns about terrorism are reflected in widespread support for measures such as phone tapping, detention without trial and random stopping and searching, if the Government suspects a terrorist act is about to happen.
- New Zealand is generally regarded as free of the corruption that characterises some other countries. But about 15 per cent believe there is corruption among some politicians and public officials. And there is a strong perception that the treatment people get from public officials depends on who they know.
- Concerns about smoking, drinking and obesity show up in strong support for interventions designed to reduce the undesirable effects of cigarettes, alcohol and unhealthy food. Nearly half support extending the smoking ban to include all public places, and 75 per cent support returning the drinking age to 20.

- There is strong support for stricter enforcement of existing liquor laws, and some support for requiring warning labels on alcohol.
- There is strong support for removing GST on fresh fruit and vegetables and for more regulation of food advertising, particularly advertising to children.

The nationwide mail survey, of 2250 people aged 18 and over selected from the Electoral Roll, was conducted between August and October 2006. The response rate was 60 per cent and the maximum margin of error is plus or minus 3 per cent.

New Zealand has been included in the ISSP surveys since 1991. Data from the surveys is stored in central archives in Madrid and Cologne and allows researchers to monitor differences between countries and changes over time.

The full report is available at <http://marketing.massey.ac.nz/files/RoleofGovt.pdf>

Date: 11/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Walkers overstep the mark

Visitors to the University in recent weeks could be forgiven for thinking they have stumbled across some sort of roaming secret society.

Teams of staff have striding around and beyond the three campuses, with the only hint of what they are up to provided in the odd knowing look accompanied by an exaggerated pat of the hip.

Their aim has been to each walk 10,000 steps a day, with 60 teams of five competing to complete a total of four million steps between them – the equivalent of walking around New Zealand.



After just four the 12 weeks in the 10,000 Steps@Massey: Hikoi-a-Hauora programme, some of the 300 participants had individually clocked up more than a million steps on the pedometers strapped to their hips.

Aside from the focus on fitness and enjoyment, the programme also has a health research goal, with Professor Chris Cunningham gauging the impacts of participation and working on ways to encourage ongoing physical activity. “We want to know the most effective ways of getting people active,” he says.

Whetu Simon, from Palmerston North campus' Nga Tane o Te Pumanawa Hauora team, and Karl Partsch, from Wellington's Perambulaters, are the first individuals to reach the million-step mark, while the Perambulaters heading the team score with more than four million steps.

Mr Partsch certainly knows how to go the extra mile. He walked all night at last month's Cancer Society Relay for Life and routinely gets up at 4am for a stroll before work.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear is also a participant but admits she is probably the weakest link in her team, the Baby Strollers, putting it down to the number of meetings on her schedule.

Auckland campus Recreation Centre manager Rod Grove says the programme has been a hit with staff. “It's been really successful in motivating people to get out there and enjoy the sunshine and at the same time experience the health benefits associated with regular exercise.

“I think many of them will be pleasantly surprised when they complete their health assessments at the end.”

Health, nutrition and injury prevention seminars are being held on each campus throughout the programme, which finishes next month.

For more information: <http://10000steps.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 12/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Sport and recreation; Uni News; Wellington

Discount insurance offer for friends of Massey

Insurance brokers Stone & Associates is to provide a range of discounted insurance packages to the University's alumni and friends.

In return a proportion of the premiums received will be donated to the Massey University Scholarship Fund to the following:

- Southern Cross policies: for each health insurance policy that is taken up, 5 per cent of the annual premium will be paid into the Massey University Scholarship Fund on the anniversary date of that policy and on every anniversary that the policy is in place.
- Other health insurance policies: for each policy (including Tower, AIA, ING Life) taken up, 11 per cent of the first year's premium will be paid to the scholarship fund.
- Risk Insurance packages: when policies encompassing life, trauma, income protection, and total and permanent disability insurance are taken up, 11 per cent of the first year's premium will be paid to the scholarship fund.

The company is also offering Massey graduates and supporters of the University free access to will services through Guardian Trust, a service that normally costs \$150.

Alumni Relations Manager Leanne Fecser says a scholarship is planned to be established in the Stone & Associates name.

"Massey University appreciates the continued involvement of its alumni and friends in the university community and this is just another way in which we can offer benefits to our alumni and friends, which is mutually beneficial," Mrs Fecser says.

The alumni database will remain confidential, she says. "We will advertise this service through our magazine and electronic newsletter and it will be up to our alumni and friends to make contact with Stone & Associates should they wish to consider the offer of discounted insurance packages."

Anyone interested should contact Alumni Relations in the first instance on 06-350-5865 or email: alumni@massey.ac.nz

Date: 12/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni; Internal Communications; Uni News



\$6.9 million for social research projects

Two Massey projects have received more than \$6.9 million from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and focus on improving future living standards and work opportunities for New Zealanders.

A project led by Dr Fiona Alpass in the School of Psychology at the University's Palmerston north campus will receive \$750,000 a year for five years for a longitudinal study which examines factors required for "positive ageing" and older people's contribution to society. The research is in partnership with the New Zealand Family Centre and in collaboration with the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing, bringing together some of New Zealand's top researchers on the effects of ageing.

A second Massey study led by Professor Paul Spoonley at the University's Auckland campus will receive \$625,580 a year for five years for research aimed at improving the economic integration of immigrants and their families into the workforce and into business.

The joint project involves Waikato University researchers and will focus on how well immigrants' skills are being used, and how they go about finding work and setting up businesses.

A total of five projects were funded by the Foundation and details of the other projects can be found at: <http://www.frst.govt.nz/research>

Date: 14/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Funding

Masters thesis provides policy-makers with practical advice for small business

Robyn de Bruin-Judge decided from the outset that if she were to get through her masters thesis, it would have to be relevant to the business world.

She was already flat-out at the successful North Shore furniture-making company she runs with her husband, as well as raising two young children when she resumed academic study at the Auckland campus five years ago.

Mrs de Bruin-Judge's two-year research project – an analysis of how small to medium businesses in New Zealand comply with regulations – has earned her first class honours for her Masters in Public Policy. She will graduate next Friday afternoon at the sixth of seven Massey Auckland capping ceremonies in the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna during the week.

Not only that, her ground-breaking findings led in December to her selection ahead of more than 250 applicants to join the Economic Development Ministry's small business advisory group.

The thrust of her thesis is that although New Zealand has a reputation as one of the easiest places in the world to do business, small to medium enterprises often struggle because no distinction is made between them and large companies.

Size does matter when it comes to understanding and complying with the multitude of sometimes complex rules relating to gst, income tax, provisional tax, ACC, health and safety law, employment law and others, she says.

Big companies can rely on accountants, lawyers and human resources staff, often in-house, but smaller businesses either have to contract that work out, usually at a higher cost relative to staff numbers, or attempt to do it themselves. This can cause problems if they lack the skills, don't have the latest information on rule changes or know where to turn for help.

The reality is that partners and family members often take on unpaid administrative tasks to keep small businesses going, none of which is officially recognised, Mrs de Bruin-Judge says. "Often women are pulled back into work doing the books – it's unseen and unpaid."

She is "rapt" that her thesis (The entrepreneurial capital of SMEs and business compliance in New Zealand: A study of the relationship) made policy-makers sit up and take notice before it was even bound.

Her recommendations on how to improve the Business Cost Calculator – an Australian-designed computer tool used by policy makers here to estimate the cost of proposed regulations to businesses – are being considered by government policy analysts.

"The calculator needs to be adjusted to accommodate the costs and impacts on SMEs specifically, rather than just to business in general," she says. "This is because SMEs make up 96.6 per cent of the New Zealand business community, and small businesses experience different costs and impacts than larger ones."

Mrs de Bruin-Judge has been a Massey student for more than 20 years, starting her BA in Social Sciences at the Palmerston North campus in 1984 and following that with a Diploma in Business Studies, which she did extramurally when living in Auckland.

"My mother [Edith Judge] did her BA in Social Sciences extramurally when I was growing up, so from secondary school I got used to going to Palmerston North for block courses in the holidays."

Mrs de Bruin-Judge hopes her achievement will inspire others with busy lives, who want to study but feel daunted by how to manage it. Her method – focus, self-discipline, with no movies, television, holidays or social outings for two years – might not sound like fun, but it achieved results.

She will attend monthly meetings in Wellington with the Small Business Advisory Group exploring ways to help SMEs, and plans to spend more time on the family business, de Bruin-Judge Furniture, concentrating on marketing and systems operations. Right after a well-earned holiday.

For details of Auckland campus graduation ceremonies:

<http://graduation.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/graduation/auckland/key-dates/april-graduation/april-graduation.cfm>

Date: 14/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Manurewa to Massey – kids get a taste of campus life

A chorus of “awesome” and “really cool” was the first clue that this was no ordinary group of school children checking out the University's Auckland campus.

Call it the enthusiasm of extreme youth or the shock of the new. Almost none of the 56 Manurewa Intermediate School pupils who visited the campus just before the holidays this month had ever set foot on a university campus.

They seemed visibly – and audibly – impressed by everything they saw, from robots in the science laboratory, state-of-the-art facilities in the sports and recreation centre to the wide-ranging book and digital resources and study spaces in the library.

It was also the first organised visit to the campus by an intermediate school group.

It was the result of a conversation last year between Manurewa principal Des Pyster and his former colleague, Ngahua Whiu, who lectures in Maori language and culture at Massey. Mr Pyster came up with the idea that exposing year-7 and 8 pupils to a university environment would give them something tangible to aspire to, as well as a sense of direction and purpose during their secondary school years.

“We felt it was a critical age to make the kids aware of what tertiary education can offer them,” Ms Whiu says. She discussed the idea with colleagues and found immediate support from university staff and students.

University student guides escorted groups of schoolchildren, who are mostly Maori or Pacific, around the campus and after lunch they listened to a series of short lectures by staff about the range of courses available at university.

Sociology professor Cluny Macpherson, from the School of Social and Cultural Studies, presented the group with a copy for their school library of the book *Vaka Moana*, edited and partly written by his colleague Professor Kerry Howe for the major exhibition on Pacific migration currently showing at the Auckland Museum.

Date: 16/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

World War I photos wanted for publication

Military historian and author Associate Professor Glyn Harper is appealing to the public for copies of historic WWI photographs to be reproduced in a definitive photographic record of New Zealand involvement in the Great War.

Dr Harper, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies at the University's Palmerston North campus, will publish the book through HarperCollins Publishers New Zealand in association with the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum.

Images of War will showcase unique and, in many cases, previously unpublished images from the Museum's outstanding collection of photographs from the WWI period.

To compliment and extend its collection for the book, the Museum is calling for photographs covering all aspects of the war, including the Armistice in 1918 and the aftermath. Photographs might be live action shots; troops in location either immediately before or just after military action; wounded soldiers being treated; prisoners of war; artillery, tanks or machine guns firing; aircraft and battleships with a New Zealand connection; weapons training; soldiers in the trenches or of trench life; life behind the lines; soldiers on leave in France and Britain; military commanders, Victoria Cross winners; war animals including horses, mules, dogs and camels; war graves and anything that might be considered unusual or interesting.

Dr Harper is a leading military historian and the author of several highly regarded books on the subject, including most recently, *In the Face of the Enemy: the complete history of the Victoria Cross and New Zealand*.

Copies of photographs can be submitted either electronically in the form of a low resolution digital scan to editors@harpercollins.co.nz or a photocopy by mail to Images of War Project, HarperCollins Publishers, Box 1, Auckland. Please do not send original photographs, but photocopies or electronic images only. All submissions should include full contact details.

Ideally, all photographs submitted should be accompanied by relevant information for accompanying captions. However, if the information is not available, people submitting photographs should just include what they know, as the unit and likely action can often be deduced by the experts.

Images of War will be published in time for Armistice Day, 11 November next year. Those whose photos are selected will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

For further information please contact Sandra Noakes, HarperCollins Publishers: 09 443 8954 or sandra.noakes@harpercollins.co.nz

Date: 16/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Passion for history sees grandmother graduate

Shirley Remnant may have failed School Certificate history back in 1960, but a lifelong interest in the subject has culminated in her graduating this year with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history.

The 61-year-old from Whitianga enrolled as a mature student at the School of Social and Cultural Studies on the Auckland campus five years ago.

She says it was the encouragement of her two sons, who “kicked my butt”, that prompted her. “They said to me ‘Mum, what is it that you really want to do?’,” Ms Remnant recalls.

“As a fourth former, I can remember my history teacher reading to us about the tomb of Tutankhamen being discovered by Howard Carter. I was gripped. That's stayed with me ever since.”

At university, she developed an interest in New Zealand's social history, rather than the wonders of Ancient Egypt.

She studied full-time for two-and-a-half years, sharing a house in nearby Greenhithe with her widowed sister-in-law so she could travel easily to the campus.

But when her sister-in-law died she returned to Whitianga and completed the degree extramurally. She also works as administration manager at the Whitianga Information Centre.

Ms Remnant also works as part-time volunteer at the Mercury Bay museum in Whitianga, and has been recording oral histories from some of the older residents in the area. The history degree “really opened huge doors for me”, she says. “History is not just about the past, it's what we can observe and record now that will become valuable in the future.”

She says support and liaison services the University offered were a bit help in coping with the rigors of university life, including workshops on essay-writing and research skills. “They made it so easy for me. I had no idea how to go about writing an essay when I started.”

Winning a new computer in a campus draw in her first year was another bonus.

She describes the past year as her toughest, starting each day at 5.30am to study before going to work. Study at home required great self-discipline, and she missed the stimulating environment and friends she made on campus.

Several of those young women friends have kept in touch and promised to be there when she graduates on Friday afternoon, along with her partner and one of the sons who encouraged her to take on the challenge and a granddaughter.

For more information about Auckland campus graduation:

<http://graduation.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/graduation/auckland/key-dates/april-graduation/april-graduation.cfm>

Date: 16/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Looking after small business

One of Britain's leading researchers on small businesses says it is often overlooked that they add value to communities as well as to economies.

Dr Francis Greene was the keynote speaker at an annual research symposium in Wellington on 12 April, organised by the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research.

Dr Greene says a local newsagent is a good example of a small business providing a "heart" for a community. He says research in the United States and Britain shows that most small business owners say they are in it less for the money but more for the lifestyle and interaction with the community.

"Many are run by people who may be older or part of an ethnic group. They may not make a living wage and, strictly speaking, they should get out. But they stay because of these other benefits. They may also decide to stay to avoid losing face – or because their other skills have eroded over time."

Dr Greene says most small businesses are one of two kinds: "They either help you, as an individual, live your life. Or they help your house live its life."

Dr Greene is with the Centre for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises at the University of Warwick, a key centre for the research and training of SMEs in Britain. He notes that its focus is similar to that of the New Zealand centre, "with the difference that SMEs here have a much smaller local market. In most cases, the only way for a small business in New Zealand to grow bigger is to export."

The seminar included an update on the pilot of the centre's BusinessSMEasure survey – the first ongoing study of SMEs in New Zealand.

The pilot led by centre director Professor Claire Massey, involved site visits and interviews with 300 SME owners-managers. It provides insights on their attitudes to growth and also identified key factors in how growth is perceived.

The second stage of the BusinessSMEasure survey will be launched this year. It will make six monthly surveys of a panel of 600 firms.

Date: 16/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar

Virtual Careers Fair a NZ first

Massey students and graduates are invited to register for the first web-based careers fair run by a New Zealand tertiary institution.

The Virtual Careers Fair will run for two days from May 1 and will offer web-based access to recruitment and vacancy information from potential employers – through links to employers' websites and short presentations.

Participants will be able to "chat" in real-time with Massey's careers staff and other students and graduates. They will also be able to create an on-line profile to outline their skills, knowledge and experience and the type of work they seek.

John Ross, an extramural career consultant at the University's Palmerston North campus, says more than 20 organisations have booked to participate and others are expected to join them.

Mr Ross says the fair is a particularly good opportunity for Massey's extramural students and recent graduates who cannot attend campus-based career expos. All participating employers anticipate having job vacancies now or within the next year and are keen to attract applications from Massey students and graduates.

Find out more at: <http://virtualcareerfair.massey.ac.nz>
Or email John Ross at J.A.Ross@massey.ac.nz

The virtual fair will coincide with the Palmerston North campus annual Careers Fair in the Students' Centre, from 11am to 3pm on 1 and 2 May.

Representatives from national and regional companies will be present to recruit and interview Massey students and discuss career options.

Organiser Nicola Stone says the fair provides a perfect opportunity for students and employers to meet. "This time of the year is when many employers are running intense recruitment campaigns. Now is the time to meet with organisations to find out how to apply for a position and what it is like to work for them."

The fair is an informal event that allows students to interact with employers, ask questions, and take away handouts. Some employers will also offer information sessions after the events.

The following 38 organisations have registered to attend: AgResearch, AgriQuality, ANZ Bank, ASB, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Child. Youth & Family, College of Education, Contact Energy, Department of Corrections, EDS (New Zealand), ESR, Fisher & Paykel Appliances, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, Fonterra, Hewlett Packard, Intergen, Kiwiplan, Landcorp Farming, Lion Nathan, Macro Automation, Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand Pharmaceuticals, New Zealand Racing Board, NZ Army, NZICA, Palmerston North City Council, PPCS, Provoke Solutions Ltd, Ravensdown, Royal NZ Air Force, State Services Commission, Statistics New Zealand, Summit-Quinphos, TeachNZ, The National Bank, The National Bank (Rural), United Water.

Date: 16/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Aaron Wong with proud parents Raymond and Winna and his brother Daniel.

Young scholar's rapid rise to IT mastery

At 15 Aaron Wong had finished secondary school and enrolled at Massey University. At 18 he had a bachelor's degree in information sciences. Now 20, he is graduating from the Auckland campus with a master's degree in information sciences and will start work next week with Datacom as a software developer.

Mr Wong says his accelerated journey to higher education began at New Plymouth Boys' High School, where he was allowed – and encouraged – to compress five years of schooling into three.

When he was accepted into a bachelors programme at Massey Auckland despite his tender years, his family uprooted and moved to the North Shore to be near him.

“Thankfully, Massey University would accept me at that age. I was used to being in class with older people so I had no problems interacting. In fact, most people wouldn't have known I was only 15 years old.”

Mr Wong says he is excited to now be able to apply the skills and knowledge he gained in the past five years of study.

Date: 17/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

Masters graduate highlights Tongan successes in NZ



Masters graduate Sione Tu'itahi hopes his study of four generations of a successful Tongan family in New Zealand will provide clues for others on how to succeed.

Mr Tu'itahi feels too much emphasis has been given – in government statistics and media reports – to negative measures that emphasise Tongans' poor ratings in health, housing and jobs.

“My decision to write a thesis that focuses on the strengths and potentials of Tongans, rather than their deficit and problems, stems from decades of observation of that community, first as a journalist and later as an educator and health worker,” he says in his thesis.

He observed consistent characteristics among successful Tongans, such as having specific social and economic goals, positive attitudes, knowledge, perseverance and a willingness to work hard. “These resilient people never gave up once they set on their goals. I continue to observe the same phenomenon among some of the Tongans here in New Zealand.”

It is the Tongan definition of success that is the key to understanding what has enabled some to get ahead, something he explores in depth in his work. “Sharing and reciprocity lift the social and economic status of the whole kainga [extended family], rather than its accumulation in one nuclear family at the expense of others in the same extended family unit.”

Unlike many Tongans who migrate to New Zealand specifically to seek education and job opportunities, Mr Tu'itahi's was the result of an accident.

He was flown to hospital in Auckland after breaking a leg falling off a ladder in 1994 and, after complications due to osteoporosis, was advised to stay for two years for follow-up treatment.

The former broadcast and print journalist began teaching at the Pacific Island Education Resource Centre in Auckland before taking up a position as Learning Adviser for Pacific Islands students at Massey's Auckland campus.

Along with Professor Mason Durie, head of Maori Research and Development and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori), he formulated the Pasifika@Massey strategy adopted formally last year.

It aims to encourage and support Pacific Island students as well as promote Pacific studies throughout the three campuses in Palmerston North, Wellington and Auckland and is headed by the Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau.

Mr Tu'itahi graduates on Friday afternoon with a Masters in Public Policy from the School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland. The title of his thesis is Langa Fonua: In search of success – How a Tongan kainga strived to be socially and economically successful in New Zealand.

For further information: Sione Tu'itahi 09-414-0800 ext 9885 027-665-9939

Date: 17/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Pasifika

University assignment wins travel writing prize

A university assignment has won Wellington extramural student Terence Wood \$1000 and an award at the Cathay Pacific Travel Media Awards, announced recently in Auckland.

On Top of the World, a story set in Greenland, was written as an assignment for the travel writing paper at Massey. It was the first time Mr Wood had entered a writing competition and he was “chuffed” to win the New Travel Writer of the Year award.

He says it is not easy to fit study into a busy life, but that deadlines can be useful, as they force you to write. The award includes a commission to write a travel article for AA Directions magazine.

Lecturer John Muirhead, from the School of English and Media Studies, says he is delighted with Mr Wood's success. “Both of the tutors who looked at his assignment thought it a standout. We encourage students to write their stories as a literary essay with a strong central idea, not as a ‘destination’ piece, common in newspapers, where the writer takes the reader on a quick tour around the main attractions of a particular location.

“In this assignment, students were asked to write about a personal issue that arose in relation to the place they visited,” Dr Muirhead says. “That's quite common in contemporary travel books. In an age of mass travel, writers find something new to say about even the most accessible destinations by exploring an experience of that place that is unique to them. In Mr Wood's case, the destination – Greenland – is perhaps not so common, but I think he simultaneously tells us a lot about the place and about the emotional state through which his perceptions are filtered.”

Interest in travel writing has grown since it was launched six years ago as an extramural paper. It is also taught internally at Massey's Auckland and Palmerston North campuses, and from next year at the Wellington campus.

Date: 17/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Extramural



The Speech and Language Therapy graduates marked their day in education history with a party at Takapuna Beach. From left: Anneke Batelaan, Megan Bell, Elizabeth Brown, Amelia Joy, Donna Littlewood, Michelle Nash, Polly Newton, Kathleen O'Neill, Mary-Anne Oosthuysen, Maree Smith, Hannah Stewart, Cara Weightman.

Week of celebration and academic firsts at Auckland graduation ceremonies

The first graduates from the University's Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy were among those celebrating in this week's Auckland campus graduation ceremonies.

Friends, family and well-wishers lined Takapuna's Hurstmere Road as the first of nearly 1200 graduates formed a procession to the Bruce Mason Centre, where their degrees were formally conferred.

Like many of the graduates celebrating their achievements at Massey, the 12 Speech and Language graduates have all quickly found jobs in their field and had converged for the occasion from workplaces all over Auckland.

The four-year Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy was established at the Auckland campus by the College of Education to meet a widely recognised need for therapists. It is the only degree programme of its kind in the North Island.

For the University's Auckland School of Design, it was the second graduation and this year 16 Bachelors of Design degrees were conferred compared with just six last year.

Seven ceremonies were held in Auckland, marking the start of the University's graduation season, which continues in Palmerston North and Wellington next month. It is also the largest for the College of Business. There were also special ceremonies for Pacific Island and Māori graduates.



Food technology graduates Margaret McClintock, Alexandra Sadovnikova, Songxin Zhao and Melanie Pauga.



PhD in Mathematics, Heung (Fred) Lam with his wife Katherine and daughter Flora.



Aaron Ngawaka (Bachelor of Education) with his daughter Chakhan (left) his mother, Hinepuia and daughter Aretha (front).



Pacific island extramural student, Merina Tagaloa received her Postgraduate Diploma in Education. She works for the Ministry of Health and is carrying on to study for her Masters degree.

Date: 19/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

The Vietnam War story for children

The latest children's book by Associate Professor Glyn Harper introduces children to the topic of the Vietnam War and the historical experiences of war more generally.

My Grandfather's War is illustrated by Bruce Potter and tells the story of eight-year old Jade and her grandfather.

Most of the story takes place out on the water in a dinghy when Jade asks her grandfather about the war in Vietnam and why it makes him sad. Her grandfather then tells her for the first time about his experiences in the war and actions in combat.

Dr Harper is a military historian and director of the Centre for Defence Studies at the University's Palmerston North campus. A former teacher, he joined the Australian Army in 1988 and after eight years transferred to the New Zealand Army, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He was the Army's official historian of the deployment to East Timor, and is the author of several books, including Kippenberger: An inspired New Zealand commander, Letters from the Battlefield: New Zealand soldiers write home 1914-18 and the best-selling Massacre at Passchendaele: The New Zealand story.

My Grandfather's War is published by Reed, and details of price and distribution can be found at: www.reed.co.nz

Date: 20/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

MY GRANDFATHER'S WAR



GLYN HARPER
ILLUSTRATED BY BRUCE POTTER

Renewal of international accreditation for veterinary graduates

The University's veterinary science programmes' international accreditation has been renewed for a further seven years. This enables Massey-trained vets to practice in New Zealand, Australia, Britain and North America.

A recent visit by representatives of American and Australasian veterinary professional bodies to the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences in Palmerston North has resulted in a full pass and a glowing report.

Institute head Professor Grant Guilford says the American accreditation, in particular, is crucial to the University's \$4 million per year full-fee paying veterinary programme.

The combined delegation consisted of 12 leading veterinarians from the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. They checked compliance with a set of international standards relating to organisation, finances, admission policy, curriculum, facilities, faculty, student care, learning resources, clinical resources, research and outcomes assessment.

The delegation also conducted interviews with senior University management, institute staff, undergraduate students, postgraduate students, alumni and employers. Their report focuses on the strengths of the programme and makes a small number of recommendations. Points of strength identified include:

The recent upgrades to the equine/farm services clinic, the large animal teaching unit and the microscopy teaching spaces. The plans for further upgrading of current facilities are commended and encouraged.

The collaborative research between AgResearch and IVABS in the new Hopkirk Institute, and the opportunity to improve postgraduate recruitment.

Support for international students and the mentorship program.

The range of online and electronic resources available to students and the impact of computer-aided learning.

The availability of healthy cattle, sheep and horses and the access to large animals to students who need further handling experience.

The participation of students in the teaching hospitals and their involvement in client communication.

Strong support by students for their learning experience, particularly the approachability and care by staff.

Date: 20/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Educators welcome official recognition of dyslexia

The head of an international organisation researching learning disabilities has welcomed the Government's announcement yesterday that it recognised dyslexia as a significant barrier to learning.

International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities president, Professor James Chapman says the change is overdue and will give a boost to New Zealand's credibility in future research.

Until the Ministry's announcement yesterday, Professor Chapman, the head of Massey's College of Education, attended international panels representing a country where the Government failed to officially recognise dyslexia as a learning disability. He says the new stance signifies a significant breakthrough that brings New Zealand in line with other countries.

"To have dyslexia finally recognised at this level as a legitimate area of learning difficulty and reading problems, should pave the way for further research and development of initiatives which support students, and better prepare teachers for dealing with it," Professor Chapman says.

As the nation observes its first Dyslexia Awareness Week, literacy experts are calling for a change to literacy education. Among other things, they are calling for a return to using phonics to teach reading.

Professor Chapman appeared with Professor Tom Nicholson in the recent television documentary, *Decoding Dyslexia*.

They said that children and adults with dyslexia can be identified, yet there is a lack of government support and a lack of willingness to intervene to help pupils with dyslexia. There is still widespread misunderstanding about dyslexia, says Professor Nicholson. In the past it was thought to be associated with seeing words and letters backwards.

"Most experts now say that the cure for dyslexia is to teach phonics. Dyslexic pupils will benefit greatly through one-to-one instruction in phonics. Teaching pupils to remember words using visual strategies, is not the best long term strategy even though it might bring short term success. Phonics is an extremely useful teaching strategy and is now mandated in British schools. If we had it in New Zealand, then it would benefit many dyslexic children."

Dyslexia, a learning condition affecting more than 70,000 New Zealand children, was officially recognised by the New Zealand Government last week to enthusiasm from educators who are calling for change to literacy education.

Dyslexia occurs when an otherwise bright and verbal child has extreme difficulty in learning to decode words. A dyslexic person has adequate or above language ability and a history of regular classroom instruction but with inaccurate and slow reading of words.

Date: 20/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Government Policy commentators

Massey a 'natural fit' to provide skills and attributes needed in modern professional pilots

Modern pilots require attitudes, training, skills and discipline that go far beyond the ability to fly a plane and providing those is "a natural fit" for large tertiary institutions like Massey, says Mount Cook Airline's flight operations manager Dale Webb.



Captain Webb was guest speaker at the School of Aviation's presentation of "wings" to 10 students on Tuesday this week, signifying the completion of their professional training and qualification as commercial pilots.

Pictured on the Palmerston North campus on Tuesday are, from left, Matthew Harkness, Olivia Hollingum, Philip Thorne, Boris Drzymala, Fabian Wong and Andrej Petrovich.

Mr Harkness received the Air BP Academic Award and Massey University Outstanding Student Award, Mr Thorne received the Massey University School of Aviation Air New Zealand Flying Award, Mr Drzymala received the Feildair Systems Award, Mr Petrovich received the Craig Merryweather Memorial Scholarship, and Mr Wong received the Air BP Scholarship – ATP Award.

Four of the qualifying students were overseas: Tse Wei Khoo, who also received the Palmerston North Airport Ltd Professional Attributes Award, Devan Purushotamadas, Petrus Sternegard and Gavin Wood.

Captain Webb said there was a growing worldwide demand for pilots despite expanding technology that might indicate a future with less need for people to operate planes. That demand was being driven by huge growth in orders for new aircraft in countries such as China and India, Captain Webb said. "It is no longer a means of transport for the rich; now virtually everyone flies."

And as technology increased and the value of the passenger jets along with it, the range of skills required of a pilot was increasing, which meant a growing role for university training in all aspects of aviation management.

"The tasks and activities of an airline pilot that have already evolved markedly will continue to change and change significantly.

"During the course of your careers you will see the introduction of aircraft with adequate range to fly between any two points on earth – that's nearly possible now; fuels that are not derived solely from oil – the United States Air Force is experimenting with biofuel; synthetic vision such that operation in fog, snow or at night is no different to a perfectly fine day; and, I have no doubt, many other developments that have not yet become apparent."

Those advances would require people equipped with skills "way beyond" those of the traditional pilot.

"Today my captains at Mount Cook still fly their aircraft but I see them in wider view...they manage and control a capital asset worth \$25 million, directly lead a crew of four and are supported by dozens of other essential members of the team.

"Those numbers are multiplied several times over in the biggest aircraft in the industry and in terms of capital employed make a long haul jet captain the controller of more capital – over \$200 million – than most businesses in the country. For that reason I now call the crew leaders and aircraft managers the CEO's of our smallest business unit. That requires attitudes, training, skills and discipline that go beyond just flying and is a natural fit for a large tertiary institution like Massey University to provide those qualities.

"Every industry needs a continuing input of well qualified and enthusiastic new entrants and it is generally accepted that one of the functions of the universities is to supply those people for the professions such as law, accounting, medicine, etc. Supplying pilots to the aviation industry is not yet as well accepted by many people, but that will come. Not that long ago most lawyers and accountants began life in a professional office as an articled clerk and qualified while working on the job, no outside help needed. Doctors and nurses were trained by and in hospitals as part of the process of healing real people.

"The legal, medical, financial and other professions now exist very synergistically with the relevant university departments, aviation far less so. Like the materials, technology and processes I mentioned earlier, that will change."

He hoped the School of Aviation would use the new flight simulator Mount Cook will put into service in another four months, "observe our flight deck procedures, participate in our advanced training and give both of us the

synergies other industries now take for granted. It seems so logical and at least some of that will happen, and soon.”

Date: 20/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation

Bacteria responsible for the death of Maui's dolphins

Evidence of a bacterial agent in a dead endangered Maui's dolphin found at the mouth of the Waikato River in November has prompted concerns for the future of the species.

A post mortem conducted by pathologist Dr Wendi Roe at Massey University revealed that the dolphin was born alive but never made it to the surface to take its first breath.

The bacterium *Brucella* was identified by DNA methods at the Biosecurity New Zealand Investigation and Diagnostic Centre. This laboratory has previously found evidence of marine strains of *Brucella* in Hector's dolphin.

“The test results cannot confirm if the dolphin died as a result of brucellosis, the disease caused by the bacterium. However *Brucella* does cause this type of problem in animals, and this finding in the Maui's dolphin population is of real concern for the future of the species,” Dr Roe says.

Two other Maui's dolphins found dead this summer had been screened without detecting *Brucella* bacteria. Further screening would be required to determine the prevalence of the bacteria in the Maui's dolphin population and its associated impacts.

Nicola Vallance, spokesperson for the Department of Conservation, says the death in itself is bad news for the Maui's dolphin population.

“These dolphins are considered to be the rarest marine dolphin in the world, with only around 100 animals left - meaning that all individuals are crucial for the survival of the population. The possibility that Brucellosis was involved in the death of the baby dolphin is a cause for concern and requires further investigation.

“The effect of this disease in marine mammals is unknown. We do know that Brucellosis causes abortions and reproductive failure in livestock, and while we know very little about how the disease manifests in marine mammals there is some evidence from international examples that this too may be the case for dolphins.

DOC, Massey University and the Biosecurity New Zealand Investigation and Diagnostic Centre are working together on this issue and will continue to research the incidence of *Brucella* in Maui's dolphin and their Southern cousins, the Hector's dolphins.

DOC is appealing to the public to report any dead dolphins to their hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) and stresses that marine mammals should not be handled.

Although *Brucella* can be transferred from animal populations to humans in bodily fluids, although the incidence is rare. Brucellosis in humans causes fever, headache, arthritis and neurological symptoms and is treated intensively with antibiotics.

Date: 23/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Bollard to address graduates

Reserve Bank Governor Dr Allan Bollard will be in Palmerston North next month, as one of Massey University's graduation speakers.

Dr Bollard will deliver the graduation address at the first ceremony for business graduates, on Tuesday 15 May.

Dr Bollard has been Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand since 2002. He was previously Secretary to the Treasury, the Government's principal economic adviser and before that was chairman of the Commerce Commission.

He has written a number of books on the New Zealand economy and produced a computer simulation game called Oikonomos, in which one plays at being the Minister of Finance.

Where: College of Business graduation ceremony at the Regent on Broadway.

When: 2.30 p.m. Tuesday 15 May.

Date: 23/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)

Pink Ladies ripe for the picking

Apple lovers with a taste for the traditional should act quickly to secure the final trees available for rent from the University's Fruit Crops Unit. Most Pacific Rose and Braeburn trees are rented, but there are still about 20 Pink Ladies available.

Plant Growth unit manager Steven Ray said renters were guaranteed a 60kg haul of fruit, though most could expect closer to 90kg. The Pink ladies were paired up for renting as they had a lower yield, with two trees costing \$50 this season.

"Pink ladies are an older style apple, a little tart with a sweet background – good for keeping and for cooking," Mr Ray said. "Picking sessions will be held each Friday afternoon from noon to 5pm, and Saturday morning from 8.30am to 12.30pm for the next three weeks. Ladders are supplied, but pickers need to bring their own bags or baskets."

For information on the rent-a-tree programme or to rent a tree, contact Denice Stewart on 063509099 ext 5996 or email d.m.stewart@massey.ac.nz

Any apple trees not rented or used to top-up yields will be picked by staff and sold on campus.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North



Trainees take to oil-spill course like ducks out of water

Ducks affected by oil-spill in a Palmerston North stream were released yesterday after regional council staff participating in an oiled wildlife response training course assisted in cleaning them.

The course was hosted by the University's Wildlife Health Centre, and wildlife veterinarian Kerri Morgan says the call from Horizons Regional Council to the Centre's Oiled Wildlife Response team came the day before the course attendees were due to arrive.

She made a call to the capture team – John Andrew (Department of Conservation) and Jim Lilley (Maritime New Zealand) – who assisted the council in capturing 13 oiled mallard ducks the next day for treatment.

At Massey, the 25 representatives from regional councils, the Department of Conservation and veterinary hospitals on the course learnt how to handle and stabilise the oiled birds before cleaning them with a mild detergent.

Ms Morgan says that although the Wildlife Health Centre's focus is on native wildlife, the introduced ducks' treatment was a valuable learning experience in preparation for more serious spills involving native and threatened species.

She says it takes at least an hour to clean an oiled bird once they have been stabilised with fluid electrolytes and their body temperature brought back to normal by a heating pad.

“The oil upsets the ultra-structure of the feathers and water can get to their skin. This loss of waterproofing means birds can become hypothermic. The oil also causes irritation to their mouths and nostrils and eyes. And they usually ingest a fair amount of oil when they preen, and in severe cases, birds develop gastrointestinal, kidney and liver disease which often kills them.”

The Oiled Wildlife Response team is able to mobilise its equipment and travel to spills with funding from Maritime NZ. In January 2006 the unit responded to a major spill in Queensland, Australia when a carrier lost more than 25 tonnes of heavy fuel oil after a collision.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science; Wildlife Ward



Nursing shortage heading for crisis

The shortage of nurses in New Zealand is heading for crisis levels, due to an ageing workforce, graduates heading overseas, and a global nursing shortage, says a nursing workforce researcher.

Dr Annette Huntington from the School of Health Sciences on the Wellington campus says with the average age of nurses at 45, many are approaching retirement.

Australia is aggressively recruiting from New Zealand, with more than 900 nurses heading there in 2003, the most recent year for which figures are available.

It is not known what that figure is now but anecdotal evidence is that it may have worsened. A quarter of nurses from a recent class at Massey University moved to jobs in Australia.

The issue is a global one, says Dr Huntington. "New Zealand nurses are very desirable on the international market.

"New Zealand will continue to lose its qualified nurses to countries with stronger economies and better pay and conditions.

"The issue of whether we can replace them from poorer developing countries is increasingly an ethical debate, when those countries are also facing a shortage and are arguably in greater need.

"Nurses are the backbone of health services. Our 45,000 registered nurses make up approximately 60 per cent of New Zealand's health workforce."

Just over half work in district health boards, with the rest in areas such as aged care, primary care, Maori health providers, the prison services, defence and private hospitals.

"Although pay has improved for nurses working in DHBs, it has lagged behind for other nurses.

"We have a small window of opportunity to address the issues before the shortage becomes acute."

Researchers from the School of Health Sciences are tracking nurses' health, wellbeing and patterns of workforce participation using on-line questionnaires, in the Nurses' E-Cohort Study. The study is establishing a database to improve workforce policy and planning, with the aim of encouraging the recruitment and retention of New Zealand nurses.

"Accurate data is essential for the planning and management of the nursing workforce if this pressure is not to overwhelm our health services," says Dr Huntington.

The Nurses' E-Cohort Study is a collaborative venture between the University of Queensland and Massey University's School of Health Sciences.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators

Cancer research wins US funding

An international study led by the University's Centre for Public Health Research has been awarded \$140,000 by the United States National Institutes of Health to investigate risk factors of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), diagnosed in about 600 New Zealanders annually, is a group of cancers that may develop in any organ associated with the lymphatic system, such as the spleen, lymph nodes or tonsils.

Study leader Dr Andrea 't Mannelje says both incidence and mortality have been increasing worldwide for 20 years by no one knows why and knowledge about what causes NHL is also poor.

"This study will help us learn more about any links between occupational exposure and NHL, which may provide opportunities for the primary prevention of NHL in the future."

Previous studies focusing on occupational risk factors have suggested some exposure to pesticides and solvents may be a cause, but study findings have not been consistent.

The new study will, over two years, analyse the association between occupational risk factors and NHL in nine separate NHL case-control studies from North America, Europe and Australia.

It will involve collaborations with world-renowned cancer research institutes, such as the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer and the United States' National Cancer Institute.

The Centre for Public Health Research is a multi-disciplinary team of researchers established seven years ago and based at Massey's Wellington campus.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Feature

Hurricane Katrina's lexical storm

A recent article published by Dr Peter Petrucci and Michael Head of the School of Language Studies examines the media's use of the term "refugee" in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Published in the *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, the article examines how even though the word refugee had historical precedence and was appropriate in a literal sense, it was rejected by the majority of Americans during the media's coverage of the hurricane because of its strong connotations.

Dr Petrucci and Mr Head, linguistics researchers at the Palmerston North campus, say this illustrates a dilemma for the media when a word may be appropriate to describe a situation or group but has specific connotations which may be unacceptable to various groups within society.

Referring to articles from the *New York Times*, they demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, the label has been used to represent Americans at home for some time. They examine how "refugee" appeared in the *Times'* coverage of the Atlantic hurricane that devastated New Orleans in 2005, how it positioned those that it designated and argue that it was the media's perception of a lack of control, both at the individual and governmental level, that prompted its use.

They also discuss the dilemma the media face when a particular lexical term that they consider appropriate is considered inappropriate by the public. They outline the use of the word in the first few days of media coverage and how it was replaced by "evacuee" and "survivor" within a week as a result of strong civic and political opposition to the use of the term to represent the region's newly homeless.

The authors say that identifying American citizens as refugees was controversial because of the negative connotation of a large-scale displacement of people in desperate need of aid and protection. They also show that the use of the word is not new, drawing from electronic newspaper archives to show its use at the turn of the 19th century to represent Americans fleeing the US.

They say the label has also been used to describe people in the US who, because of fears of violence or persecution, have had to flee from one area to another within the country.

After the close of WWII however, the term underwent a significant change when the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees re-wrote policy defining who could be labelled a refugee.

It acquired a legalistic definition, which, for many Americans, came to be associated with foreigners seeking refuge in countries like the US.

The authors say the article is also a good example of how contemporary research in linguistics has applications to and implications for a number of other disciplines in the social sciences.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Literary award for writing tutor

Abomination, a story by creative writing tutor Tim Upperton, has won the recent Manawatu Standard short story competition.

Judge Barbara Else says the 3000-word winning story is “an unforgettable piece of New Zealand gothic”.

“It’s a story that might shock and dismay for many reasons. It breaks the rules with a taboo subject, and by stretching the so-called rules of writing, “ she says.

Shaped around the Greek myth of the minotaur (a beast with the body of a man and the head of a bull) and the Labyrinth, Abomination touches upon the “taboo” subject of bestiality and is set on a New Zealand dairy farm where a strange calf is born with human features.

Mr Upperton says that bestiality is incidental rather than integral to the story's theme.

More than 70 writers entered the competition, run in conjunction with the Central Districts branch of the Society of Authors. The first short-list of 20 was selected by authors Sue McCauley and Joan Rosier-Jones, and Mrs Else judged this selection blind, not knowing who the writers were until after the winners had been selected.

Mr Upperton publishes poetry and fiction in literary journals and magazines such as North & South, NZ Listener, Bravado, Dreamcatcher (Britain) and Agni (US). In 2004 he won the Listener National Poetry Day competition, and he has taken the first prize twice in the Northland Short Story Competition.

He tutors poetry, fiction and travel writing in the School of English and Media Studies at the Palmerston North campus, and regularly writes book reviews for New Zealand newspapers.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

New head for Graduate Research

History Professor Margaret Tennant has been appointed Dean of the Graduate Research School. She will replace Professor Ken Milne, who retired in February.

The School was established in February 2004 and is responsible for doctoral degrees in philosophy, business and administration, clinical psychology and education; undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships; and research masters degrees. It provides information and administrative services for doctoral degrees and scholarships.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Nigel Long, who announced the appointment, says Professor Tennant has an outstanding record of teaching, research training and research mainly in the area of New Zealand history.

She has been a member of the Doctoral Research Committee for eight years and has acted as Chairperson on many occasions.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Preparing the health services for emergency management

Health services deal with routine crises every day, but little is known about how they would perform in a major emergency such as an influenza pandemic.

PhD student Debra Ellis studied how staff at the Auckland District Health Board coped during a national influenza pandemic exercise held earlier this month.

Exercise Cruickshank was led by the Ministry of Health and involved 30 government agencies. It was designed to test the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan.

Ms Ellis says health services play a significant role in the response and recovery phases of disasters, but little was known about how well they would perform in a major emergency.

“In contrast to the health problems they deal with every day, major hazard events pose considerable demands on health care staff and organisations.

“Research in this area is normally constrained by the lack of an event that can be used to assess readiness. Exercise Cruickshank will be a real time, long duration pandemic influenza simulation that will provide the right context to assess readiness in the health services.”

The Ministry of Health report on Exercise Cruickshank will identify any gaps in the planning systems and process of health sector preparedness as a whole, while Ms Ellis' research will focus on readiness at the individual, team and organisational level.

She will identify staff training and organisational needs.

“I want to know the best ways to sustain staff well-being and performance during prolonged health or natural hazard crises,” she says.

Ms Ellis is a student at the Centre for Disaster Research, part of the School of Psychology on the Wellington campus.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators

Masters for Extramural student at 79

His advanced years set Dr Con Scott Reed apart from the others in the procession to the University's ceremony for graduates from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in Auckland.

Seventy-nine year old Dr Reed flew in from Sydney to collect his MPhil in History, completed after eight years of extramural study with Massey University. The graduation and ceremony was a high point in his own personal history and the very busy life he still leads in Sydney.

Dr Reed is a consultant physician, a former president of the state branch of the Australian Medical Association, a long serving member of the New South Wales cancer council, an official visitor and consultant to the Mental Health Centres of New South Wales. And although he's lived most of his life in Australia, he is a Kiwi by birth and only son of one of this country's most celebrated jockeys, Roy Reed.

His thesis is entitled Military Medicine in the Army of Elizabeth the First in Flanders. During the course of his study he had regular contact with Associate Professor of History, Dr Peter Lineham who says: "It's great to see him finish. Con is just one of those people who always knew he had a thesis in him."

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Extramural; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Student profiles



Improving Māori mental health

For five years Valerie Williams combined working as a full-time mental health nurse in Hawke's Bay and then Auckland, and studying extramurally for a Masters in Nursing at the Auckland campus.

Despite the high-risk, stressful nature of her work – especially with an adult crisis team in Auckland last year – she was strongly motivated to furthering her clinical skills because she wants to see improvements in mental health services for Māori.

The hard work has paid off. As a result of graduating this year with a Masters in Nursing (mental health), she has been appointed as educator for the Waitemata District Health Board's mental health nursing internship programme. Having a supportive family and being tenacious helped her through the pressures of combining study and work, she says.

Ms Williams who completed her nursing training in 1998 at the-then Auckland Institute of Technology, says she is committed to ensuring Māori have better access to mental health services.

Originally from the Mahia peninsular in Hawke's Bay, Ms Williams (Rongomaiwahine) says mental health nursing is rewarding work with many exciting career opportunities. She says she learned a great deal working as a Hastings-based mental health nurse from 2003 to 2006, with teams for Māori and adolescents in the area.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Maori; Student profiles



Top prize for PhD student

Using maths to learn more about chemical spray drift has earned PhD student Sharlene Harper a prize that is coveted by senior mathematics students at universities across Australasia.

Based at the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences in Auckland, Ms Harper has been working on a mathematical model to show how droplets from chemical and pesticide sprays are intercepted in the field by shelter belt plantings.

Her presentation on the subject to the recent Applied Maths Conference in Perth won the prize for the best student presentation.

Ms Harper is the first ever woman student to win the T.M. Cherry Award since it was introduced nearly 40 years ago and the second New Zealander to bring it home.

The award is presented by the Australian and New Zealand Applied Mathematical Society.

She is supervised by Professor Graeme Wake and says the application of maths to spray drift understanding arose through Professor Wake's now well established Mathematics in Industry sessions.

Ms Harper says that in the ongoing investigation of pesticides and chemicals in the environment, maths had been applied to calculating how spray travels from the spraying unit but the roles of shelter belts had not been a focus. Studies have already shown that shelter drifts can reduce spray drift by up to eight times.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Graduate combines holistic approach with western methods

Mate Webb decided in 2005 that he'd be better equipped to help treat imprisoned sex offenders if his holistic Māori approach was underpinned with a knowledge of Western psychiatric methods.

Mr Webb (Te Whanau a Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Te Whakatohea, Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa, Ngāpuhi), graduated at Auckland ceremonies last month with a Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT).

The Omaio man is the only Māori working in the Corrections Department to hold a diploma in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.

The former prison officer now working at Auckland Prison, Paremoremo, as a Māori cultural consultant and co-therapist at the Te Piriti special treatment unit for child sex offenders, says his newfound knowledge is essential in changing criminal behaviour.

Although Māori karakia (prayer), songs, and spiritual beliefs are of value in treating prisoners, Mr Webb felt this wasn't sufficient in addressing deep psychological problems of chronic sex offenders he's been working with for 10 years.

"A lot of Māori come in here with core beliefs like 'I'm dumb', 'I'm worthless.' With CBT [cognitive behavioural therapy] you can test those beliefs to change attitudes and behaviour," he says.

He is adamant that treatment programmes for Māori need spiritual and cultural components as well as clinical methods in order to be effective.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Student profiles



Work life enhances study, says Māori education grad

Teaching high-school drop-outs and unemployment beneficiaries whilst studying extramurally for a BA in Adult Education was a perfect combination, says Mat Kingi.

The North Shore ex-Navy able seaman gunner graduated with a Bachelor of Adult Education at ceremonies in Auckland last month after studying “every weekend and for two hours each night for three years”.

During that time, he also worked as a full-time tutor at the Auckland Trade Training Academy – a private training establishment aligned with Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) to train job seekers with no formal qualifications.

Mr Kingi says despite his heavy workload, his university study constantly reinforced his work, giving him added motivation and insights into educational theories and practice. He's discovered, both through study and experience, that there are different learning styles to suit different people.

And he's learnt on the job that effective communication and mentoring are the keys to getting through to his students. Having left school with just one School Certificate subject, he also understands where many of his trainees are coming from.

“I was just like a lot of Māori boys – 100 per cent into sport. I didn't have the motivation or the focus to study,” he reflects.

Attending the Māori Graduation Ceremony in Takapuna with his partner, Addie (herself a pioneering success as the first woman to qualify as Petty Officer – Electronic Warfare in the New Zealand Navy), and 10-day-old baby girl, Teariki, he also collected a posthumous Certificate of Arts (Māori Studies and Psychology) for his mother, Kathleen Hendry, who passed away last July.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Maori; Student profiles

Palmerston North PhDs – Graduation 2007

Doctor of Business and Administration

MARK PETER OBREN – Dr Obren examined long-term change in industries through so-called increasing returns, caused by products produced with high information value, and by the effect of infrastructure networks on the delivery of products and services to customers. In particular he looked at the increasing separation of information from physical products which increase the impact of information on change. His research has international relevance for business professionals, offers guidance on selecting the most appropriate strategy models to compete and acts as a new basis for competition. It also assists academics to effectively position future research.

Doctors of Education

ROSANNE MARY PARSONS (nee GAVIGAN) – Dr Parsons' research examined how the Education Review Office's approach to external evaluation assists schools to improve, and the effect of external evaluation on two schools over time. Her findings show that the office's approach can assist a school to improve but that the influence varies within different contexts.

EDNA EILEEN TAIT – Dr Tait examined the power that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation has to promote the aim of developing and spreading knowledge throughout the world.

She found that the participants gain power from the organisation's intellectual and ethical purpose but are constrained by its bureaucratic processes. At the frontline however, they are able to make valuable contributions to knowledge development.

Doctors of Philosophy

TERRY ALAN MACPHERSON – Doctor of Philosophy in Marketing

Dr Macpherson examined the use of econometric models of road safety television advertising. Previous evaluations of effectiveness have varied in terms of data and method, making comparisons difficult. After examining various procedures, it was concluded that drawing any robust measure of the effectiveness of road safety advertising using non-experimental data, with other single or multiple-equation models, was unfeasible. Policy makers are advised to adopt an experimental approach constructed around a strictly controlled and measured outcome that is closely linked to the safety campaign's objectives.

SONDRA ATHENE MONROE – Doctor of Philosophy in Management

Dr Monroe investigated whether corporate strategy contributes to firm performance, studying 15 Fortune 1000 firms. Her research showed that the number of resource governance decisions could distinguish the superior performance category from both inferior and average categories. It suggests that successful firms, by using superior corporate level decision making skills, can simplify resource governance decision making, resulting in superior decisions which lower the rate of decision making. Her research provides empirical evidence of the value of corporate level strategy, and the importance of resource governance decisions in achieving superior performance.

MICHAEL JOHN NAYLOR – Doctor of Philosophy in Finance

Dr Naylor's thesis focused on price instability and crises in currency markets. His research demonstrated that price influences in currency markets exhibit characteristics of a complex network. An alternative approach to currency cascades, using sparsely clustered networks, was offered. Price influences in currency markets were mapped and examined in relation to currency crises. Analysis was carried out on interesting aspects surrounding currency crisis and what policy makers can do to hinder such events. His findings increase understanding of price dynamics in financial markets.

MARY ROSE BREHENY – PhD in Psychology

Dr Breheny's research focused on medical and nursing journals about adolescent mothers and interviews with health professionals about the health needs of adolescent mothers. Analysis of journal articles showed that adolescent mothers were discussed as part of a cycle of disadvantage, while in interviews with health professionals adolescent mothers were described primarily as adolescents and their mothering was determined by these adolescent characteristics. Dr Breheny found that this associating adolescent mothering with disadvantage and inability is likely to impact negatively on adolescent mothers' experience of healthcare.

MICHAEL PHILIP DALE – PhD in Social Work

Dr Dale explored the contribution of leadership to the achievement of effective service delivery in the New Zealand Probation Service from the perspectives of probation officers and service managers. Several key

findings emerged, including that effective service delivery was not perceived to reduce recidivism alone. Secondly, Dr Dale found that leaders must be seen to be credible if they are to create willing followers, with credibility resting upon the leaders' possession of relevant practical knowledge and skills, and demonstrated commitment to professional practice.

The research also identified how the leader's experience and competence has a bearing upon confidence in the leader; participants noticed a connection between positive leadership and probation officer work performance and service delivery.

GRETCHEN ANN GOOD – PhD in Rehabilitation Studies

Dr Good examined activity, independence and life satisfaction of older adults living in the Manawatu, with participants both registered members of the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind and a random selection of registered voters. Dr Good found that social comparisons of activity and satisfaction with social support contributed more to life satisfaction than activity and independence levels. Unexpectedly, it was found that the oldest cohort of those with impaired vision reported a higher level of overall life satisfaction than either their sighted peers or the younger cohorts with impaired vision. Older people and rehabilitation service providers can use the information developed by Dr Good to set more realistic and appropriate goals for rehabilitation.

GRAHAM JOHN HUCKER – PhD in History

Dr Hucker's research focused on the rural home front in Taranaki during and immediately after WWI to assess the impact and effects of the war on the lives of civilians.

Dr Hucker's thesis argued that though New Zealand was distant from the battlefields, civilians in the towns and countryside experienced the war too, albeit differently from the soldiers. Using primary sources including official documents, diaries, letters and newspapers, this study examined topics including war enthusiasm, Gallipoli, conscription, marriage, labour supply, popular culture and memorials.

The results showed that diversity characterised civilian experiences, that amidst abnormal circumstances, rural society attempted to maintain normality and that the impacts and effects are evident in the cultural landscape of remembrance.

ROBERT HANS GEORGE JAHNKE – PhD in Māori Studies

Dr Jahnke's research investigated Māori art within historical and contemporary tribal contexts in order to identify its distinguishing characteristics. Form, content and genealogy were triangulated into a series of interwoven strands that formed a paradigm for Māori cultural relativity and relevance. This paradigm, Te Tataitanga Kaupapa Toi, led to evolution of a trans-cultural framework that incorporated six key indices: Genealogy, knowledge, appearance, process, site and protocol. The research showed that in the absence of visual correspondence and empathy, content must be made explicit. However, the research findings concluded that because form and content are not necessarily conditioned by ethnicity, the genealogy of an artist is a further critical determinant for resonance.

BERNARD JERVIS – PhD Social Anthropology

Dr Jervis examined a community initiative for re-building peace in Tuzla, Bosnia, following ethnic conflict from 1992 to 1995. The research was based on an incident involving the killing of 71 young people when a shell exploded in the town square. Families of those killed, community leaders and others were interviewed. Families chose to bury those killed together, irrespective of ethnic background and in the face of political and religious opposition. Dr Jervis found that decision denied the perpetrators' objective of dividing the community, and reinforced a long-established tradition of inter-ethnic tolerance. This research makes a contribution to the anthropology of peace and conflict, restorative justice and Balkan history.

RASEM N. F. KAYED – PhD in Development Studies

Dr Kayed explored entrepreneurship from an Islamic perspective within the Saudi Arabia context. Despite the prophecy of modernisation theories of development and the prevalent orthodox view that Islam is intrinsically anti-modernisation and anti-development, findings suggest no evidence of incompatibility between Islamic values and entrepreneurship. Dr Kayed's research emphasises a rethink of the current official approach to entrepreneurship and highlights the need to devise an entrepreneurship policy that draws from local experiences and cultural values.

ALLISON CONSTANCE LAMONT – PhD in Psychology

Dr Lamont investigated multiple memory systems across the lifespan, with emphasis on the oldest citizens. A sample of 126 healthy community-dwelling young, middle-aged and old (85 years and older) people completed two comprehensive memory tests. Results were analysed cross-sectionally at each test wave, and longitudinally over the two-year inter-test interval. Results showed a sharp, nonlinear drop in memory after the age of 85 even for adults without dementia or illness. This has implications for continued independence of adults of very advanced age and long-term planning for this fast-growing sector of the population.

JANE NICOLE LE MARQUAND – PhD in English

Dr Le Marquand's research examined New Zealand women's short fiction published over two decades from 1975 to 1995, focusing on gender issues and charting these women writers' response to the changing climate of

feminism and their rejection of the woman writer. While many writers refused to be identified in terms of their gender, Dr Le Marquand found its influence on their work was indisputable. While it may no longer be politically necessary to promote women's work on the grounds of gender, on a personal level the difference of view of the woman writer remains visible and vital.

RANGI-ANEHO LESLIE MATAMUA – PhD in Māori Studies

Dr Matamua investigated the perspective that Māori radio, in a historical and contemporary sense, has contributed to Māori language transmission, revitalisation and advancement for Māori and Pākehā audiences. Through extensive analysis of qualitative and quantitative research data over five years of Māori radio, Dr Matamua demonstrated the perspective of Māori inter-generation audience participation and language preference, knowledge, historical relationships, political ambitions and tribal aspirations. This research confirmed that Māori radio had made a contribution to the position of Māori language revitalisation.

CHARLOTTE ANNA MARY PADDISON – PhD in Psychology

Dr Paddison investigated type-two diabetes using a psychological approach grounded in self-regulatory theory. Diabetes mellitus is usually described as a long-term physical illness and biomedical perspectives predominate in published research. Dr Paddison's study adds to accumulating knowledge about diabetes by addressing the psychological processes involved in managing type-two diabetes, an identifiable gap in the literature. Psychological variables were shown to explain differences in metabolic control, quality of life and diabetes-related distress. Individual perceptions of diabetes and relationships with family and health professionals were linked to differences in self-care behaviour. Dr Paddison's research demonstrates that psychological and social factors are important in helping people with diabetes stay well.

SUSAN JANET STIRLING – PhD in Geography

Dr Stirling's research offers a humanistic study of the practice of geography field trips. Lecturers and teachers were interviewed to understand why field trips are a part of geography courses, how they relate to theoretical understandings and that they hope to achieve by running field-trips. The work suggests that the meaning of field-trips relates to the geographers' own approach to the subject, their philosophy of geography. Four main approaches were identified: classifying, applying general theories, using structures and deconstructing the world.

JEREMY RALPH BRYANT – PhD in Animal Science

Dr Bryant developed a simulation model to predict the performance of grazing dairy cattle using production and environmental information from dairy herds and weather stations over a 13-year period. Results were used to construct a simulation model called MOOSIM, which incorporates the effect of age, genotype, body fatness and feeding level on mammary gland cellular dynamics. MOOSIM then predicts feed intake, live weight change and milk solids production, taking into account the effects of nutritional and thermal environment, genotype and interaction between the genotype and environment.

MICHELLE KAY BRYANT (nee McGILL) – PhD in Genetics

Dr Bryant studied the role of enzymes produced by a fungal endophyte that forms a symbiotic association with perennial ryegrass. The endophyte enzymes are similar to enzymes from related plant pathogenic fungi. Two of these genes were expressed at higher levels during growth within the plant, suggesting these particular enzymes may be important for providing nutrients to the endophyte while it is growing in its host. Her research enhances understanding of the endophyte-grass symbiosis and provides insights into relationships between symbiotic and pathogenic fungi.

GREGORY THOMAS CLARK – PhD Plant Biology

Dr Clark studied the leaf adaptations of the *Festuca novae-zelandiae*, an endemic New Zealand perennial tussock grass dominant in the South Island. His work included biochemical investigations indicating tissue-specific responses to drought tolerance and water-deficit stress.

ROBIN DYKSTRA – PhD Physics

Dr Dykstra's research focused on developing a portable nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, which could measure the moisture content of timber, concrete or stone or the physical bonding related properties of rubber and polymers. The resulting lightweight, compact scientific instrument can be easily carried and operated by a single user. Dr Dykstra's research also forms the basis for a new range of products, some of which are already in production and being sold internationally.

THURID FREITAG – PhD in Veterinary Clinical Science

Dr Freitag examined canine and feline urinary *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) to gain insights into urinary tract infections in dogs and cats. She also investigated whether naturally occurring viruses able to reduce the severity of bacteria could be used to control these infections.

Dr Freitag found that urinary E. coli can vary from region to region, and that cats in particular were suffering relapsing or persistent infections caused by the same bacteria.

KATHRYN ANNE GOODWYN-RAY – PhD in Animal Science

Dr Goodwin-Ray investigated prevalence of lamb pneumonia, farm-level risk factors for pneumonia and efficacy of a commercially available vaccine. Dr Goodwin-Ray found that sub-clinical pneumonia is widespread in the New Zealand lamb population, with the cost to farmers estimated at \$53.2 million. While the farm-level risk analysis indicated management factors that farmers might see as opportunities to control lamb pneumonia, the role of stress and crowding of lambs for long periods posed an outstanding risk and warranted further investigation.

PAUL RICHARD JOHNSTONE – PhD Plant Science

Soil fertility and water management issues in processing tomatoes grown in New Zealand and California was the subject of Dr Johnstone's thesis. Greenhouse and field work emphasised the role of adequate fertility during early phases of growth, with results showing that fertiliser application should be concentrated during periods of maximum plant nutrient demand. Dr Johnstone also developed improved techniques for late-season water management, including controlled water cutbacks during fruit ripening which was found to increase fruit quality without yield loss.

JAMES PETER MILLNER – PhD Forestry

Dr Millner compared 12 species of eucalypts on Manawatu hill country, finding that growth was highly seasonal in all species and least during winter. Height and diameter were found to be higher on the sunny rather than shady face in all species, with large species' differences in growth and wood density. No species rated highly for both traits. Implications for tree growers are that harvest age may vary with slope aspect and that production of high-quality wood requires the selection of less productive species.

SHABESHE PARAMALINGAM – PhD Production Technology

Dr Paramalingam's research focused on improving understanding of concentrated whey products in evaporators, so that, despite differences in whey feedstock, better quality whey products can be achieved. Dr Paramalingam created a dynamic mathematical model of whey evaporation in falling-film evaporators at the Fonterra plant in Hamilton. For the first time, a number of whey physical properties were measured, with regression models created from the experimental data. Dr Paramalingam used his mathematical model and a series of plant trials to show that changes in processing of whey protein isolate led to increase evaporator capacity by 15 per cent, which has implications for the New Zealand dairy industry.

CLAIRE VANESSA COOPER PHYN – PhD Animal Science

Dr Phyn's research examined regulation of gene expression in mammary glands in response to milk accumulation, as might occur in weaning, using bovine and rodent models. Her results showed that physical expansion, during engorgement of the mammary glands with milk, is a primary trigger initiating removal of mammary cells. The work contributes to the understanding of changes in mammary gene expression and function in response to milk accumulation, and may ultimately provide insights that improve lactation traits such as persistency and once-daily milking.

ANDREA HILARY PICKERING – PhD Plant Science

Dr Pickering investigated factors which predispose grape bunches to a disorder known as bunch stem necrosis (BSN), which is detrimental to fruit development and therefore to wine production. She found a strong positive correlation between vine vigour and BSN, with treatments that reduce vine vigour decreasing BSN. Dr Pickering suggested that competitiveness between vine vigour growth and the developing bunch for nutrients is the main mechanism involved. Dr Pickering found that future research can focus on more detailed investigation of the physiological mechanisms of BSN.

GABE PETER REDDING – PhD Bioprocess Engineering

Dr Redding investigated the use of oxygen in in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), with his research providing insight into how structures within the ovary adapt in response to nutrient limitations. Contrary to previous beliefs, Dr Redding found that oxygen may be of key importance to early ovarian development. Mathematical models developed during his research allowed potential measures of egg quality to be identified, which may lead to an increase in success rates of IVF. As well as improving understanding of ovarian development in mammals, Dr Redding has identified avenues for future research.

ALIEU MORTUWAH SARTIE – PhD Pastoral Science

Dr Sartie focused on development of marker-assisted selection technology in forage improvement. This technology enhances genetic gain from selection and improves traits that are not amenable to improvement by conventional breeding alone.

Dr Sartie's work has commercial implications through the identification of markers for use in marker-selection breeding. Importantly, the research also provides original information in plant science for understanding the genetics of herbage and seed production in perennial ryegrass.

SARAH ELIZABETH TODD – PhD in Physiology

Dr Todd addressed the need to establish adequate dietary selenium requirements for cats and dogs, and to

increase knowledge of the metabolism of selenium. Concentrations of selenium in commercially available foods were determined and apparent absorption in cats and dogs when they were supplemented with various levels of organic and inorganic selenium were assessed. The research provides fundamental data on aspects of selenium metabolism, and indicates possible differences in the way cats metabolise selenium compared to dogs, with further work recommended to clarify and further define selenium metabolism in cats and dogs.

MICHAELA CHRISTINE WALTON – PhD Nutritional Science

Dr Walton studied the bioavailability and antioxidant effect of berry fruit anthocyanins in human nutrition, showing that absorption of anthocyanins mainly occurs in the jejunum and involves a transport mechanism which is strongly inhibited by other flavanoids. The outcomes of Dr Walton's thesis aid formulation of future recommendations regarding anthocyanin intake as part of a healthy diet.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)

Masterate for Ferns manager

Silver Ferns manager Jackie Barron has the very best of reasons for not attending this week's graduation ceremonies to receive her Masters in Management. She is in England with the New Zealand netball team for a series that will match the Ferns against both England and Australia.

Apart from her role in netball, she is also Deputy Principal of Gore High School and for the past decade, she has added postgraduate studies to her commitments. She already has a Postgraduate Diploma in Sport Management and studied extramurally for both the diploma and her Masters, endorsed in sport management.



“Last year I did four papers to finish off the Masters. To do this I took a year's leave from work. I completed the earlier papers by careful juggling around career and children. This involved a finely tuned and highly organised system for the domestic front,” she says.

Ms Barron says a further, important element was having “understanding and compassionate lecturers.”

The Silver Ferns play England on 12 May in Manchester and Australia on 18 May in London.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation



Honorary doctorate for New Zealand sculptor

Internationally renowned New Zealand sculptor Paul Dibble will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts at Thursday morning's graduation ceremony in Palmerston North this week.

Mr Dibble has a comprehensive history of making large-scale bronze sculptures and has had his works commissioned nationally and overseas. His most recent is Southern Stand, the New Zealand Memorial at Hyde Park, dedicated by the Queen on Armistice Day last year, and attended by Prime Minister Helen Clark, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and members of the Royal Family.

The memorial commemorates the long relationship between New Zealand and Britain and is dedicated to the New Zealand people and culture.

From 1977 – 2002 Dibble lectured in art at the College of Education while continuing his artistic practice.

His studio employs art assistants and foundry technicians from a range of backgrounds, many from Massey's Māori Visual Arts degree, which has courses at masterate level and is the only university art school in Palmerston North.

Mr Dibble received his art training at Auckland University at the Elam School of Fine Arts and has worked with notable artists including the late Colin McCahon, who was his tutor.

His sculpture is seen by many as a voice that expresses an identity uniquely New Zealand. The concerns and concepts he explores in his art are ones that belong to this land.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation





Lynton Bridger.

Showcasing biofuel research

The University took the opportunity to showcase research into biofuels at a recent forum for the biotech industry hosted by the e-centre.

The e-centre at the Auckland campus is the incubator for new and developing companies and one of the latest under the centre's wing is Bio Diesel Oils Ltd. This is New Zealand's only commercial manufacturer of biodiesel.

It has a large research and development facility already running in East Tamaki. It is already in production, making biodiesel oils from beef tallow and plans to scale up soon to meet New Zealand's move towards biofuels.

By next April, legislation will require oil companies to offer 25 million litres of biofuels to consumers.

Lynton Bridger, a food technology graduate, is general manager of the company and he is based at the e-centre.

At a national biofuels conference in Wellington recently, where the many difficulties surrounding the viability of biofuels dominated discussion, Mr Bridger's optimism was noted by energy media.

"The economics are there and the market is there," he reportedly told the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Conference in Wellington.

The vehicle Mr Bridger is pictured with runs on a diesel mix that includes 20 per cent bio diesel produced by his company.

Professor Ian Maddox also addressed the biofuels conference on the history of the butanol production research that had made him and his colleagues at Massey world authorities in this area of the biotech business.

The economic barriers to butanol production has prevailed for some years and there has been little development of innovative technologies, says Professor Maddox.

Now he says environmental concerns and the need to reduce dependence for fuels from unstable countries must drive development in biotechnologies.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

College of Business focuses on indigenous governance research

The College of Business has boosted its capacity to research issues related to indigenous governance and organisation.

Earlier this year the Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development (CIGAD) was transferred from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to the College of Business.

The move places the centre alongside Te Rau Rangahau, the Māori Business Research Centre, providing opportunities for future collaboration and synergies.

CIGAD was established in 2005 and has attracted a range of funded research projects and partnerships with iwi agencies and New Zealand and Canadian government ministries.

Director Dr Manuhua Barcham describes the centre as “promoting the integration of indigenous world views with sound governance and development principles to build capacity, facilitate involvement in governance at all levels and develop quality outcomes for indigenous peoples.”

Dr Barcham joined the University in 2004 as a lecturer in Development Studies. He is also an adjunct research fellow with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at Australian National University and is on the board of Oxfam New Zealand.

He says the centre has already developed a profile in the broader Asia-Pacific region in the area of governance. “We also have strong links with universities in North America and the Pacific, including the University of Hawaii, the University of Victoria, the University of the South Pacific and the University of Saskatoon.”

Current and recently completed research projects include an investigation into the housing circumstances of urban Māori as part of an international comparative study.

Research on Māori perspectives of the impact and effects of emergency events, focusing on the 2004 floods in the Bay of Plenty and Manawatu regions.

Te Rau Rangahau also has a new director with the appointment of Annemarie Gillies as Director. She replaces Dr Farah Palmer who has taken up a new post with Te Puni Kokiri as a national sport and business mentor to Māori youth and women.

Dr Gillies has been a lecturer in the Department of Management since 1999. Her areas of research expertise include developing expertise in kaupapa research methodologies, and Māori community development.

Te Rau Rangahau aims not only to spearhead the development of Māori research capacity in the College but also to provide leadership and frameworks to advance business knowledge that will benefit Māori.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

New position for extramural focus

The College of Business has created a new position of Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor to spearhead and foster its international activities and its large extramural programme.

The Head of the Department of Finance Banking and Property, Professor Chris Moore, has been appointed to the position, taking effect on 14 May. He will be based at the Auckland campus.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose says the portfolios of International and Extramural are crucial to the future of the College of Business. "The brief for the International portfolio is to enhance the College's international enrolments and profile by managing existing relationships and initiating appropriate new ones.

"The Extramural portfolio will involve identifying new student bases, reviewing and enhancing the available paper and programme mix, and identifying and deploying improved technologies and operational practices.

"I am pleased to have Professor Moore on board, with his experience and energy, and look forward to working with him to further develop these areas."

Professor Moore says one of his priorities will be to ensure the College is making maximum use of available technology to enhance services to its 2300 extramural students.

He is also clear on where the College is going with its international linkages and partnerships: "We want to continue to build up strong, quality bilateral relationships, such as we have already with Wuhan University and Nanjing University of Technology in China. Such arrangements mean that we ensure a good and continuous flow of quality students into our programmes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels."

Associate Professor Martin Young will succeed Professor Moore as Head of the Department of Finance Banking and Property.

Dr Young has been with the University since 1991. He spent four years, from 1999 at the Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Extramural

Distance Education director appointed

Associate Professor Mark Brown has been seconded to be Director of Distance Education, making him responsible for the delivery of extramural programmes.

The announcement was made last week by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long.

Professor Long says Dr Brown, from the College of Education, has an outstanding record of teaching, research training and research mainly in the area of distance education.

“He has been a member of the Teaching and Learning Committee for a number of years and has extensive experience as a member of numerous university and external committees and advisory bodies.”

Massey has the most extensive range of extramural programmes and the largest number of students of any New Zealand tertiary institution.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Technology grant for learning project

College of Education lecturer Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya has received The 2007 HP (Hewlett Packard, Asia Pacific & Japan) Technology for Teaching Grant award for higher education.

Dr Bhattacharya received the \$US75,000 grant to fund the cost of implementing the project and the supply of computer hardware and other accessories for her project Fostering integrative learning using mobile learning technologies. The paper aims to introduce mobile learning technologies for creating interactive learning environments for undergraduate courses in Science and Technology.

The goal is that the HP Technology for Teaching Initiative supports the development of mobile technology environments that will:

- Transform teaching and learning in the tertiary education environment
- Create new models of success on campus for integrating technology into learning environments.
- Engage teachers in adopting and implementing these models in their classrooms
- Foster publication, demonstration and presentation opportunities for academic leaders on the application of mobile technology in university learning environments.

Dr Bhattacharya says students will be able to create audio, video and image files as artefacts and include them in their eportfolios as evidence of learning and achievement.

“Self-assessment and peer-review will become much easier. Students will be able to receive feedback from a wider audience on their work. This may increase students' chances of employability and boost motivation to perform well,” she says.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Research

Researchers aim to prevent cases of repeat depression

Researchers at the Auckland-based Centre for Psychology are looking at ways to help prevent people slipping back into depression, months or years after they have had treatment.

For over a decade, senior psychology lecturer Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis has been researching Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and has published internationally his investigations into aspects of applying the therapy.

CBT is the commonly applied, research supported psychological treatment of clinically depressed people focused on changing problem beliefs and behaviours.

CBT has found to be both an effective and enduring treatment. Now Dr Kazantzis and his researchers at the Psychology Centre want to find out how to make the therapy more effective and to prevent depressive relapses.

Depression has been on the increase and the World Health Organisation predicts that it will have the highest total burden of care of any disorder worldwide.

The researchers are seeking people who are suffering from depression to take part in their study – aged between 18 and 65 who are currently experiencing a major depressive episode for the first time.

Those who are accepted for the study will be eligible for 20 free treatment sessions over an 18 week period.

“This research is important as it will enable psychologists and other mental health professionals to adjust the treatment to better meet the needs of the individual,” says Dr Kazantzis.

“The results of the study will also be used to identify individuals at risk for depressive relapse.”

Co-investigators at the Centre for Psychology are Associate Professor Paul Merrick and Professor Janet Leatham.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Celebrating services to health science

Associate Professor Peter Snell is back in New Zealand this week for the second stage of his involvement in the Massey University Foundation Outstanding Achiever Series and to receive an honorary doctorate in recognition of his achievements in human health science.

Dr Snell, a three-time Olympic Gold medallist, is one of two internationally recognised New Zealanders who will receive honorary doctorates during the nine graduation ceremonies to be held in Palmerston North this week. The other is sculptor Paul Dibble, a former Massey lecturer in the College of Education, who created the Memorial to the relationship between New Zealand and Britain, Southern Stand, opened in Hyde Park, London, last year.



They will join more than 1470 graduates, who will cross the stage during graduation week, the traditional highlight of the academic year and the largest of the graduations held at Massey's three campuses during April and May each year.

Dr Snell is based at the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas. He was selected as the Foundation's

Outstanding Achiever Series Fellow in Health and Exercise Science because of his international standing and involvement in an area of science of importance to Massey.

He has been author or co-author of 60 published papers and abstracts on exercise-related research and a reviewer of scientific publications, a scientific adviser to the United States track and field team, a representative on the United States Olympic Committee's sports medicine committee and a regular speaker at sports science conferences throughout the world.

In 1999 he was the inaugural inductee into the Rhode Island University's International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame.

The first stage of Dr Snell's fellowship involved a three-week visit in October, when he engaged with several Massey scientists from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

He also worked with groups hosted by the University including the Government's Food and Beverage Taskforce and the Ministry of Health, as well as industry leaders of companies with interests in the link between food, lifestyle and health.

His return will see him continue that work including two projects, one on the interface between public health and exercise science and the second on the alleviation of osteo-arthritis in older people.

The first project will be based at the Centre for Public Health Research based at the University's Wellington campus. Key collaborators from the University will be Professor Chris Cunningham and Dr Steve Stannard. The second project is a longitudinal (ongoing) study, for which the parameters will be determined during Dr Snell's visit, with key collaborators Professors Elwyn Firth and Marlene Kruger and Dr David Rowlands.

He will give public lectures, along with Professor Cunningham, at the Regent in Palmerston North on Tuesday, 15 May, at the Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre on the Auckland campus on Wednesday, 30 May, and on the Wellington campus next month at a date and venue to be confirmed. All three public lectures will coincide with functions held by local chapters of the Massey Alumni and Friends.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation

In search of the British World

A panel presentation to be co-presented by Dr John Griffiths has been accepted for the 2007 British World Conference held in Bristol in July.

Dr Griffiths, a lecturer in the School of History, Philosophy and Politics in Palmerston North will present a paper as part of the panel discussion, alongside colleagues Dr Andrew Brown-May (University of Melbourne) and Dr Prashant Kidambi (University of Leicester).

Dr Griffiths' paper will examine the role of the London publication *The Municipal Journal* as an information network before 1914. He says the journal was an important mechanism for spreading ideas of city management around the British World before World War I.

The panel discussion is titled *The Networked Empire City* and addresses the conference theme of Communications, Networks and the British World. Dr Griffiths says the British World conferences are concerned with exploring the nature of Britishness and the vectors of its disseminations and negotiation.

He says the panel "will draw on the recent work of urban scholars concerning transnational connections at a municipal level, and address the circulation of ideas, people, artefacts and information, disentangling ideals of Britishness from ideologies of urbanism."

They will observe the ways in which cities such as Bombay, Dunedin, Aberdeen and East London used municipal networks, and the ways in which cities across the Empire were seen to embody or challenge British cultural values, ideals of citizenship, protocols for urban living and public behaviour.

The four-day conference is hosted by the University of the West of England (Bristol), the University of Bristol and the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwe.ac.uk/hlss/history/britishworld2007>

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Recipients of the awards in Palmerston North: Ben Lennan, Rebecca Mitchell and Joseph Relph, pictured with Professor Richard Archer, Head of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. In absentia, Josh Wilkinson.

Food Technology Study Awards

The inaugural Food Technology Study Awards were recently awarded to nine recipients at the Palmerston North and Auckland campuses.

Worth \$1000 per annum for up to four years, the awards are offered to first-year students enrolled in the Bachelor of Technology (Hons), Food Technology major, and applicants are required to submit an essay outlining their interest in food technology.

Dr Owen McCarthy, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, says the entries for the awards showed an enthusiastic variety of interests in the food industries.

At the Palmerston North campus, the Kelvin Scott Memorial Prize was awarded to third-year student Andrea McLeod for the best academic performance in the area of food process engineering. Professor Kelvin Scott was the founding professor of food technology at Massey, and the founder of the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology, who administer the \$500 award.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Lessons from the Olympics

Business and sports administrator Bruce Ullrich is the speaker for this year's Business Link Function, traditionally held during Palmerston North graduation week.

The event is jointly run by the University and Vision Manawatu and this year will have a sports theme.

Mr Ullrich, who has been Chef de Mission for three New Zealand Olympic games teams, will speak on 'Lessons learned from the Olympics and Commonwealth Games that can be applied to business'.

Mr Ullrich was awarded an OBE for services to sports administration. He has a Masters in Business Administration from Massey University and is a member of the University Council as well as being a former long serving member of the University of Canterbury Council. He is a past President of the Massey MBA Alumni Association.

He has traveled widely to represent New Zealand interests in both business and sport. He was Vice Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Xth Commonwealth Games and is a former Vice President of the New Zealand Olympic Committee.

As Chef de Mission, he has managed more New Zealand teams to Olympic and Commonwealth Games, including Seoul in 1988, than any other New Zealander. For the past 10 years he has spearheaded a bid to bring the Winter Olympics to New Zealand.

Mr Ullrich is a chartered accountant and a Fellow of the Institute of Director. In recent years he has spent a considerable amount of time in China where he is an honorary chairman of several trade organisations. He has also helped establish strong governmental and educational links in China and during 2006 was made an honorary professor of two Chinese universities.

He is currently working with a Chinese medical school to establish clinics for the treatment of diabetes.

Business Link 2007 will be held on Wednesday 16 May in the graduation marquee, in The Square, Palmerston North. Palmerston North graduation ceremonies will be held 14 - 18 May, 2007 at the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North. A ceremony to honour Māori graduates will be held on Friday 18 May. For further information on Graduation ceremonies at the Palmerston North and Wellington campuses, visit: <http://graduation.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North



Professor Robert McKibbin and Professor Tony Norris.

New leadership for institute

There has been a change of leadership at the Auckland-based Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences. Professor Robert McKibbin has handed over the reins to Professor Tony Norris in order to focus again on his academic career.

Professor McKibbin has been Head of Institute for five years and says he is proud of the many achievements at the institute over that period. He says it has become a very research active institute with a significant increase in staff and PhD student numbers.

In recent years five research centres have been established within the institute as staff numbers and the breadth of expertise have increased. The research groups are: mobile computing, mathematics in industry, mathematical biology, data mining, parallel computing.

Professor Tony Norris came to the Institute as Professor of Information Systems in November 2005 and has taken a very active role in launching mobile computing research. He comes most recently from Auckland University but he's an Englishman whose academic career has been largely based in the UK. His current area of research includes informatics – the application of information management and technology to the planning and delivery of healthcare.

He says he welcomes the challenges ahead “People are proud to be members of the institute. It is an institute where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

“Robert has left a superbly-run institute which is in excellent shape administratively, academically and collaboratively. I would like to extend our contributions to the College of Science and the University in ways that build upon these successes. I am especially keen to continue to enhance our postgraduate and research profile,” says Professor Norris.

“I would also like to develop the role of women in IIMS. Women staff and students are traditionally underrepresented in the disciplines we cover.”

After stepping down as Head of Institute, Professor McKibbin is overseas taking up an award for the Promotion of Science from the Japan Foundation.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

School bullying turns gay teens off education

Gay and lesbian people in New Zealand who come out openly in their teens are more likely to opt out of higher education because of school bullying, says a new study.

Lower educational achievement over the course of their whole lives was the likely long-term impact on teens bullied as a result of coming out as gay or lesbian, says Dr Mark Henrickson, author of the study.

Many respondents shared harrowing personal stories of years at high school, such as a student from an all-girl high school who said: "The worst thing you can ever be called is a lesbian, and if somebody finds out about you (like what happened to my friend) you become a social pariah.

"People whisper about her wherever she goes, and most of my friends bitch about her behind her back whenever she isn't around."

A young male adult respondent said: "It was bad at school with bullying, and the teachers let it happen.

"When I came out to my family, all except my mother wanted nothing to do with me, which continues today. You have to be strong to be gay."

Two-thirds of female students and three-quarters of males say they were verbally abused at school because of their sexual identity, while 9 per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys were physically abused for the same reason.

Meanwhile, other gay and lesbian youth who choose to remain in education appear to become 'overachievers'.

"They may have succeeded because they've opted to come out about their sexuality later in life, or they may use academic achievement in order to mask a gay or lesbian identity," says Dr Henrickson, a senior social work lecturer at the Auckland campus.

His findings are the latest results of two studies from Lavender Islands: Portrait of the Whole Family – a national strengths-based study of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people in New Zealand.

In the survey, which 2269 people responded to, a multi-disciplinary team of researchers deliberately focussed on developing a more general profile of New Zealand's lesbian and gay sector by asking questions about identity and self-definition, family, immigration, politics, work, income and spending, leisure, community connections, religion and spirituality.

The two studies, one on educational attainment and gay sexual identity and another on bullying and educational attainment, found that gay and lesbian people with higher qualifications tended to come out about their sexuality later in life. The result surprised Dr Henrickson.

"It seems more intuitive that people with higher educational attainment would be more open to new ideas than people with lower levels of education, and that therefore the coming out process would be earlier and easier for higher-educated individuals," he says.

He said the studies identified a critical need for teachers, principals, school counsellors, coaches and other education and human service professionals to combat bullying and to be supportive of the needs of gay and lesbian teens.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

From the speeches

Jeffrey Todd CBE is a director of a number of organisations including the National Research Centre for Growth and Development and the Auckland Medical Research Foundation. This is an excerpt from his speech to College of Business graduates.

Our society has a strange reluctance to celebrate business enterprise and entrepreneurship. A common view is that business is all about greed and serving self. Many of you here today have already committed yourselves to careers in business and for many others today's qualification will provide your entrée into the world of business.

Think about what business stands for. Business, far from being centred on self, will be successful only when it meets the needs and wants of others. And the market places created by business are the most intricate webs of cooperation and teamwork. They work so well we don't even think about them. Meeting the needs and wants of others, cooperation and teamwork are all hallmarks of successful businesses.

The miracle is that it generally works quite well even with no one in command.

And the miracle continues. Businesses finance governments. Without businesses (and their employees, contractors, and investors) governments have nothing to spend. Government is a one-third shareholder in every business taking one-third of business profit and a slice of everyone's personal income to pay for education, health, roads and social services. Charities depend totally on the fruits of business through donations from individuals' earnings and contributions from company profits.

Without business success we have nothing. No jobs, no taxes, no healthcare, no education, no future. Business profits, salaries, wages, dividends, interest are the inputs for everything we want to do as a nation. The taxes we pay, the goods and services our governments provide can all be traced back to the wealth and income generated by business.

Professor Jane Kelsey is Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Research at Auckland University. This is an excerpt from her address to College of Education graduates.

As educators yourselves you know the value of learning only too well. Today the role of education is ever more vital. The mass media fails dismally to analyse, investigate and interrogate the pressing questions of our times, within the country and beyond.

Political decisions are driven by focus groups and popularity polls as much as principles. Sometimes, the democratic process looks like a less entertaining version of 'Dancing with the Stars'. Even in academia the market model pits risk management to protect the brand name and rankings of our institutions against the exercise of academic freedom and our statutory responsibilities as the grandly named 'critic and conscience of society'. Students as customers changes the relationship of teaching and learning – a trend that risks entering our schools.

In this environment it falls back to our schools, and in particular to our teachers, to cultivate the basic skills, insights, values and confidence that allow a vibrant democracy to thrive. At its core are the old fashioned goals of an inclusive society in which every individual has a valued role and the opportunity to achieve their potential – the talented, the ordinary, diverse ethnicities and religions, those who struggle with disabilities or the accident of being born into poverty. Within Aotearoa New Zealand that also means understand te Tiriti o Waitangi and how it shapes our nation.

Perhaps the biggest challenge confronting us as educators is preparing our students and ourselves for a future unknown. The Internet is barely a decade old. For many of us our students and children are the teachers; yet so many more doors open to us once we learn how to harness the technology. Even history is highly relative. The youngster next door came over last week for help with her 'history' project on the Springbok tour; for some of us that was yesterday.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Graduation

New PhDs at Auckland

GARRY WARREN MCDONALD – PhD in Resource and Environmental Planning

Dr McDonald studied the sustainability of urban Auckland and sought to identify the key principles. His research developed methods to comprehensively analyse the Auckland region's current ecological and economic interdependencies, including dependence on other New Zealand regions and nations.

The research revealed the extent, magnitude and criticality of key natural resources and ecological processes supporting the region's economy.

HUENG YEUNG LAM – PhD in Mathematics

Dr Lam studied the work of an Indian mathematician who made an outstanding impact in his field over a century ago, when he began exploring theory as a young man.

Largely self taught, Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887–1920) is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest mathematical geniuses.

He made spectacular discoveries in a branch of mathematics known as 'q-series'. Although he produced more than 3,000 theorems in his three notebooks, he left no explanations and did not publish proof for many. Dr Lam's research investigated and analysed some of the results recorded in the notebooks of Ramanujan.

SARAH ELIZABETH DONAGHEY – PhD in Management

Dr Domaghey's research focused on the methods of assessing of New Zealand's historic heritage. She examined the current systems for valuing and assessing the sites, buildings, places, areas and landscapes of archaeological and historic significance to Māori and Pākeha.

She found considerable room for improvement and drew on international practice to identify a set of effective system characteristics for assessing historic heritage.

JANE ANNE LEGGET – PhD in Management

Dr Legget investigated accountability for non-financial performance in New Zealand's publicly-funded and professionally managed museums.

Her survey of museum directors found that data on visitors was often the key and singular performance indicator.

In contrast the various stakeholder groups surveyed put priority on collections and staff and the quality and effective management of these as being significant factors in the assessment of museum performance.

BRONWYN ELIZABETH BEATTY – PhD in English

Through the hugely popular books and films of both Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings, Dr Beatty explored the heroic fantasy genre.

She addresses themes of consumerism, gender, and nationalism, using a combination of literary analysis and contextual discussion.

She contends that the hero's moral behaviour and purposive journey provide readers with examples of meaningful actions and values, presenting a necessary fantasy of individual and collective stability.

The genre of heroic fantasy is particularly open to diverse interpretations and she notes that this accounts for the prominence of the genre at the start of the twenty-first century. She says the reassuring images of individual and collective stability resonate at a time of global insecurity.

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Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Graduation

Self-made millionaire: Don't take no for an answer

Venture capitalist Neville Jordan says he has spent a lifetime ignoring people who told him his ideas would not work and should not be done. The technology entrepreneur, listed on last year's National Business Review Rich List as worth \$70 million, advised science and creative arts graduates at last week's Auckland campus graduation to do the same.

"Allow yourselves that feeling of pride as you receive your degree, savour the moment and the satisfaction of graduating but do leave some room for that little internal voice – 'what else is possible, what might others say that can't be done but which might lead me into new and interesting pastures?'," Mr Jordan said.

The Endeavour Capital Ltd chairman and Royal Society president recalled lying about his age at 13 to get a job in the freezing works over summer and cleaning Wellington sewers to make money during the other school holidays before going to university. His father had died when he was young, so he had to finance his studies through those jobs and a bank loan.

As soon as he had repaid the loan, he left his public service job (against his boss's advice) to go to the United States on a Rotary study award that took him to the Apollo Centre mission control in Houston. "That changed my life."

He returned, worked for IBM for five years then left to form his own company (also against his managers' advice) making communications equipment.

The company grew, he floated it on the American stockmarket (despite colleagues' saying it was too risky), merged it with an American competitor, enabling him to sell shares and create a \$40 million venture capital fund, which he invests solely in New Zealand science, technology and creative companies.

"I'm not saying 'you can't do that' but rather 'here are some ideas how we can proceed, here is how we can support your enterprise, have you thought of this, what do you think about that?'"

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

Ambassador toolkits for schools

Staff tool kits have been developed for use by University staff and students undertaking school visits and have already received positive feedback.

The Ambassador toolkit consists of a general information booklet, frequently asked questions and an overview of the University's values and goals. It also provides advice for preparing presentations.

Palmerston North marketing manager Sarah Vining says it is important the schools find these visits valuable so they are willing to continue to have Massey provide presentations in addition to regular visits from student liaison advisers.

"Research shows that school students respond well to university students and recent graduates, so it is a channel of communication that should be grown," Ms Vining says.

Staff interested in attending a workshop on how to get the most value from school presentations may contact Ms Vining ext 4065

The kits have been distributed to all department, school, and institute administrators and are available for any staff member wanting to use them.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; Services

Top scholarships for PhD students

Two Massey PhD students have been awarded the Government's top scholarships with a total value of more than \$152,000.

Nick Albert and Rachael Bell are among 50 students awarded more than \$4.7 million in scholarships over the next three years.

Ms Bell, under the supervision of Dr Kerry Taylor in the University's School of History, Philosophy and Politics in Palmerston North, has been awarded \$71,488 for her doctoral thesis entitled National History/National Memory: New Zealand's Official histories of WWII.



Ms Bell's thesis will investigate the recording of New Zealanders' experiences during the Second World War in the series of Official Histories produced following the war.

It will assess the methodology employed in the Histories and the social and political factors that influenced their production.

Mr Albert, under the supervision of Associate Professor Michael McManus in the Institute of Molecular BioSciences in Palmerston North, has been awarded \$81,078 to study the regulation of anthocyanin pigment production in petunia plants.

Mr Albert says anthocyanins are important plant pigments providing colour to flowers, fruit and leaves.

The genes that encode the enzymes in this pathway have been cloned and characterised in many plant species, and the petunia is a model species for investigating anthocyanin biosynthesis and regulation.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Developing skills to tackle contemporary health issues

From advising rural Māori about the hazards of smoking eels in chemically contaminated sawdust to checking the safety of drinking water in remote rural areas – Chris Webber has had a wealth of experience in the field since he graduated from Massey with a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health in 1999.



The 40-year-old Rotorua father of four says that 100 years ago, it was expected Māori would die out due to contact with infectious diseases introduced by non-Māori, such as influenza and tuberculosis. While those dire predictions never came to pass, Mr Webber (Ngāti Toarangatira, Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Raukawa) found a raft of modern health issues affecting Māori communities, from poor building standards to food, soil and water contamination.

The need for Māori health inspectors (now called health protection officers) to help progress Māori public health issues and provide an interface between Māori communities and agencies that can help is, he feels “the last bastion of the public health sector to change”.

Knowledge of Māori attitudes and values to death, land and food sources are essential for officials working in environmental health and disaster relief. Last year he enrolled with Massey again, this time to do a masters degree extramurally while continuing to work as a health consultant and communications adviser, and he is continuing to pursue similar issues in a thesis called Māori cultural indicators for remediation of biological/chemical hazards and natural disasters.

His thesis looks at Māori issues and agency response around a number of public health disasters – such as a flu pandemic, a toxic spill in a river and a house contaminated by use as a methamphetamine laboratory.

Awareness and response to environmental threats to public health is “one of the remaining areas in Māori health that really needs developing,” Mr Webber says.

Date: 24/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Environmental issues; Explore - HEALTH; Student profiles

Taewa elusive this year

Volunteers digging their fingers through the dirt in search of taewa were not well-rewarded with crops, but working in the late summer sun under a clear blue sky was more than enough for the 50 or so who assembled to harvest the Māori potatoes.

Researcher in indigenous horticulture Nick Roskruge knew already that the harvest would not be huge, with wet weather prior to Christmas and a cool early summer contributing to the low yield from the 0.4ha of planting at the Palmerston North campus.

“It's not a good year ... a lot of the seed just didn't come to anything.”

Kelly Potatau-Giddens is among year 10 students from Turakina Māori Girls' College working on site, after the college became involved in the harvest last year. Searching for the taewa, which are smaller than introduced varieties of potato, is “a bit like looking for hidden treasure”, she says.

“We're having a bit of a competition to see who can get the most so far we're on our sixth basket. It's really fun when you come across big groups of them.”

Mr Roskruge's project has been running for several years, with the intention of building a seed-bank of taewa and supplying seed to enable community cropping. After a hangi tonight and selecting which taewa would be kept for seed stock, the rest were to be distributed to marae and other community groups. The taewa grow at about 17 tonnes/ha compared to a yield of 70 tonnes/ha for non-native potatoes.

Date: 27/04/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Winifred Andrews joined Chancellor Nigel Gould at the head of the official procession.

Finally, after 14 years – Winifred Andrews BA

 [Watch the ONE NEWS item](#)

Fourteen years of extramural study paid off for Winifred Andrews today, when the sprightly 86-year-old graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. Mrs Andrews was acknowledged by graduation speaker Maori Affairs Minister and Associate Minister of Education Parekura Horomia, and by University leaders who invited her to join them in front of the official procession.

Flanked by Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear and Chancellor Nigel Gould, Mrs Andrews followed the pipes and drums of the Manawatu Scottish Society with a lively step. Mrs Andrews was accompanied to the ceremony by her family after an early-morning start from her home in Carterton.



Also among today's graduates was Jessica Robinson, whose mother Caroline Robinson has attended all the graduation ceremonies in recent years in her role as official Palmerston North town crier. Mrs Robinson presented her daughter with flowers at the side of the stage after she received her Bachelor of Arts, and later joined other families for photographs in The Square.

The ceremony this morning was the last of nine held this week, with 1470 graduates crossing the stage.

A further 70 graduates are acknowledged in a special ceremony held this afternoon to honour Maori graduates, with many friends and family gathering for the event.

Date: 01/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)



Colonel Lofty Hayward, Commander 2nd Landforce Group, Linton Military Camp and Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear lead Army officers and Massey staff on a "Celebrity Walk".

Stepping towards better health

New insights on the health effects of walking are being gained thanks to the efforts of nearly 300 Massey staff participating in the 10,000 Steps@Massey: Hikoi-a-Hauora physical activity programme.

Most of the staff have also signed up for a parallel study designed to test the programme's impact on health. Now into its eighth week, the programme challenges staff to walk 10,000 steps a day for 12 weeks.



Exercise science researcher Dr Steve Stannard says previous research on pedometer-based physical activity programmes has shown that although participation rates are high, simple markers of health such as blood pressure and waist/hip ratio indicate only a modest benefit.

"More sensitive markers of health such as fasting blood lipids, glucose, and insulin have not previously been assessed and it is possible that these will reveal greater benefits," he says.

Nearly 90 per cent of the 305 Massey steppers have volunteered to allow their health screening data, including blood samples taken before and after participation, to be collated and compared. The 10,000 Steps programme is still underway, and participants have until 22 May before the 12 weeks of walking is up.

Once the final steps are counted, health assessments will take place and the data will be analysed, says Dr Stannard.

"The results will indicate whether this type of workplace-based physical activity initiative can succeed in significantly improving health of employees."

After the seventh week, the Perambulators from Wellington were heading the pack, with a total of 5,799,150 steps. The first team from Palmerston North are the Steam Rollers on 4,301,253 steps, while the leading Auckland team is SHORE Shot on 3,186,007.

The chief investigators of the research are Professor Chris Cunningham from the Research Centre for Maori Health and Development and Dr Stannard from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. They expect that the results of the study will be available by September.

At the 10,000 Steps Celebrity Walk on the Palmerston North campus today, 17 infantry officers from Linton Army accompanied staff on a lunchtime walk around the ring road.

Date: 02/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications



Final year vet student Cristina Gans (left), vet nursing student Bidy Lee and conservation biology postgraduate Anita Hereford cared for Merv the kiwi while he recovered from a toe amputation.

Merv back to the wild

The father of many of the nation's kiwi was released from the University's Wildlife Health Centre today - minus one toe but still able to do his duty. The kiwi, Merv, is part of Operation Nest Egg, which sees kiwi eggs lifted, incubated and hatched in captivity. Male kiwi sit on the eggs, so the males are monitored via radio transmitter to identify nest sites. Kiwi worker Jo Thorne found Merv's injury by chance when checking his transmitter.

"He didn't look good at all and had a really swollen toe," she says, "he'd also lost weight from about 2.4kg to 2kg. So we took photos and sent them through to Massey to see if there was anything they could do."

Veterinarians Kerri Morgan and Brett Gartrell identified a nail-bed infection, so Merv was brought in two weeks ago. Postgraduate wildlife vet resident Jodi Salinsky says Merv's condition was serious because the infection had spread into the bone.

"If the infection had spread through his bones and into his blood, he may have got very sick or even died... but we were able to amputate part of his toe and he is still walking well. He is one of the best patients we have ever had, he has made the speediest recovery and has eaten from the second day after he came in."

Merv is being returned to his mate, in the Waimarino Forest between Raetehi and Pipiriki. Although no-one knows Merv's age for sure, a cataract in one eye indicates he is likely to be an older adult. Kiwis live until about 50 or 60 years of age, and tend to be monogamous. Ms Thorne said Merv and his mate had produced some of the biggest eggs in the Operation Nest Egg initiative, a good indicator for successful hatching, "so it's really important he goes back".

Last season, three of Merv's eggs were incubated and hatched successfully at Rainbow Springs, then cared for in the kiwi "crèche" at Bushy Park and released into the wild, improving their chances of survival from about 5 per cent to 50 per cent. Merv's offspring from recent seasons have been returned to the wild at Karioi Rahui Forest on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu, in a joint programme between the Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Rangī.

Merv will be monitored for a few weeks but the outlook is excellent, Ms Thorne says. "Many kiwi in the wild are missing toes or feet, mainly due to accidental trapping injuries. But they still seem to do quite well so we're not expecting any more problems."

The Wildlife Health Centre is supported by Shell, while the Bank of New Zealand supports Operation Nest Egg.

Date: 03/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science; Wildlife Ward



Preparing the health services for emergency management

Health services deal with routine crises every day, but little is known about how they would perform in a major emergency such as an influenza pandemic.

PhD student Debra Ellis will study how staff at the Auckland District Health Board cope during a national influenza pandemic exercise this month.

Exercise Cruickshank is led by the Ministry of Health and involves 30 government agencies. It is designed to test the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan.

Ms Ellis says health services play a significant role in the response and recovery phases of disasters, but little is known about how well they will perform in a major emergency.

“In contrast to the health problems they deal with every day, major hazard events pose considerable demands on health care staff and organisations.

“Research in this area is normally constrained by the lack of an event that can be used to assess readiness. Exercise Cruickshank will be a real time, long duration pandemic influenza simulation that will provide the right context to assess readiness in the health services.”

The Ministry of Health report on Exercise Cruickshank will identify any gaps in the planning systems and process of health sector preparedness as a whole, while Ms Ellis' research will focus on readiness at the individual, team and organisational level.

She will identify staff training and organisational needs.

“I want to know the best ways to sustain staff well-being and performance during prolonged health or natural hazard crises,” she says.

Ms Ellis is a student at the Centre for Disaster Research, part of the School of Psychology on the Wellington campus.

In 2006 the University and GNS Science opened the joint Centre for Disaster Research to better prepare New Zealand against natural disasters. Director of the centre, Dr David Johnston says it is undertaking multi-disciplinary teaching and research aimed at learning about the impacts of disasters on communities.

Date: 04/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators

Call for regulation of tele-marketers

Marketing Professor Janet Hoek says it is time for New Zealand to follow Australia's lead and pass a law enabling people to ban telephone marketers from calling them at home.

Australia has database of "don't-call" numbers, which people can list themselves on and tele-marketing companies must refer to before making up their calling lists.

Half a million Australians signed up in the first three days. In the United States, which has a similar database, 120 million phone users have put their numbers on it.

Professor Hoek says it would be surprising if the levels of concern and feelings of annoyance felt by New Zealanders about tele-marketers differed from those evident in Australia and other countries and consumers should have the right to say they do not want such calls.

The Australian law specifically excludes charities, political parties and educational institutions from having to comply with the "don't call" register. Australian consumer groups argued that charities and political parties ought to be included in the legislation, though felt legitimate research should be exempt.

Although the New Zealand Marketing Association has a [Name Removal Register](#), Professor Hoek notes this is not widely publicised and many consumers would not know of its existence. "Not all telemarketers subscribe to the Marketing Association; this means the Code of Practice does not cover all telemarketing activity, thus it cannot afford full protection to consumers."

She argues that government legislation is necessary to ensure consumers can exert more control over who has access to their phone number. "Government regulation is more visible and the options it creates are better known. In addition, government regulation is pro-active rather than re-active; unlike self-regulation it provides explicit compliance incentives in the form of penalties and, most importantly, it is completely independent, which promotes consumer confidence in the outcomes."

Date: 05/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

Massey scoops third-biggest funding share from national research quality assessment

Massey's research staff under the Government's national ratings system have boosted funding and strengthened its position as a national leader in the core areas for which it is internationally recognised – sciences, creative arts, business and social sciences.

The Performance-Based Research Fund's 2006 Quality Evaluation, released today by the Tertiary Education Commission, determines the allocation of annual funding (currently \$137 million) based on the performance of academic researchers at each university and tertiary institution. This is the second Quality Evaluation; the first was in 2003.

Massey's share of the PBRF funding pool has increased by \$2 million this year as a result of the evaluation, from \$32.7 million to \$34.7 million, third highest in New Zealand behind Otago and Auckland, both of which have medical schools with access to pools of research funds not available to other research institutions.

It now has 13 subject areas ranked in the top three in New Zealand, compared with seven in 2003. It is ranked first in Design, Nursing and Veterinary Science; second in Agriculture and other Applied Biological Sciences, Public Health, Pure and Applied Mathematics, and Visual Arts and Crafts; and third in Clinical Medicine, Engineering and Technology, other Health Studies, Physics, Sport and Exercise Science, and Statistics. In 19 subject areas Massey achieved quality scores above the sector average.

The overall "quality score" of the University as an institution has improved from 2.11 in 2003 to 3.05, a 45 per cent increase.

That has led to a national ranking of sixth among the universities, one place higher than in the first evaluation, although Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says such comparisons are less rigorous than comparisons between subject areas because of the huge differences in the types of courses run by different tertiary education organisations.

"It's not about improving our rankings in PBRF, it's about creating a research-active community offering research training and offering research-led undergraduate teaching," Professor Kinnear says. "That gives us credibility in an international environment."

Massey now has the third highest number of active researchers of any university. It has 874 researchers with rankings of A, B or C, compared with 689 in 2003, a 27 per cent increase. The number of A-ranked researchers increased by 52 per cent, B-ranked by 32 per cent; and C-ranked by 22 per cent.

Because it exceeded the targets it set for itself in the number of A and B-ranked researchers it now has slightly fewer C researchers than expected. The percentage of research-active staff has increased from 56 per cent to 78 per cent.

"We've achieved a huge shift of people between categories and, while we've made improvements in the process, ultimately it is the quality of our academic staff that has enabled us to achieve this outstanding result."

Each of the five colleges achieved increases in their overall quality scores, with the College of Creative Arts and the College of Education making dramatic improvements from 2003.

Within the colleges, there were significant improvements in the rankings for Engineering and Technology, Nursing, Education, Visual Arts, Physics, Statistics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Veterinary Science.

"This is a superb result and a testament to the hard work of staff, particularly the heads of departments and institutes, who led by example and encouraged their colleagues to strive for higher rankings," says Professor Kinnear.

"It is also a direct result of a management strategy put in place after the first PBRF results were released three years ago. Our policy, that all staff will be research-active at a level appropriate to their stage of career and appointment, has been embraced. We've set targets and we've exceeded them."

The PBRF evaluation announcement coincided with a meeting of the University Council. The Council congratulated staff for their achievements in improving their individual and subject area rankings, and it recognised the significant benefit to the University of receiving the third-largest share of the funding pool.

The PBRF Quality Evaluation 2006 Release Summary can be read on the TEC website:
www.tec.govt.nz

Date: 05/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Funding; University Council

Funky “FudgeBall” design nets \$2000 scholarship

Designs for a silicon sink plug and a “FudgeBall” funky correction tape dispenser helped industrial design student Blake Richardson win this year’s Macdonald Scholarship.

Mr Richardson, 20, received the award on the Wellington campus yesterday. It was presented by its sponsors, geophysicist Peter Macdonald and his wife Doris.

The award, worth \$2000, is given annually to a third-year School of Design student majoring in Industrial Design who has achieved high academic and technical standards in year-two of their studies.

Mrs Macdonald has extensive connections with the tertiary education sector and Mr Macdonald a strong interest in the development of New Zealand design and technology. In 1995 they established a trust fund to provide the scholarship.

“We particularly wanted the scholarship to support high achieving students during the middle stages of their degree studies,” says Mr Macdonald.

Mr Richardson designed a range of products including a silicone sink plug, perfume bottle, and FudgeBall, a “funky” correction tape dispenser. He thanked Mr and Mrs Macdonald, described the award as “awesome” and said he would invest the money in his further studies.

Date: 09/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Scholarships



Mayor Kerry Prendergast (left), Lucy Cant and Melissa Dodds.

Zonta awards for top women design graduates

Industrial design graduate Lucy Cant has been awarded this year's Zonta Design Award of \$5000.

Ms Cant, now working at Wellington's Weta Workshop, beat four other finalists for the supreme award. The runners-up, Nina Wells, who specialises in visual communication design was sponsored by Saatchi and Saatchi, Rachel Higham (fashion and textile design, Rembrandt), Rosemary Horn (photographic design, Image Lab), and Hannah Ferens (interior design, Limited Editions Interior Design), each received \$1000 cash.

Zonta is an international club of businesswomen. The awards honour the top women graduates from the University's School of Design.

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Melissa Dodds from Weta Workshop presented the supreme award to Ms Cant, who described it as a huge honour.

Last year she won a Wellington City Council scholarship for creativity and innovation.

"These awards celebrate the unique perspective women bring to design," she said. "We invent, create and pour ourselves into our work."

She is working on film projects with Weta director and co-owner Richard Taylor, himself a graduate of the School of Design.

Mayor Kerry Prendergast says. "It is heartening to know that there are organisations like Zonta fostering and nurturing generations of women. There is nothing more powerful than women helping women."

Date: 10/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Royna Ngahiua Fifield.

Last minute entry clinches short story award

Royna Ngahiua Fifield entered her prize-winning short story into the Pikihuia Awards for Māori writers five minutes before the closing deadline.

She'd glimpsed a brochure on the Pikihuia Awards for Māori writers the day before then forgot about it until 30 minutes before entries were due to close, managing to send it in with five minutes to spare.

Her efforts were rewarded when she won the Best Short Story out of 130 entries in the English language category, with her story of ambiguous love titled *Secrets of the Heart*.

She won \$2000 in prize money, and publication of her story in Huia Publishing's latest collection *Huia Short Stories 7*.

Her prize-winning story was originally written as a fiction writing assignment.

Fifield, who says she has been passionate about writing since penning regular diary entries as a youngster, plans to work on a novel next.

The Palmerston North third year Bachelor of Arts student is majoring in English, and says the writing lectures and tuition in particular from two American lecturers, Dr Thom Conroy and Dr Bryan Walpert, have helped her immensely in approaching her own writing critically and analytically.

"They've really helped with understanding techniques and thinking about language and how you use it."

In her writing, she aims to make a connection with the reader through careful rendering of emotion, she says.

Ms Fifield says her story was not specifically Māori in flavour or theme, but she feels at equally at home in both Māori and Pākehā cultures.

Her favourite fiction writers include North American short story writers Raymond Carver, Alice Munro and Grace Paley, as well as Britain's Zadie Smith and New Zealand writer Keri Hulme.

Date: 10/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



James Struthers pedals Steelfish while teammates Alastair Warren and Nick Ross provide extra propulsion.

Buoy racers make a splash with design skills

Industrial design students put their skills to the test last month as they raced inflatable human-powered watercraft around Wellington's Frank Kitts Park lagoon.

The race was the final part of their industrial design technology paper. Industrial design lecturer Brandon Syme says the event mixed fun and practical learning.

"The students had to integrate aesthetics, ergonomics and mechanics into a working design, but the real test was to see how well their craft navigated the four-lap race course."

Students built their craft from bicycle parts, steel tubing, airconditioning fans, surfboards and angle grinders. Inflatable PVC pontoons were made by event sponsor Canvasland.

Rigorous testing was the key to success, says captain of the winning team, Juliet Whyte. "It took us three test runs to sort out our gears, so we were well prepared by race day."

Their craft, Wet Dreams, featured direct drive gears with the pilot facing sideways.

This avoided a problem affecting the other four teams: angle grinder parts used to change the direction of the drive shaft failed, leaving some watercraft spinning in neutral.

Team Steelfish's solution was to resort to manual drive, with team members paddling surfboards to propel their craft. Steelfish captain Aimee Whiting says their team spent more than 500 hours on the project.

Industrial design is taught at the University's School of Design in Wellington.

Date: 11/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Papua New Guinea students skill up in banking

Amongst graduands at tomorrow's Business graduation ceremony in Palmerston North will be two who are coming all the way from Papua New Guinea to receive their postgraduate diplomas in banking.

Georgina Drapasuwei and Karen Moata studied entirely in Papua New Guinea under a programme run by Massey University's Centre for Banking Studies.

Banking lecturer Claire Matthews says this is the first time students have come over for graduation from the programme, which has been running since 197 and involves block courses held in PNG every year.

The programme is part of efforts by the banks in PNG to upskill their local staff and reduce their use of expatriates, says Ms Matthews.

"In 1997 We were approached by the PNG Institute of Banking {now the PNG Institute of Banking and Business Management} which wanted to access the diploma for Papua New Guinea-based students. The banks (including ANZ and Westpac) wanted to reduce their reliance on expatriate staff, primarily from New Zealand and Australia. They looked at programmes in both Australia and New Zealand and decided ours best suited their needs.

"Since then we have run one paper each year in Port Moresby, which means students take four years to complete the Diploma. So we travel to the students, with costs paid by the PNG banks. Studying part-time in this way allows the students to continue working while they are studying, which is another benefit.

"The classes are small and meeting them annually for four years means that we get to know them well."

Date: 14/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Pasifika

Research may boost IVF success rate

Higher success rates for in-vitro fertilisation may result from a University PhD student's research into measurements to assess the quality of eggs. Gabe Redding, who graduates with a Doctor of Philosophy in bioprocess engineering this afternoon, described his research as a novel integration of reproductive biology and engineering.

“The objective was to investigate tools and technologies that can be used to select the best eggs during IVF,” Dr Redding says. “The work focused on the oxygen levels in the follicle as a measure of egg quality.”

In addition to finding that current IVF techniques can expose the eggs to potentially detrimental temperature drops, Dr Redding investigated devices for measuring oxygen levels in the follicle. Such devices may enable the best eggs to be selected.



At present, most IVF clinics only use visual grading of the eggs after they are harvested and later similar checks on quality of the embryos. “But IVF could be dramatically changed if there was some measure of egg or embryos quality,” Dr Redding says.

Dr Redding's study was undertaken as part of a wider programme contract awarded to AgResearch by the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, titled Advanced tools for the problem of infertility in women. His PhD was carried out through the University's Institute of Technology and Engineering, supervised by Associate Professor John Bronlund and Dr Alan Hart (AgResearch).

Dr Redding is continuing to work on the project, including extending the mathematical models which he developed for oxygen to consider other substances which may be important to the egg.

“The long-term goal is to fully explore the contribution engineering can make to improving the outcomes of assisted reproductive technologies such as IVF. The work is really novel because reproductive biology and engineering are two disciplines which are seldom paired.”

Dr Redding, who is aged 27, is originally from Napier.

Date: 14/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Andrea Pickering

Granddaughter of Massey's first PhD follows suit

Andrea Pickering graduates with her PhD today, almost 50 years after her grandfather Owen Haylock received the first PhD to be awarded by the University. Although he died soon after she started her doctorate, Miss Pickering says her grandfather knew she was “well on her way to getting her PhD and he couldn't have been happier”. Dr Haylock's wife, Hilary, is attending both her granddaughter's graduation ceremony at noon, and the 3pm ceremony where her husband's friend and colleague Nelson Speirs is making the graduation address.

Mr Speirs will pay tribute both to Associate Professor Peter Snell, who will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University tomorrow and to Dr Haylock. Dr Haylock was someone who had made a difference, Mr Speirs says, both in governance positions in the timber and forestry industry and in creating a board made from wood fibres – now known as medium density fibreboard or MDF.

Mrs Haylock says her late husband always acknowledged the skills in research and practical skills that he gained while completing his PhD in Soil Science at Massey. She is also “thrilled” that Miss Pickering is receiving her PhD and that she has been able to do so while remaining close to the family home in Bulls. Miss Pickering's PhD is in Plant Science, and her research focused on factors predisposing grapes to a disorder known as bunch stem necrosis. Now employed at HortResearch, she hopes to follow up that work.

The family's historical connections with the University don't end there however, as Miss Pickering's great, great-grandfather Sir James Wilson played a key role in establishing the then University of New Zealand Massey College. Sir James was also the first president of the then New Zealand Farmers' Union, which later became federated farmers, and the first president of Board of Agriculture. The University still awards the Sir James Wilson prize annually to the top third-year student in the Bachelor of Applied Science.

Graduation address at the morning ceremony will be made by Lesley Gerrish, who established the William Gerrish Memorial Prize for the BAppI Sc degree in memory of her late husband who studied the Bachelor of Agricultural Science under the Victorian department of Agriculture scholarship programme in the early 1960s. Mr Gerrish went on to become an agricultural consultant, taking part in projects in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, East Timor, Laos, the Philippines and Cambodia. Mr Gerrish also spent nearly 20 years working on projects in China, including development of a livestock and pasture programme in the remote Nan Shan mountains. After his death last year Mrs Gerrish visited the province, where a Buddhist funeral ceremony was held to honour Mr Gerrish's contribution and in friendship.

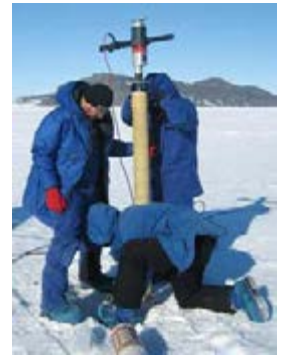
Date: 14/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)

Kiwi ingenuity led to Antarctic solution

When physicist Robin Dykstra first visited Antarctica in 1997 portable nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) technology was not available to assess the properties of sea ice – so he and three colleagues invented it. That led to the development of a series of portable NMR machines capable of assessing the properties of many materials. Systems are now being sold around the world, with applications from construction to the oil industry.



NMR machines work by placing a sample into a magnetic field, causing the atoms in it to resonate at a particular frequency. By firing a radio wave into the atom, the wave that comes back can tell scientists a lot about the sample. Both portable and laptop machines were developed by Mr Dykstra, and colleagues Professor Paul Callaghan of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology, Dr Craig Eccles of magritek ltd and Mark Hunter of Victoria University. Magritek Ltd, which commercialised the research, was awarded the Emerging Gold Award for a company shining beyond its size at the Wellington Gold Business Awards on Wednesday night. The company was formed in 2004 as a joint venture between Massey and Victoria universities.

“People have been able to measure these things using NMR for a long time but have had to take the sample back to a fixed spectrometer,” Mr Dykstra says. “Now what we can do is take it out to the situation.”

Mr Dykstra returned to the Antarctic as part of the New Zealand Antarctic programme in October, where he and others were able to use one of his portable NMR machines to assess the structure of sea ice.

“When sea water freezes you get solid ice and little pockets of concentrated brine distributed within it – we wanted to look at how much liquid there is and how it is moving. That can tell us about the thermal properties of the sea ice.”



Mr Dykstra will receive his PhD tomorrow (Tuesday) at one of nine ceremonies to be held by the University this week.

NMR products have already made significant contributions to horticulture, biotechnology, chemical engineering, petroleum science, food technology and medicine. Current work is developing new equipment and methods in environmental monitoring and protection, medical technology, building technology, and security technology.

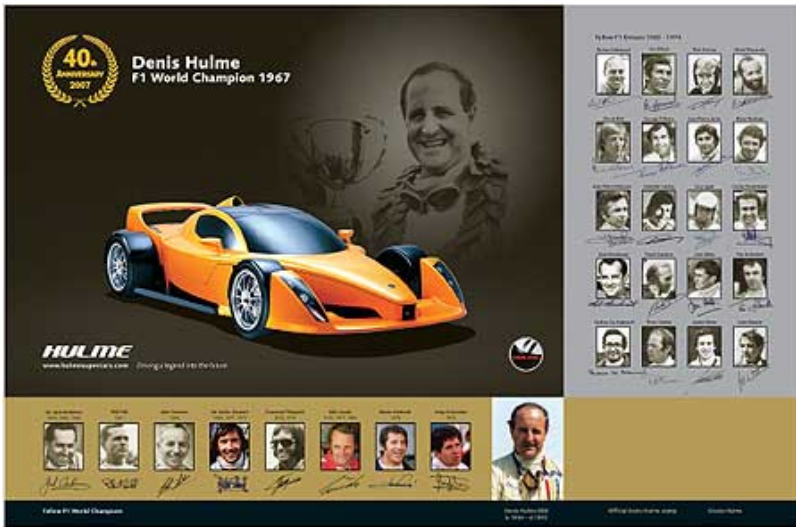
Massey University director of commercialisation Dr Gavin Clark says magritek Ltd is a great example of what can be achieved by effective collaboration and the pooling of resources within New Zealand.

“A critical mass of related technologies has been assembled which gives the company the rare ability to immediately generate revenues while also offering high-growth potential in global markets.”

Date: 14/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Supercar project picks up speed

After four years in development, New Zealand's supercar is going on show before international car fans in the Middle East next month.

Named in honour of New Zealand's only Formula One world champion, Denny Hulme, the Hulme.F1 is an eye-catching racing machine designed for road use.

Design team coordinator Professor Tony Parker, is hoping to generate interest among buyers.

He will accompany the car to shows in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, for brand development and marketing.

“These are prime opportunities to test the market and attract investors for this revolutionary F1 road car,” says Mr Parker, who heads the University's Industrial Design department.

“We will be launching a collectors' limited edition print (pictured) to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Denny Hulme's Formula One World Drivers' Championship.”

This has been signed by eight Formula One world champions and 20 other drivers, all who raced against Denny Hulme in Formula One between 1965 and 1974.

Launched in 2005 as a concept car, the Hulme.F1 is being fitted with General Motors' latest high-tech LS7 V8 engine this year, to test basic componentry.

High-resolution images are available at www.supercarsnz.com

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Dr Bryant, I presume – husband and wife both Doctors of Philosophy

Jeremy and Michelle Bryant didn't plan follow in each other's footsteps in the walk across stage to receive their PhDs, but when the possibility arose they grabbed it.

Both graduated this morning, Jeremy first with a PhD in animal science, closely followed by Michelle with a PhD in genetics. Michelle says she had hoped to finish her research, on the role of endophyte enzymes, a little earlier, but finally submitted in May last year. Jeremy submitted his research, on agriculture systems modeling, in March this year, just in time to graduate with his wife.

The pair met in 2001, soon after Michelle started her PhD. Working in Professor Barry Scott's lab in the Institute of Molecular BioSciences, Michelle met Jeremy's sister Andrea Bryant. Jeremy was also on campus, undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in animal science at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences. Two years after meeting, Michelle and Jeremy were married.

Jeremy, who is originally from south Taranaki, is working at AgResearch while Michelle, from Taumarunui, remains at Massey as a research officer. They are among 30 PhD graduates and 1470 other graduates attending nine ceremonies in Palmerston North this week.

Sporting legend Peter Snell received an Honorary Doctorate in science this morning, and spoke at the graduation ceremony attended by the Bryants.

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)



Beating diabetes a family challenge

Working with family and whanau can help keep people with diabetes well, a University researcher has found. Charlotte Paddison, who graduates with her PhD in psychology before leaving for a research post at Cambridge University, investigated type-two diabetes from a psychological perspective to better understand the mental processes involved in managing the disease.

“What we found was that diabetes is not just about individual self-management but that it’s very important to work with the family or whanau,” Dr Paddison says.

Much of what could be done to keep a person with diabetes well could be influenced by changing behaviours, Dr Paddison says, including modifying food intake to an appropriate diet or increasing the amount of exercise and activity the person takes. These behaviours are strongly influenced by family and whanau and could be supported by them.



“This study showed that having a supportive family is linked to better self-care behaviour and better physiological control of diabetes. Traditionally, clinical care has often focused very much on individuals but this study shows that family and whanau have an important role in helping people with diabetes make healthy choices. This should encourage clinicians to recognise the role family relationships play and to consider ways to promote positive family involvement in diabetes care.”

A further key finding was the impact of how people with diabetes viewed their condition.

“The way people see their diabetes does shape how they take care of themselves, including their diet, exercise and taking medication in the way prescribed. Many people find it hard to make sense of their diabetes and this seems important in explaining why people struggle with self care and unable to achieve good metabolic control.”

Dr Paddison will continue her research into psychological and social factors in chronic diseases at Cambridge University School of Clinical Medicine, where she is taking up a post as research associate.

“I was interested in diabetes for two reasons. First of all it is a major international health issue – there will be 333 million people worldwide who will have diabetes by 2025. Diabetes also has serious health consequences including loss of limbs, loss of eyesight and kidney failure, but they are mostly preventable through good self-care - so there is a huge opportunity for health gain.”

Dr Paddison, who is from Foxton, completed her BA with a double major in history and psychology, and then undertook honours in psychology before starting her PhD. She leaves for England on Saturday.

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Sporting and academic hero Snell's first NZ degree

A standing ovation greeted Olympic track legend Peter George Snell as he was conferred with an honorary doctorate in science at this morning's graduation ceremony in Palmerston North.

Dr Snell told the 200 graduates present that his degree – as for most of theirs – was the first he had received from a New Zealand university. What he did not tell them was that he was an associate professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, that he had a BSc in human performance from the University of California at Davis and a PhD in exercise physiology from Washington State University.

Those details were part of the citation by Massey's Professor Ray Winger, who said Dr Snell was a New Zealand icon for his sporting achievements: New Zealand' Sportsman of the 20th Century and, in 1990, the first inductee into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame.

Three-time Olympic gold medallist (800m at Rome, 1960; 800m and 1500m, Tokyo, 1964) and breaker of multiple world records, one of which (for the mile on a grass track) still stands.

“But it was not so much what he achieved in one of the shortest careers of any world famous sportsman,” Professor Winger said. “Peter Snell is respected for how he achieved it – with total dominance, grace and humility. And that humility remains with him to this day.”

Yet it was what Dr Snell did after his athletic career that was being recognised. Professor Winger said that Dr Snell had described himself, born in Opunake, raised in Te Aroha and Auckland, the youngest of three children, as “the academic disappointment” of his family.

When he quit running in 1965 and decided he wanted to understand why he could run so well, he did not have the University Entrance qualification from school that would have enabled him to go to a New Zealand university.

Instead he moved to the United States, where he has lived since. His research into human health and fitness had, among other things, proven the scientific credibility of the once-controversial training techniques of his running coach, Arthur Lydiard, Professor Winger said.

In his address, Dr Snell told graduates there were three gifts a person could provide themselves in life: A university education, a fulfilling career and a high level of wellness.

They had already achieved the first; the second was something to judge not from the size of the paypacket but on whether it gave a sense of achievement and enjoyment; and the third was about having a lifestyle that increased the chances of excellent health and physical independence throughout life.

“No amount of business, academic or other success in life is worth much if your physical and emotional health is poor. Our lifestyle, like no other time in the history of mankind, presents a huge challenge for us to resist bad diets, medications, drugs and physical inactivity.

“The greatest agent to prevent premature aging is exercise – use it or lose it. It applies to your heart, muscle, bones and neurons. Even our DNA, that defines who we are and provides the blueprint for protein synthesis, is protected by exercise.”

He said the information age also presented challenges. "The internet has made everyone an instant expert, almost doing away with libraries."

But it was wrong to think, as he had at the time, that completing a degree meant the completion of study. "Study is a lifelong pursuit. Embrace it or you will be swept away by the tide of new – and not always correct – information."

Dr Snell is in New Zealand with his wife Miki as the Massey University Foundation's visiting fellow in health and exercise science. Over the past year he has been collaborating with the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health and the Centre for Public Health Research on projects relating to human health, nutrition and fitness, particularly Polynesian health issues such as diabetes.

The Foundation is a stand-alone charitable trust set up to support scholarships and raise the University's profile through lecture series, visiting fellows and research projects.

A special guest at the graduation ceremony was fellow athlete and 1960 Olympic 5000m gold medallist Sir Murray Halberg.

At 5.30pm Dr Snell will give a public lecture at the Regent on Broadway along with Professor Chris Cunningham from the Research Centre for Maori Health and Development (Te Pumanawa Hauora).

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)



Dynasty of distance learners

Three generations of extramural students in one family is rare, even for New Zealand's largest provider of distance learning.

This afternoon Robyn Hoggard graduates with a Bachelor of Business Studies at Massey University Palmerston North. Her mother, Judy Owen, has two degrees from Massey: a Bachelor of Arts in 1981 and a Masters in Sociology with Honours, four years later.

Both earned their qualifications studying extramurally, following in the footsteps of Judy's father Neville Green, 85, one of the University's first extramural students.

When Mr Green enrolled in 1963, distance learning was virtually unheard of in New Zealand. Massey College (later Massey University) started offering extramural courses in selected subjects in 1961 and gradually extended its programmes. Mr Green, then living in Wanganui, was amongst the first to study for an Arts degree.

After graduating with a B.A. in 1967 he worked in Invercargill and, in 1970, became the first principal of Twizel High School. He returned to extramural study to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Education and was the first fulltime president of the Extramural Students' Society. He continued a career as a teacher and is now retired, in Waikanae.

Judy Owen began study from Balclutha and, with a stint as an internal student, continued until 1985, marrying Frank Owen, another Massey graduate. After completing her M.A. she developed a database of information on social science research in New Zealand and the South Pacific. Her subsequent roles included involvement in the Royal Commission on Social Policy in 1988, and managing information services in Government departments. She is now a consultant in information management.

Robyn Hoggard says some years ago she looked around and realized she might end up as the only one in her family without a Massey degree. Her brother (now living in Denmark) graduated with a Bachelor in Agriculture in 1984, studying as an internal student. Her sister Sandra (now living in Ireland) also studied on campus in Palmerston North, graduating with a Bachelor in Applied Science (Resource Management) in 1998.

Judy Owen draws a bit of a veil over the academic career of her third daughter, Maree, who graduated from the University of Otago with a medical degree. "She wanted to be a doctor," she says apologetically.

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; Extramural; Graduation



Are you my type? Public relations student Megan Sadtler shows how easy it is to donate blood.

Getting blood out of the lost generation

Public relations students are appealing to the “lost generation” for blood.

The students are running an event on the Wellington campus aimed at increasing the number of blood donors.

The Blood Service says it is failing to meet its target of 340 donations a week in the Wellington region. Nationally, just 5 per cent of New Zealanders donate blood although more than 80 per cent of us will need blood or blood products during our lives.

And for students, the percentage is even lower. Kay Carthew, a donor recruiter from the NZ Blood Service describes students as the “lost generation” due to a lack of blood donations from young people in their late teens and early 20s, perhaps attributable to sometimes erratic lifestyles or lack of understanding about the importance of regular donations.

Five students studying public relations students will hold an event in the Tussock Bar and Café on campus between 11.30am and 1.30pm tomorrow (Wednesday, 16 May) as part of their second-year paper course work requirement to prepare for event management and communication roles.

One of the organisers Riarna White understands that not everyone will donate. “There is no pressure to donate on the day. We just want students to understand and acknowledge the lifesaving quality of blood and consider becoming a regular donor.”

The other students involved are Dave Adams, Jade Holley, Margo Southgate and Megan Sadtler.

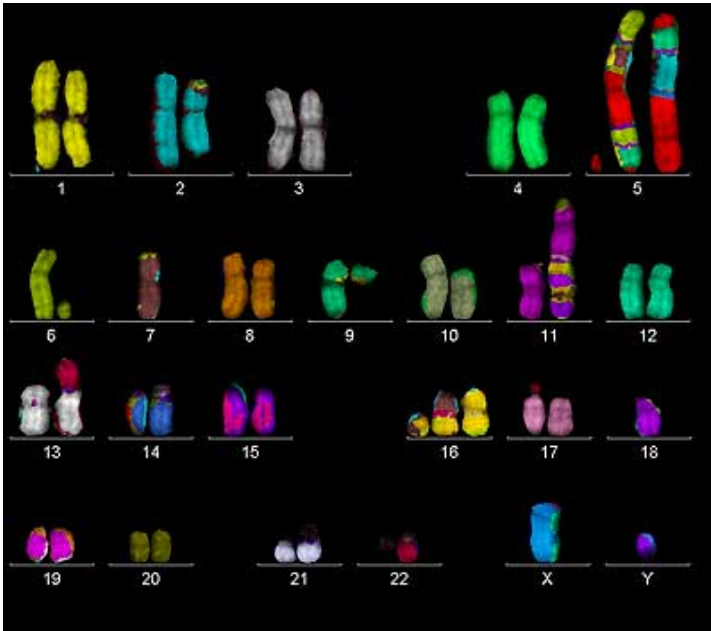
Comedians Cori Gonzalez-Macuer and Jamie Bowen will entertain students as registered nurses prick fingers to test iron levels and blood type.

The Blood Service staff will return to the campus next Tuesday (22 May) to collect donations.

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Wellington



DNA damage to nuclear test vets prompts call for study of children

 [Download the full report \(PDF\)](#)

 [Watch the ONE NEWS item: dialup 56k or broadband 128k](#)

 [Watch the 3 NEWS item](#)

The Government is considering whether to fund studies into the health of nuclear test veterans' children, after a Massey study confirmed that the veterans had suffered genetic damage as a result of radiation.

The New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans' Association commissioned Dr Al Rowland of the Institute of Molecular BioSciences and his team to look at the cells of 50 veterans for damage. Dr Rowland says the findings are unequivocal: in a matched control group of men of the same age, his team found an expected frequency of 10 chromosome translocations per 1000 cells, but in the veterans' group, the average number of translocations was considerably higher at 29 chromosome translocations per 1000 cells.



Workers who were close to the Chernobyl nuclear accident or involved in the clean up after the accident had about 20 translocations.

The lawyer acting for the veterans is to travel to London, where a class action is being taken against the British Government on behalf of the British, Fijian and New Zealand Veterans.

Association chairman Roy Sefton says more than 400 of the 551 sailors who took part in Operation Grapple have died. He was 17 when he was sent to the operation, a series of detonations totalling nine-megatons.

“NZNTVA is now looking for financial support from Government, or elsewhere, to have a study done on a group of the veterans' children to identify any genetic damage that may have resulted from their fathers' exposure to service-related radiation.”

It was the incoming Labour Government of 1999 that granted the veterans \$100,000 for the study, Mr Sefton says, with additional support of more than \$100,000 from agencies including The Lion Foundation, the New Zealand and Auckland cancer societies, and the Royal Society which donated funding and laboratory equipment.

The seamen who took part in Operation Grapple were on the frigates HMNZS Pukaki and HMNZS Rotoiti, watching the tests from distances of between 52km and 278km.

The University team that produced the study included Mohammed Abdul Wahab and Elizabeth Nickless of the Institute of Molecular BioSciences, and Associate Professor John Podd of the University's School of Psychology, as well as Claude Parmentier and Radhia M'Kacher of the Institut Gustave-Roussy in France.

The five-year project started with development of an extremely stringent procedure, with input from St Andrew's University in Scotland, which devised the set of assays (tests). Analysis was made of 50 veterans and a control group for possible confounding factors, together with analysis of the literature in related studies.

The final report, released on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear test on Malden Island on 15 May, 1957, states that the cause of the elevated translocation frequencies observed in veterans is most likely attributable to radiation exposure. Dr Rowland says that while he realises the subject is political, his interest is in the science.

Date: 15/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Video Multimedia

Curiosity pays off for journalism graduate

A Massey journalism graduate has won the student print journalist prize at this year's Qantas Media Awards.

Jenny Macintyre collected her award at a gala dinner in Wellington on Friday (May 18).

The prize included \$500 from the Journalists Training Organisation, the industry body that oversees journalists training.

“Journalists are curious, and I think I won because my curiosity found me stories,” Ms Macintyre says.

She submitted a portfolio of four stories written while a student at Massey, including one on the effects of Agent Orange on New Zealand Vietnam War veterans and another on Maori concerns over an exhibit at a local museum.

“I’m particularly proud that all four of my stories were picked up by other news media,” she says.

A student last year, Ms Macintyre paid tribute to Alan Samson, the Massey lecturer she worked most closely with during her time at the University.

“What I learnt from him is that for a story to be good you must rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!”

As a mature student, she says taking a year out of her life to study was a big decision, but one she is glad she made.

Her determination to do well on the course meant she soldiered on even after breaking her wrist just before the second semester started.

She now works as a reporter at the *Sunday Star-Times* in Auckland.

Other recent Massey graduates also did well at the Qantas Awards. Yvonne Tahana (class of 2003) won the Maori issues newspaper feature writer category and Kimberley Rothwell (2004) was a finalist in the junior newspaper feature writer category.

Date: 21/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Obo at the top of their game

The team from Palmerston North-based hockey goalkeeping equipment company Obo were popular winners of the University's annual award for contribution to the Manawatu economy.

At the Business Link function, hosted by the University and Vision Manawatu during graduation week, Obo's Simon Barnett accepted the award from Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, to a cheer from guests.

Announcing the winner, Professor Warrington noted Obo's 'creativity, innovation and distinctiveness', its 'passion and commitment' and good business practice, operating in a niche market.

Accepting the award, Mr Barnett said: "This is actually very cool." In a brief speech he outlined the company's beginnings in 1986 to its present success in a world market, and its original aim "to redesign a product from the ground up, developing an entirely new proposition for hockey goalies."

He also observed that connections between Massey and the city have improved 'but there is a long way to go'.

Mr Barnett was a marketing student at Massey from 1976 to 1979 and has lectured at the University.

The Business Link function, on 17 May, also acknowledged the efforts of Palmerston North city organisations, including retailers, to promote graduation week. The Chairman of City Centre Marketing, Bryan Gaskin, announced the winners of the Graduation Shop Window competition, observing that there have been more people on the streets embracing graduation this year. The winners were: First, Cash Converters; second, Palmerston North City Council; and third, Abode Interiors.

Vision Manawatu chief executive Andrew Powrie welcomed guests and Vision Manawatu chair and head of the Graduate School of Business, Dr James Lockhart, introduced the guest speaker, Massey MBA alumnus and former chef de mission to the Olympic and Commonwealth Games, Bruce Ullrich.

Date: 21/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North



Feminisation of education a problem for boys and girls

▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE NEWS item: [dialup 56k](#) or [broadband 128k](#)

College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman is calling for urgent research into why men are not entering the teaching profession and the gap between male and female educational achievement in this country is now one of the world's largest.



After a College of Education graduation ceremony in Palmerston North last week at which just 15 of the 158 graduates were men, Professor Chapman says the feminisation of education in New Zealand is likely to be a factor in deterring men from entering teaching, particularly early childhood and primary teaching.

In a presentation to the University Council this month, he said it was a significant challenge for the University – “a real problem, which will have a major impact on education downstream. It's a significant challenge for society, and one that must be met.”

High-profile cases of male teachers and childcare workers being accused – sometimes wrongly – of child abuse, may also be a deterrent, he says. Whether that is so and what to do about it are also subjects in need of urgent research.

“It would be very disappointing to find that this is the case,” he says. “It's crucial for children especially to have strong role models of both genders at school – particularly for those who may not have both at home.

“Strong role models for both genders are important in terms of balance: Seeing strong male and female role models help to develop healthy notions of femininity and masculinity.

“Boys and girls will relate differently to male and female role models. Both are important. If children come from homes in which there is an absence of a strong positive male – as many do – and if these same children are in schools where there are few males, it is difficult for children to develop a healthy sense of how males and females together collaborate in contributing to society.

“While many high quality graduates are women, in both education and other fields, it's important that we retain a balance.”

Professor Chapman says that speculation as to why the gap is so large, and how fast it continues to grow, demonstrates the need for action.

Women colleagues had told him the curriculum may have become so feminised that men no longer feel comfortable with it.

“It is an area where for too long, men have been allowed to fall behind. Education policies and teacher gender must be addressed to help close the gap between male and female educational achievements. This is crucial to creating long-term benefits for both boys and girls.”

International surveys of literacy and numeracy indicate that boys are performing less well than girls, Professor Chapman says. “In the 2000 and 2003 international survey of literacy achievement for 15-year-olds, girls recorded a significantly higher average performance in reading in most countries in both studies. In New Zealand girls scored significantly higher than boys, on average, in both 2000 and 2003, with differences of 46 and 28 points respectively.

“For year-five primary school children, girls scored 27 points higher, on average, than boys, and the difference for New Zealand was the fourth largest to be observed across the 35 participating countries.”

National surveys in New Zealand show that, on average, girls achieve at higher levels in reading than boys during primary schooling. There are mixed results for secondary levels. One study suggests the gap is closing; another shows it widening.

Date: 23/05/2007

Type: Research



Surgeon Frederik Pauwels farewells Brego on his discharge from the equine hospital.

Lord of the Rings star saved by surgery

 [Watch the 3 NEWS item.](#)

Emergency surgery has saved Brego, who played Aragorn's steed in three *Lord of the Rings* movies.

The 22-year-old Dutch warmblood stallion formed such a bond with Viggo Mortensen who played Aragorn, that Mr Mortensen purchased him after filming ended. He is cared for by vet Ray Lenaghan and his wife Jane at their property on the Kapiti Coast.

Mr Lenaghan says that Brego had been unwell for only a few hours but after an examination he knew he was in trouble with very bad colic. The decision was quickly to bring him to the University's Equine Clinic and Hospital.

"I told Jane when I examined him that we would have to either take him to Massey or dig a hole... Jane drove him up and I followed in case anything happened en route."

Brego was handed over to the care of senior lecturer in equine surgery Frederik Pauwels, who had him in surgery within 40 minutes

"It was very clear from the moment he arrived he was in a critical state," Mr Pauwels said. "We anaesthetised him, made a mid-line incision into his belly and explored. We found a large amount of small intestine stuck in a tear in his gut – part of his bowel was stuck."

Treatment included removing almost two metres of small intestine and then joining the ends back together. "Because of the severity of the case we expected there to be problems with him afterwards, but he did really great."

If the surgery hadn't taken place, Brego would certainly have suffered a "pretty nasty death", Mr Pauwels says. Signs of colic include stomach pain, with some horses suffering intensely. Most colic is caused by physical derangement, including a bowel becoming twisted or stuck.

Brego stayed at the vet hospital for about a week before being released last Friday (18 May). Mr Lenaghan says he's now "brilliant".

"He is in his box, eating and drinking and hasn't put a foot wrong."

Mr Lenaghan was allowed to observe the surgery due to his veterinary training – he practices as an equine vet. "I was thinking during the op this is taking a long time," he says. "Frederik and the staff did an amazing job."

Brego will be kept stabled for about another month, Mr Lenaghan says, to allow the wound to heal. Then he will join other *Lord of the Rings* cast members colleagues on the Lenaghan's property. After working as a stunt-riding



double on the Peter Jackson directed trilogy, including playing Elfen Princess Arwen, Mrs Lenaghan was delighted to end up owning her primary mount, Florian, Arwen's silver stallion. The couple also cares for Gandalf's cart pony Clyde, and several black rider horses.

Brego was known as Uraeus, a former top-level dressage horse and sire of successful sporting horses. His talent was spotted while he was in semi-retirement, and then owner and trainer the late Lockie Richards agreed to lease him to the *Lord of the Rings* production.

The Lenaghans had received an email from Viggo Mortensen, who said he is very grateful everyone acted so quickly to help save the horse. Mr Mortensen said he was looking forward to seeing Brego again later this year, after he completed a project in Hungary.

Date: 23/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Alumni launches new apparel

[Click here to purchase Massey apparel](#)

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations launched a new range of apparel at a fashion show on the Palmerston North campus last month.

The new range is manufactured by Kukri New Zealand Ltd, reflects the University's colours and features a range of dark blue and white gear accentuated with gold across the shoulders.

“The new range is designed to be more funky and appealing, while retaining a sophisticated and collegial feel,” Alumni relations manager Leanne Fecser says. “We’ve had positive feedback on the modern design and colours.”

The Kukri apparel includes raincoats, tees, polo shirts, fleece jackets and vests, ranging from \$25 - \$65 and is available from the alumni office in the Old Registry on the Palmerston North campus, or from campus cashiers in Auckland and Wellington.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni



Uttara Samarakoon, Cheryl Nkhasi, and Justine Baker.

Alumni Affinity Card Scholarships

Bursaries awarded to postgraduate students from funds established by the Massey University Affinity Card in association with Westpac were presented last month. The bursary is intended to support students during the course of their postgraduate programme of study.

Massey, together with New Zealand's seven other universities, have a University Credit Card in partnership with WestpacTrust.

For each card WestpacTrust will donate 1 per cent per annum of the interest earning balance or a minimum of \$10 per annum - whichever is the greater - to Massey's scholarship fund.

For more information, or to apply for a visa card and support Massey University scholarships please contact the Alumni Relations office alumni@massey.ac.nz for a brochure.

This year's recipients are: Justine Baker, Institute of Molecular BioSciences; Sammy Kareithi, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences; Cheryl Nkhasi, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health; Uttara Samarakoon, Institute of Natural Resource.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; Scholarships



Vice-Chancellor of Universiti of Putra Malaysia, Professor Dato Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah and Professor John Raine, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Malaysian MoU

A Massey delegation has recently returned from a successful visit to 12 Malaysian universities, seeking to build new partnerships and raise the University's profile as a high quality destination for PhD study.

Members of the Massey delegation were Professor John Raine, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Auckland and International; Professor Chris Moore, College of Business Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Wayne Edwards, College of Education and Professor Ian Maddox, Academic Director, College of Sciences.

The Malaysian government has introduced a scholarship scheme which funds Malaysian university staff under the age of 40 to study for a PhD degree on an agreed research programme at an overseas university. Professor Raine says Massey has a major opportunity to participate in this programme. He reports that the delegation identified a number of PhD students in Malaysia.

The Massey international team signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Putra that confirms the intention for research collaboration and staff or student exchanges between these two universities which were both founded as university Agricultural Colleges.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Pushing for Pasifika recruitment

Tevita Funaki – Massey's new Pasifika Student Liaison Advisor – comes from a thoroughly academic Tongan family.

He and his seven siblings all have tertiary qualifications, including medical, engineering and business degrees. He sees no reason why many more Pacificans shouldn't avail themselves of tertiary education and qualifications, despite the pressures on school leavers to start work so they can help with family finances.

Although his parents were not academics in the strictest sense, they valued education highly.

Educational achievement was “embedded in our family”, says Mr Funaki, who was educated in Tonga before moving to Dunedin aged 16. He flatted with his elder brother and sister – both university students – while he attended Year 12 and 13 at Otago Boys High School, before enrolling at the University of Otago University to study commerce.

In his new role since March, he has been out and about visiting high schools, church and community groups talking to Pacifican students and families about the value of university education as the key to better jobs and financial security.

Having Massey's Pasifika Strategy – introduced last year – as a tangible proof of the University's commitment to attracting more Pacificans to its courses as well as developing Pasifika research has been vital, he says. It's helped to overcome commonly-held perceptions amongst the Pacifican community that Massey is “a second-class university for Europeans. They think of it as the agricultural university in Palmerston North.”

Breaking down these myths is a team effort. He works closely with colleagues Surava Elaisa, Pasifika Learning Advisor (Auckland) as well as Professor Sitaleki Finau, Director Pasifika and Sione Tu 'itahi, Pasifika Development Advisor – who are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Pasifika Strategy across all three campuses.

Their plans for boosting Pasifika student numbers include creating community centres of learning – initially in West Auckland and the North Shore, which are priority catchment areas for the Auckland campus.

They want to recruit current Pasifika students for part-time tutoring and mentoring of high school and extra-mural students at church and community-based centres. Open days and festive events targeting the Pasifika community are also on the agenda.

Reassuring parents that pastoral care for their students is readily available is another strand to their campaign, says Mr Funaki.

“It's all about building a relationship with the community,” he says.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Pasifika



Highbury scholar a role-model for others

It was at age 16, on the Highbury Community Centre Holiday Programme, that Mihikore Davis met a man whose positive role modeling helped change her life. Six years later, Ms Davis is a Bachelor of Social Work Graduate, who is now considered a role model to the young people of Highbury.

The man she met was the Chairman of the community centre, Peter Butler, who urged her to push ahead with her studies. Pete and his wife Angeline have been two of the mentors in Ms Davis' life; the first was her mother, Jonella, who instilled in her a passion for Te Reo Māori.

“When I did the Holiday Programme, and saw how Pete worked with the kids, I wanted to be like him. He seemed to have time for everyone, to take a personal interest in who you were and where you were going. If he hadn't pushed me to do my studies, I wouldn't be where I am today.”

Having been inspired, Ms Davis then benefited from the practical support of the Highbury Community Scholarship, first awarded to her when she enrolled at Massey University. The scholarship was set up to help Highbury residents realise and reach their academic and personal potential, to create more positive role models for Highbury and, to provide a pathway into tertiary education.

As a role model, Ms Davis has also been heavily involved in a research project that looked at the needs of Māori youth within the Ngati Raukawa region, which includes the community of Highbury. Mihikore was nominated by the Highbury Whanau Centre to be on the joint venture research project between the University and Te Runanga o Raukawa.

Ms Davis travelled to present the findings of the research titled “Whaia te Hauora o ngā Rangatahi” to the Global Social Work Conference in Adelaide, three years ago.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science; Student profiles





Whirlwind weekend film school ties up Loose Ends

A team of Design students and recent graduates spent a weekend at what may have been the most intense film school on the planet last month.

Teams had just 48 hours to create an entire short film – writing, shooting and editing – or die trying. The films are then screened in cinemas and judged by the audience, with more than \$80,000 of prizes on offer.

“We had a blast,” says producer Emma Riordan, who graduated last year with a Bachelor of Design in digital media. “While studying, we did most of our digital video alone, so it was great to work as a team on this project.

“We couldn’t have done it without everyone on the team putting in a huge effort. We were incredibly happy and proud of what we achieved and can’t wait to do it again next year.”

Their film *Loose End* tells the story of a frustrated superhero who struggles with issues like fashion, fitting in with his peers, and health and safety requirements. He is in therapy trying to sort out these issues.

Photographer Craig Simcox spent the weekend with the team and produced a photo essay published in the *Dominion Post*. “When we needed help, he put his camera down and got stuck in,” Ms Riordan says.

Mr Simcox's wife, Caroll, a graduate from last year, was one of the team as were their sons, Jared, 18, and Geoff, 11.

Other teams members were: Rachel Haas, Robert Jones, Jimmy Hayes, George Connor, Nina Wells, Robert Jones, Andy Bonnington, Siana Butterfield, Alouis Woodhouse, Sascha Astill, Dave McGahan, Veronica Brady. School of Design technical demonstrator Keir Husson assisted with equipment and technical issues.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Music and campus life



Making music for dancing stars

Most of the sounds behind popular television show *Dancing with the Stars* over the past three years have come from New Zealand School of Music staff.

Bass player Nick Tipping, the acting programme leader of Jazz Performance, says providing the music was “a lot of fun”.

“We get to see what goes on behind the scenes and then to be playing live to an audience of close to a million people is very exciting.

“It’s a great reflection on the School of Music that most of the band are faculty members, and are therefore performing regularly at the highest level possible in New Zealand.”

Pictured are NZSM teaching staff before the grand final of *Dancing with the Stars*:

Back row, from left: Neil Maddever, sound; Vaughn Roberts, trumpet; Nick Granville, guitar; Nils Olsen, saxophone and woodwind.

Front row, from left: Nick Tipping, bass; Lance Philip, percussion; and David Bremner, trombone. Other staff who have performed on the show are Rodger Fox, trombone; Yury Gezentsvey, violin; Charmaine Ford, keyboard; and Lance Su’a on guitar.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Music and campus life

Major journalism conference

The University is hosting New Zealand's premier journalism conference, on the Wellington campus in December.

Journalism academics, educators, practitioners, and others will be meeting on December 10–11 for the 2007 Jeanz conference.

Jeanz – Journalism Education Association of NZ, Inc. – is the professional body of journalism educators in New Zealand.

The conference theme is The future for the mainstream: The changing demands on journalists and the challenge for journalism educators. The conference is being run by the Department of Communication and Journalism.

“It's been quite a year for the industry, with major rounds of lay-offs and other cost-cutting measures at various media companies,” Journalism head and Jeanz president Dr Grant Hannis says.

“There are also ongoing concerns about how the mainstream media regard Māori and other ethnic groups.

“We warmly invite all those with an interest in all such matters to attend the conference, both as presenters and delegates.”

All papers will be peer-reviewed and a book of conference proceedings published after the conference.

For more information on the conference, including registering and submitting papers, visit the conference homepage <http://communication.massey.ac.nz/jeanz.html>

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar

Ako Aotearoa Director appointed

Dr Peter Coolbear, currently Deputy CEO of Manukau Institute of Technology, has been appointed founding Director of Ako Aotearoa: National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. He will take up the position at the beginning of July.

Ako Aotearoa is New Zealand's first Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. It is part of a \$20 million Government initiative to boost the quality of teaching in all branches of the post-school education sector.

A consortium of institutions headed by Massey won the contract to establish the centre in 2006. The consortium includes AUT University, the University of Canterbury, Christchurch College of Education, UCOL, and Manukau Institute of Technology. The centre will comprise a national centre in Wellington and regional hubs in Christchurch, Palmerston North and Auckland.

In announcing the appointment, Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, expressed great hopes for the centre under Dr Coolbear's leadership.

“Dr Coolbear brings impressive experience to this new challenge. He has a comprehensive appreciation of the tertiary sector having worked in institutes of technology, in universities and in senior policy and management positions in Wellington. He has a background in tertiary teaching and has the strategic and management skills that will be needed to promote the development of teaching across the whole sector. I am confident that he will make a difference where it counts – in the quality of teaching and learning.”

Dr Coolbear's appointment marks the end of the start-up phase for Ako Aotearoa and the commencement of its core work.

Since 2006 the focus has been on building the organization. Interim Director Professor Tom Prebble has been working with a management group drawn from the consortium partners; Bryan Gould, formerly Vice-Chancellor of Waikato University, was appointed as Chair of the Governance Board; a board has been selected and will be announced shortly along with an Reference Group; a visual identity and website have been launched (www.nctte.ac.nz); staff have been appointed and accommodated in each of the three regional hubs in Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch and a building for the national centre is nearly ready for occupancy in Wellington.

Work is underway on a series of national projects.

- In June and July contact will be made with every tertiary institution in New Zealand to map the state of teaching and learning and to get a better appreciation of the priorities facing the Centre.
- Work is underway to design an online knowledge resource to provide tertiary educators with better access to research and best practice in teaching.
- Ako Aotearoa will assume responsibility for the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.
- The Centre is working on a series of research and development projects as part of the Teaching Matters Forum.
- Plans are underway for a research funding round focused on tertiary teaching and learning.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

He Waka Tangata appointments

Three Massey academics have been appointed to the newly formed He Waka Tangata, a forum set up by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology to find new ways of increasing the role and impact of social research in New Zealand.

The group includes Dr Lesley Patterson, from the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Dr Richard Shaw, of the Politics Programme, and Associate Professor David Johnston, Director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research in the School of Psychology. Other members of the group with Massey connections include Dr Ruth McManus (a Massey PhD graduate now at the University of Canterbury) and Dr Paul Hirinui (a Massey PhD graduate now at The Family Centre, Lower Hutt).

“The group has members from a range of social science disciplines and fields including geography, economics, sociology, psychology, education and environment research. It is intended to build on the MoRST's successful Oxygen group, which is a similar initiative established in 2005 designed to better connect MoRST with young scientists,” says Dr Shaw.

He says the group, which has now met twice, is developing goals and hopes to communicate these to the social science community sometime soon. “The group will stimulate debate on the important contribution of the social sciences to New Zealand society more generally,” says Dr Shaw. “He Waka Tangata is a very exciting project. In addition to providing advice on specific science policy issues, the group is intended to inspire and support emerging social scientists to play a larger role in developing the direction of social science in New Zealand.”

Dr Shaw's personal hope for the group is that it will assist the social sciences enjoy a higher public profile. “The best case scenario is when a social science equivalent of Paul Callaghan does a regular spot on Kim Hill [radio show], a time when social sciences enjoy the same degree of credibility and exposure as fundamental sciences.

“That's a time when the research many of us do finds an audience in the wider community – after all, the social sciences are all about helping people explain and make sense of their world.”

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Explore - HEALTH

Pasifika staff reach out to Northland's Tongan community

Massey's Pasifika staff travelled to Dargaville last week to meet with the Tongan community there in a bid to encourage more Pacific Islanders into tertiary education.

Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau was accompanied by Pasifika Development Adviser Sione Tu'itahi to a meeting attended by more than 20 people.

Professor Finau says they are passionate and determined about lifting education aspirations and achievements of Pacific Islanders, and had three key messages to convey.

“What we want to get across is that Massey operates from three campuses and has the most extensive range of extramural study options of any university in New Zealand, and that these are available to students elsewhere in the Pacific too.”

He says it is also important that people know about Massey's unique Pasifika Strategy, adopted last year with him appointed to oversee its implementation. Goals outlined include fostering academic advancement, professional development, research capability, cultural diversity and collaborative partnerships.

Finally, they want to impress on potential students that Massey offers purely academic courses as well as academic courses that can blend practical, vocational training in areas such as nursing, teaching, social work, aviation – to name a few.

These points all contradict perceptions. Professor Finau says Pacific Islanders often think of Massey as being located in Palmerston North, as being exclusively for Europeans and having a narrow range of purely academic study options.

They targeted Dargaville – known as New Zealand's 'kumara capital' – because about 50 Tongan families have settled in the area over the past 15 years to work on kumara farms and in the freezing works.

One Tongan woman in Dargaville is currently enrolled extramurally in a social work degree, and another man with a degree in agricultural science is considering doing a PhD.

Professor Finau said he was surprised to discover that a number of Tongans working on kumara farms and freezing works had left jobs as civil servants and teachers in Tonga. He spoke to them about extramural study courses that would enable them to seek work related to their skills.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika

'Owls Do Cry' speaks to teens

It's 50 years since Janet Frame's first novel *Owls Do Cry* was published, and 24 years since Auckland-based Massey English lecturer Dr Jenny Lawn first read it.

It was a set text in Dr Lawn's sixth form year of English, and proved for her to be a veritable literary awakening that strongly influenced her academic direction.

Captivated, she re-read the novel repeatedly, initially with fascination and then with a more systematic, analytical focus.

"I was overwhelmed by it, and I think in a lot of ways it speaks to adolescents poignantly because it's about travelling from childhood to adulthood. This is a perilous journey in *Owls Do Cry*."

"There is a sense that all is wrong with the world and the voice of sanity is often marginalised as the voice of madness."

She is certain a new generation of readers – especially teenagers – will find fresh interpretations, meanings and significance in the book, which has just been re-published by Random House to mark the 50th anniversary of its publication by Pegasus Press of Christchurch in 1957.

Owls Do Cry portrays the drab, repressed lives of the Withers family in the fictional South Island town of Waimaru, where the shallowness and spiritual emptiness of suburban life is starkly offset by the poetic voice of Daphne Withers, confined in an asylum and subjected to barbaric electric shock treatment – a parallel with Frame's own experiences.

Dr Lawn devoured all of Frame's work – 11 novels, five collections of stories, two volumes of poetry and a children's book – and has since become one of the country's foremost Frame scholars, with a host of essays published in literary journals and books to her name.

She wrote on the multiple narrative voices Frame deployed in *Owls Do Cry* for the *Journal of New Zealand Literature* in 1990, and in 1993 penned another essay examining psychiatric assumptions in the novel.

In a 2005 essay she compares work by Janet Frame and Canadian literary icon Margaret Atwood. In another book of essays on Janet Frame by international academics out this year, she discusses Frame's 1972 novel *Daughter Buffalo*, set in New York – evidence that reading, understanding and sharing her ideas on Frame's fiction has occupied much of Dr Lawn's academic career.

While there is ample scope for new readings and interpretations of Frame's writing, she agrees with a comment once made by the late playwright Bruce Mason.

"He said *Owls Do Cry* must take root in the imagination and be given time to grow, which I think is a good guideline for reading Janet Frame. You need to live with her writing, dream it. Let the images work on your own consciousness."

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Promoting women as leaders

Three senior Massey academics are among a group of 20 women from eight universities selected to take part in the inaugural New Zealand Women in Leadership programme.

They are: senior lecturer with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Dr Rosemary Stockdale, senior lecturer with the School of Psychology Dr Antonia Lyons, and head of the Institute of Communication and Design, Dr Claire Robinson.

The programme was developed in a partnership of the University's Centre for Women and Leadership, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Dr Judy McGregor, and former Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities) at the University of Auckland, now chief executive of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Dr Di McCarthy.

It is funded by the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust and supported by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Dr Sarah Leberman, from the Centre for Women and Leadership, says the organising committee felt it was important to develop a leadership programme for women in universities, given the small numbers in senior academic positions, as shown in the New Zealand Women's census 2006.

She says it is anticipated that in future years the programme will also be open to senior women in general staff positions.

The first programme will be launched by the Speaker of the House, Margaret Wilson, on Monday 11 June in Wellington and will run over five days.

The primary aim will be to address the under-representation of women in New Zealand universities but the programme will have a wider focus.

For example, in one session, chaired by Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres, three women commissioners and three women politicians will debate why there are so many women commissioners and so few women in parliament.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy will host a dinner for participants at the Wellington campus on the Tuesday night and Dr Sarah Leberman, will facilitate a session to review the programme, to be held on the final day.

The Centre for Women and Leadership has also been involved in organising the University's first leadership development programme for academic women. The programme will run for three days of facilitated learning over a six-month period, from 25 July, following a pilot in January.

It is restricted to 18 participants, each of whom will be assigned a personal coach.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Brian Smith.

Massey jazzman goes north

A stunning surf beach at Taupo Bay in the Far North inspired the title track on tenor sax maestro Brian Smith's latest album *Taupo*. It's the only track on the album recorded at the remotely located Muscle Studios at Taupo Bay.

The rest of the recently released album was recorded at York Studios in Ponsonby with seasoned jazz buddies Billy Christian, Kevin Field, Lance Su'a, Kevin Haines and Kim Paterson. *Taupo* was a recording debut for exceptional young drummer Alain Koetsier, who is working towards his Bachelor of Music at Massey's Auckland campus where Smith teaches jazz.

It was something of an honour for the 20-year-old to be invited to play alongside his teacher, whose 50-year career includes performing at Ronnie Scott's in London, working and touring with the likes of Alan Price, Georgie Fame, Bing Crosby and John Dankworth. He was founder member of the group Nucleus which won the European Band competition in Montreux in 1970, resulting in gigs at the Newport Jazz Festival and tours of Italy, Germany, Holland and the United States. In his time abroad, he's also backed artists like Nancy Wilson, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Donovan and Dusty Springfield.

A highlight of his early career was playing with legendary US-based jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson from 1970 to 1975.

Ferguson died last year, aged 78, and Smith has dedicated *Taupo* to his memory.

Since returning to New Zealand in 1982, he has played and recorded with numerous local jazz artists, and released three albums on Terence O'Neill-Joyce's Ode label. His 1984 album, titled *Southern Excursion*, won New Zealand Jazz album of the year in 1984, and *Moonlight Sax*, in 1990, sold more than 40,000 copies.

Smith says encouraging students to listen to the great artists, such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis, is one of the challenges of teaching jazz.

"It's the foundation of modern jazz – they need to have that knowledge of what's gone before," he says.

The art of listening, and of being able to create a rapport with fellow players which gives birth to the "magic" of improvisation, is a lifelong quest for any jazz artist, he adds.

Mr Smith also plays soprano sax, bass flute and piano on the 10-track album, which includes his own compositions *Kids at Play* (for his five grandsons), *Big Kids at Play* (free improvisation) as well as classics such as *It Ain't Necessarily So*, from the George Gershwin musical *Porgy and Bess*.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Music and campus life

College of Sciences building update

A contract has been let to McMillan and Lockwood of Palmerston North for the construction of a new laboratory building (currently known as Riddet 11) to house several laboratories and their staff for the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Work on the \$6 million project started in the middle of last month and is due for completion in February. To assist with pedestrian movement adjacent to the site it is planned to close part of Riddet Rd to vehicles.

Alternative routes will be provided for car parking in the Science Tower D car park.

Work continues on the new building, Riddet 12, with the roof being installed last month.

This building will house Institute of Technology and Engineering workshops as well as a new presentation laboratory, post-graduate space, an electronics teaching room for the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology and a video conferencing-equipped meeting room for IFNHH.

Tender documentation is being prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz and Rider Hunt for the next phase of the redevelopment of AgHort B, level 1. This will provide convertible teaching rooms, a new entry foyer and a staff common room.

The Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences will have a new 'wet teaching laboratory' shortly, with construction completed last week and equipment installation now under way. It is expected to be in use by the end of the month.

Work has also started on an equine isolation unit, which will allow animals suspected of having contagious conditions to be housed in a contained area separated from the majority of hospitalised animals.

Mainzeal Construction is responsible for both projects, which were designed by Glen Hamilton of Duckett Architecture.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences

From the Wellington speeches

Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Director of Art and Collection Services at Te Papa, gave the address at the first ceremony, to graduates of the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies, the New Zealand School of Music, and the Colleges of Creative Arts, Education, and Sciences.



He told graduates that their qualifications were the gateway to knowledge.

“The doors of knowledge that were opened by your teachers have brought you to this point, the award of a degree or diploma. The qualification is itself a kind of gateway to the wider world of knowledge and experience, a world in which you will operate as the confident, capable, creative and independent thinkers you were trained to be.

“Ultimately those doors open on to life, to the future, and all the joys and sorrows that lie in wait to be experienced. For the educator, those doors open on to learning and knowledge, discipline-specific systems, theories, processes and practices.”

He said of all professions, teaching is the noblest.

“I have always regarded mentorship as a privilege. The joy, the wonder, the magic of teaching is that, as a teacher, you open doors for learners, doors many of them never dreamed existed. For a season the teacher is entrusted with malleable, impressionable and susceptible minds; the teacher is charged with shaping and influencing a future, a life, be that the life of a musician, a composer, a visual artist, a creative thinker, a scientist or a teacher.

“The responsibility is grave but the results can be incredibly rewarding. ‘You changed my life,’ is the greatest compliment a teacher can receive from a student.”

He said Te Papa states as one of its core principles that it is a waharoa, a gateway. As visitors arrive on level two in the museum they encounter this principle in the form of an impressive carved, dark red painted gateway which was the waharoa, or entranceway, to the Māori Pa at the Christchurch International Exhibition of 1906.

“The waharoa stands as a visual metaphor for the worlds of knowledge into which visitors are inducted from this point of encounter at Te Papa. Not just mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), but history and Pacific cultures, natural environment and art. Te Papa also invokes the concept of the waharoa on level four of the museum, framing the stairway that leads to the art collection exhibition, Toi Te Papa Art of the Nation. Our hope is that, for visitors, the waharoa will open on to a world of joy, of wonder, of magic.”

Dr Morgan Williams, former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, gave the address at the second ceremony, to graduates of the Colleges of Business, and Humanities and Social Sciences.



He told graduates to focus on the long and exciting journey of life that lies ahead, and made two predictions.

“The first is that you will never lose the thirst for knowledge.

“The second is that many of you will be back at universities, or other places of learning, seeking out new thinking skills, new knowledge and how to manage things such as complexity and environmental sustainability.”

He described sustainability as the number one language of the 21st century.

“It is the most exciting, challenging and rewarding field to be part of. It will dominate your lives no matter what you do in life.

“In practical terms it's ultimately about how to design business, economic, social, financial, legal systems that enable us to maintain our quality of life within the ecological limits of our planet. The biggest indicator of this need is our changing climates.”

Dr Williams shared a story from Paul Hawken's new book, *Blessed Unrest*. The author asked engineers to design a space ship that could leave Earth and return in 100 years with its crew alive, healthy and happy.

“The teams had to design a sustainable world. They had to create ecosystems that could provide food, medicines, and fibres plus maintain an atmosphere and absorb wastes for a century. They had to design a

society, a culture, lines of authority and all the messy details of creating and maintaining a society.”

The proposal that stood out did not take DVDs and electronic goods for entertainment but instead decided that a significant proportion of the crew should be artists, musicians, actors and storytellers because to survive for a century they needed to create a culture – the stabilising glue of our societies.

The winning team constructed a diverse ecosystem based on robust ecological science principles underpinned by a socially just and equitable society.

“The next few decades are going to see the biggest changes in world climate and habitats for over 600,000 years. You can either see this massive planet-wide change as something beyond your influence, or an opportunity for influence and innovation in every strand of your life. I urge you to take the latter path.

“The pursuit of sustainability, in all its dimensions – and remember many of them are not about the green bits – is the greatest frontier you could possibly explore.”

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington

Capsule breaks new ground in sport science

Researchers are breaking new ground in sports science with the use of tiny ingestible wireless capsule capable of measuring core body temperature. It's believed to be the first time these thermoregulatory sensors have been trialled with sportswomen and certainly a first in New Zealand.

To kick off the study, North Shore-based soccer player Hayley Hoegendyk swallowed the wireless tablet and then took part in a series of soccer performance tests in the Massey Auckland Recreation Centre, where researchers monitored how hot she was getting while undergoing vigorous exercise and how well she was performing.

The trial is the initiative of Massey Sport and Exercise Scientist Dr Ajmol Ali in collaboration with Dr Nick Gant at Auckland University. The wireless devices in tablet form have been trialled by coaches of male soccer players and footballers overseas to monitor body temperature but they have not been used in women's soccer – the world's fastest growing sport.

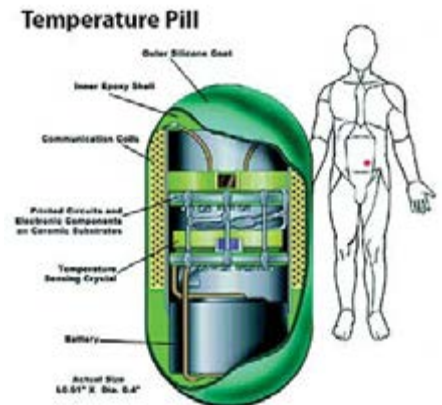
Dr Ali says although their high performing male counterparts are a well researched group, elite female players need separate study because their physiological responses are likely to be different. Overheating can have serious consequences for sports people, he says, and researchers are seeking to work out when soccer players should be pulled off the field because their core body temperature is too high and when they need fluid for re-hydration.

The night before the New Zealand study, Ms Hoegendyk swallowed the tablet before going to bed. The following day, as Ms Hoegendyk went through performance tests in the University's gym Dr Ali and Dr Gant were receiving data direct to their computer from the tablet in her intestine. They say the tablets typically pass through the system within 24 hours.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Sport and recreation



New leadership for Musac

Massey University School Administration by Computer (Musac) has appointed a new managing director and signed a purchase agreement with Nelson-based software company Soft Option, developer of New Zealand's most widely used timetabling software.

Dr Jeremy Dombroski was formerly the Chief Information Officer of HortResearch in Palmerston North. He has experience in the IT sector, including in the United States, and has held significant leadership and management positions including leadership of software teams.

College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says he is confident that Dr Dombroski will provide strong leadership for Musac as it enters a new phase of development, including the Soft Option purchase, and the divestment of the Central and Net Solutions units, including 'Symphony Suite' – a next generation platform for school administration modules.

"The Soft Option 'Timetable Suite' is a great programme that sits naturally with Musac products and strengthens the University's commitment to seeing the company lead the school administration software market," Professor Chapman says.

The completion of the purchase follows two years of discussion between the two companies.

Musac was established in 1988 is based at the College of Education and is the nation's largest school administration software provider, with agents throughout New Zealand.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Engineering kinetic creativity

Engineering students created six kinetic sculptures from \$2 Shop toys, musical instruments and anglepoise lamps in an assignment where engineering meets art. Structural Sculptures is an exhibition of creativity from second year Mechatronics Engineering students on the Wellington campus.

Mechatronics is the combination of precision mechanical engineering, electronic control, computer technology and a systems approach in the design of products and processes.

The engineering workshop was transformed into a gallery space for an exhibition of work that demonstrates mechanical engineering principles, such as centripetal force, conservation of energy, and momentum.

Visitors were invited to view and interact with the sculptures, then decide prizewinners by voting for the sculpture that captured their imagination. They voted Pendulum as their favourite.

Engineering lecturer Dr Paul Smith says, "A broad project brief has given the students freedom to explore their ideas, unconstrained by technical or commercial requirements."

The project has been guided by technology, engineering, and creative arts staff.

Workshop manager for the Institute of Technology and Engineering Peter Battersby said the engineering students displayed a lot of creativity, in an area not normally associated with creativity.

Spring Time demonstrates centrifugal force acting against springs.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show





Highbury graduates, from left: Reupena Tawhai, Teresa Ngaruhe, Mihikore Davis, Daniel Tawhai, Veronica Tawhai and Jonathon Howe.

Highbury graduations celebrated

▶ VIDEO [Watch the Te Kaea News item. \(Part of a 5 minute package\)](#)

Graduates from the Highbury community were acknowledged at a dinner on the Palmerston North campus last night.

This year's graduation marked the second batch of Highbury Scholars to receive their degrees, along with the graduation of three members of one whanau also from the Palmerston North suburb.

The scholarship was established four years ago to assist and encourage young people from the community into tertiary education and fulfill their academic potential and become positive role models and mentors for others achieve similar goals.

The first to graduate under the programme, a partnership between the University, the Highbury Community Centre and the Tertiary Education Commission, was Lisa Kimura (Ngati Raukawa) last year with a Bachelor of Education in primary teaching.

This year's graduates are Mihikore Davis (Tainui, Ngati Raukawa) with a Bachelor of Social Work, Jonathon Howe (Ngati Maniapoto) with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in media studies and english, and Teresa Ngaruhe (Nga Rauru) with a Bachelor of Arts in Maori and psychology.

Joining them at he function were Veronica Tawhai and her brothers Ruepena and Daniel (Ngati Porou), also from the Highbury community, who graduated with a Masters of Education (First Class Honours), a Bachelor of Arts in Maori and History, and a Bachelor of Sports Studies (Education) respectively.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Video Multimedia

Millionaires walk the talk

After 12 weeks of healthy competition, 300 Massey staff have walked more than 263 million steps, with 92 people becoming “step millionaires”.

Each person aimed to walk 10,000 steps per day in the 10,000 Steps @Massey: Hikoi-a-Hauora fitness and research programme.

Each person who walked more than a million steps receives a commemorative pen from sports scientist and triple-Olympic champion Associate Professor Peter Snell.

Wellington staff received their pens yesterday, while Auckland staff collect theirs on 30 May. A prize-giving will take place in Palmerston North on 6 June.

The average step count per person per day was 13,728, equivalent to 90 minutes of walking.

The programme aimed to support staff choosing an active lifestyle. It includes health assessments to gauge the impacts of participation in the programme.

Now that the final steps have been counted, health assessments are taking place and the data will be analysed, says health researcher Professor Chris Cunningham.

“The results from the health assessments will indicate whether this type of workplace-based physical activity initiative can succeed in significantly improving health of employees.”

In 12 weeks staff will be surveyed to see whether walking has become a habit.

Professor Snell urged Massey staff to keep on walking. “You can't age successfully if you don't exercise. Your health and quality of life will benefit.”

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Explore - HEALTH; Sport and recreation



Businesses performing well in North and South America

New Zealand's small to medium businesses operating in North and South America are performing well – and possibly better than comparable Australian businesses in the same market, according to new research.

Dr Henry Chung at the Department of Commerce in Auckland has analysed the marketing programmes and processes of 121 New Zealand firms and 108 Australian firms operating in the two continents.

His survey was sent out to small and medium sized businesses different who were selling a wide range of goods and services from seafood and meat to wine and fruit, to security, education and information technology.

He found the top market for them in the entire region was the United States followed by Canada. Mexico was the next most significant market followed by Chile ahead of all other countries in South America.

Overall, his respondents reported they had about 10% of the market in the host country – a very respectable share, says Dr Chung.

“Our survey tells us that a lot of New Zealand companies operate in niche markets within the United States and Canada where they are doing reasonably well.”

The survey included questions on length of time in the market, annual sales growth, future market potential and knowledge of the market.

Dr Chung is well known for his work on the role that immigrants can play in assisting firms in their new country to do business in their country of origin. His studies on what he calls the ‘immigrant effect’ on successful marketing strategies, focused on companies doing business in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. He found it was mostly smaller companies, trying to penetrate export markets, that recognized the benefits of hiring from the immigrant workforce.

In his study of the American markets he has found immigrants from the United States had been hired by more than eight percent of the Australian companies and 10 percent of the New Zealand firms doing business in various parts of America, regardless of the nature of their business.

“Once again the ‘immigrant’ effect showed up”, he says.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business





Professor Barrie Macdonald, Margaret Harris, Laura Clague, Bradley Swale, Major-General Lou Gardiner and Associate Professor Glyn Harper.

Defence Studies Prizegiving

Chief of Army Major-General Lou Gardiner made his first visit to the Centre for Defence Studies to confer the awards at the inaugural prize giving ceremony on 17 May.

Associate Professor Glyn Harper says the event was important for both the University and the New Zealand Defence Force in recognising the academic achievement of students undertaking the Bachelor of Defence Studies programme.

The first year prize was awarded to Margaret Harris, and the second year prize to Laura Clague. Daniel Swale, who completed the BDefStuds as a fulltime student and graduated earlier this month, took both the third year prize and the award for excellence in the Bachelor of Defence Studies degree.

The awards were presented by General Gardiner and College of Humanities and Social Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Barrie Macdonald.

General Gardiner is a Massey alumni after completing a BBS with a major in human resources in 1996. While on campus he attended a briefing on the work of the Centre for Defence Studies. Other visitors to the centre this month included a party from the Qatar military.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



Oh Dear.

Artist explores gorse possibilities

The artistic possibilities of gorse are explored in a new collection by Wellington artist Regan Gentry.

Mr Gentry, who works as a technician at the School of Fine Arts, spent a year producing a collection of objects made from gorse, including mounted antlers, a trug, saw horses and bathroom accessories.

Of Gorse of Course will show at TheNewDowse in Lower Hutt from 2 June to 23 September, before touring to Wanganui.

While based in Invercargill for four months as the William Hodges artist in residence, Mr Gentry investigated the uses of gorse while depicting the story of its introduction and vigorous acclimatization to New Zealand.

Melding age-old craft practices – from soap making and wine making to marquetry – and contemporary fine art practice, Mr Gentry has produced a sly critique of some of our forbearers' poorer judgements.

Mounted antlers are made entirely from gorse wood in a work named *Oh Dear*. This is surprising for people who are used to seeing this plant as the scraggly and rambling growth with brightly coloured flowers across our hillsides.

Introduced from England in the nineteenth century as an ornamental plant, in the warmer climate of New Zealand gorse has become a noxious and ubiquitous weed. Mr Gentry attempts to explore and extend the potential uses of gorse by making, along with other sculptures, paper, soap, perfume and wine from the plant.



The entire collection has been bought by the Phil Price and Connells Bay Sculpture Trust Project for a five-figure sum.

Mr Gentry's work has been included in group exhibitions *Breathing Space*, The Physics Room, Christchurch, 2005; *Islanded: Contemporary art from New Zealand*, Singapore and Taiwan, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington, 2006; *Super Natural*, The Physics Room, Christchurch, 2006; and *Secret Life of Plants*, City Gallery, Wellington, 2007.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Student profiles; Wellington



Renima Malhotra and Dr Rosemary Stockdale.

Online support for diabetes sufferers

The thousands of New Zealanders with diabetes may soon be able to join an online community to seek information and support from others with the condition.

Online communities dedicated to people with a wide range of conditions are springing up all over the world. Now researchers based in the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences are exploring the need for a virtual community of diabetes sufferers and the elements that would make it successful.

“We want to find out if it would be beneficial to the diabetic community to have an up and running interactive website or not,” says Dr Rosemary Stockdale.

“If there was a virtual space for people with diabetes to come and interact, we want to find out what these people would need from such an online community. To answer the questions that arise in relation to developing a site, we will also be looking at the elements of other sites for people with chronic diseases and what makes them successful, vibrant communities.”

“Often people who have been diagnosed with diabetes do not want to tell their friends or workmates. But they do need information and support in learning to manage their condition. Because chronic diseases are the ones that call for the longest term resources, it would seem that a dedicated site could offer many benefits, including saving costs,” says Dr Stockdale.

She says working out who should be involved in setting up and running such a website is also part of the study.

The initial research to identify a framework for developing the website is being conducted by Renima Malhotra, who is doing a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration majoring in information systems.

The project supervisor, Dr Stockdale, recently established mobile computing group at the Auckland campus. The group is exploring applications for the new generation of mobile phones, including data access.

She says that in the very near future people will access their online communities direct from their mobile phones once it becomes less expensive to do.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

New approach to family violence finds favour

The Waitakere District Court has been taking a more holistic approach to handling family violence cases and working in collaboration with community services for more than a decade.

Although many families have passed through this innovative system, it has not been evaluated until now. A group of researchers from the University's School of Psychology is now studying the successes and challenges facing the court from a variety of perspectives – and finding some positive outcomes from the more therapeutic jurisprudence at work.

In 1992 the court instituted a collaborative response to family violence that involved fast-tracking cases and giving speaking rights to victims advocates.

With the support of a local network known as the Waitakere Anti-Violence Essential Services (Waves), the court had protocols based on therapeutic jurisprudence to deal with cases in consultation with Waves in a manner that addressed the needs of victims, families and offenders.

One benefit of the system has been that issues have been raised and addressed well before cases have become bogged down in process, reports Dr Mandy Morgan, lead researcher of the Massey team.

She says another important outcome of the approach taken by the court reflects the therapeutic rather than punitive approach. "They are coercing offenders into treatment so that families can be healed."

The researchers report that the protocols at Waitakere are successfully achieving goals in line with the Government family violence protection strategy.

"Community victim services have a voice within the courts so that victims' rights to protection are enhanced and the circumstances of their families are taken into account.

"The Court also has procedures to refer offenders to professional and community-based intervention agencies so that they have an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to stopping violence in their families."

The Massey team will now study the experiences victims have had in the court process and to see how effective this system has been in keeping victims safe.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

The Budget: no bonanza for small business

New Zealand's 400000 small business enterprises were given a clear, overall message in Dr Michael Cullen's 2007 Budget, says Professor Claire Massey.

That message is: invest more, be more innovative and raise productivity. Professor Massey says it is well known that these are particular issues for smaller businesses. "However the budget itself was underwhelming in its response to this important sector and now it may achieve these goals."

Professor Massey, who is director of the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research, says small business was virtually ignored in the Budget - apart from a note that a discussion document on the impact of tax on small business is to be released.

"This is in sharp contrast to the recent Australian budget which had specific measures for small business on a range of measures to build better business practices, reduce tax compliance costs and address skills shortages."

Professor Massey has praise for wider measure announced by Dr Cullen: "Lowering the tax rate is sensible - it is consistent with Australia and will be welcomed by the approximately 200000 enterprises that are incorporated as companies in this country."

"Giving tax credits for research and development also sends an important message, and additional expenditure in the Market Development Assistance Scheme is consistent with strong concerns about the level of exported goods."

"However, the Budget contained nothing that communicates a message about the significance of small firms to building a vibrant economy."

The director of the Centre for Banking Studies Dr David Tripe says the major impact of the Budget on the banking sector is through the reduction in the company tax rate.

"For the four major Australian-owned banks, this should be worth at least \$100 million a year in profit, although some portion of this is likely to find its way back to consumers through reduction in interest rates on loans and increases in interest rates on deposits."

Dr Tripe says the banks may suffer another negative impact through employer Kiwisaver contributions. "But these would be difficult to quantify at this stage, as it will depend on matters such as the extent of current employee membership of superannuation schemes."

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

May Council report

The May meeting of the University Council was preceded by a report on the College of Education by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman and, for the first time, a presentation by the Council representatives of the combined students' associations – Paul Falloon, Liz Hawes and Veronica Tawhai.

The Council meeting coincided with the release of the 2007 Performance-Based Research Fund results and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear provided Council with updates throughout the meeting of how the University had performed. In particular she noted the 45 per cent increase in the University's overall quality score, from 2.11 in 2003 to 3.05, and also the improved performance of individual departments and units. She recognised the achievements of academic leaders and individual staff in achieving the significant increase in the number of A, B and C-ranked staff and the contribution staff had made to increasing the number of subject areas where the University was ranked in the top three nationally, from seven in 2003 to 13 in 2006.

In her written report to Council, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the success of the University in securing external funding bids recently, including \$3.75 million over three years in partnership with the Family Centre for a longitudinal study of aging, and a \$2.64 million grant from the Foundation for Research Science and Technology for study into the Integration of Immigrants. She noted two accreditation achievements: a visit by the American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee and the approval of the Bachelor of Nursing programme for re-accreditation for five years by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

Professor Kinnear also brought to Council's attention the achievements of staff over recent weeks, that of students, and noted those staff who had received Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards for 2007. As part of her report on significant international relationship building opportunities, the Vice-Chancellor noted that she would be travelling to China in late May for a number of education-related events and visits.

In this report to the Council, the Director – Finance Operations Trevor Sew Hoy reported that the University had recorded a loss of \$1.9 million for the three months to 31 March 2007, similar to the \$1.8 million loss recorded at the same time in 2006.

Date: 24/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; University Council



Young entrepreneurs Jessie Brooker, Sok Lach, Anthony Burkin and James Stewart, from Freyberg High School, introduce Doheny to their prize-winning first aid kit for dogs.

First aid kit for pets wins school business award

A first aid kit for dogs and a celebrity cookbook took the honours at a school business plan competition, finals of which were held at the Sport and Rugby Institute on the Palmerston North campus on Thursday.

The Youth Enterprise Scheme competition requires teams from secondary schools to prepare and implement a business plan for an innovative product or service.

A team from Freyberg High School called "Petaid" won the best written presentation, while "De'vine Enterprise" from Palmerston North Girls' High School won the award for best oral presentation.

Petaid submitted a business plan for a comprehensive first aid kit for dogs, called Pet Vet, developed with help from Dr Frazer Allan from the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and ProVet, a veterinary goods supplier. The students, James Stewart, Jessie Brooker, Jason Geange, Sok Lach and Anthony Burkin, received cash prizes from ASB Bank and InSpire.net.

De'vine Enterprise's business idea was a celebrity cookbook that included healthy recipes from New Zealand's "favourite people". The company's board of directors, Jess Nelson, Kelsey Pilbrow, Aleisha Beck, Casey Foster and Kirstie Stewart, received \$1000 of radio advertising from Radioworks.

The YES scheme involves Year 12 and 13 students in an experiential business programme during which they set up their own company and run it throughout the year, creating products/services, implementing marketing plans, earning money, paying tax and keeping profits.

The University's College of Business is a supporter of scheme, which is run by Vision Manawatu, working with the Enterprise New Zealand Trust. The College provided judges Barrie Humphries, Dr Colin Higgins and Lindsay Hawkes for the written business plans as well as event facilities and teacher training.

Date: 25/05/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; School of Veterinary Science

Maori health specialist shows no signs of quitting after earning PhD at 74



One of the first graduates of Massey's Master of Nursing programme 24 years ago will be back on the stage again on Tuesday receiving a Doctorate of Philosophy in Maori studies.

Janice Wenn, 74, spent much of the past five years researching the views of kaumatua in Taranaki and the East Coast of the North Island to define the concept of Kaupapa Hauora Maori - the optimal health and wellbeing for Maori.

Mrs Wenn (Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa), whose hapu are Ngai Moe and Ngati Hinewaka, interviewed people from the eight iwi of Taranaki and Ngati Kahungunu from Mahia in the North to Matakitaki in the South Wairarapa to produce a framework that can be used in the design and quality assessment of health services. The practical benefit will be the ability for health providers to better address priorities for improving Maori health.

Her supervisors were Professor Chris Cunningham, Director of Te Pumanawa Hauora, Massey's research centre for Maori health and development, and constitutional lawyer Moana Jackson.

Mrs Wenn has an extensive background in the health sector. At the time of graduation with her Master of Nursing from Massey in 1983 she was the Chief Nursing Officer of the Taranaki Hospital Board (later area health board). She then worked for Midcentral Health in Palmerston North from 1990 - 95 as assistant general manager for community health.

She moved to Masterton in 1995 to head the Maori studies unit at the community polytechnic and was head of faculty for Maori studies, Art and Social Services. Two years later she established a Maori provider in community health, Whaiora Whanui, for which she is currently a trustee. She also spent seven years as a board member of the Wairarapa District Health Board. Throw in a bit of consultancy work and in 2002 she started on her PhD, remaining at home in Masterton but visiting the Wellington campus when necessary.

Despite all that, she has no thoughts of taking it easy. 'I'm not retiring; I'd die if I retired. I'm doing some post-doctoral research with a small grant from the Health Research Council and I'm also working with Maori health providers in the Wairarapa and in Taranaki.'

Large numbers of whanau and supporters of Mrs Wenn (nee Workman) plan to be in Wellington for her graduation. She will welcome them to a ceremony to honour Maori graduates at 2.30pm on Monday, then will graduate at the afternoon ceremony at 2.30pm the next day at the Michael Fowler Centre.

She is one of four PhDs among the 600 graduates at this year's Wellington campus graduation ceremonies.

Date: 28/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Maori

New research more bad news for Labour

Labour has good reason to be worried about the latest opinion poll results showing a sharp shift towards National, and should not be writing them off to John Key's honeymoon period, says political marketing specialist Dr Claire Robinson.

In new research she has found a correlation between the time of a voting decision and a party vote for National.

"The earlier people make up their minds about who they are going to vote for, the better news it is for National."

These polls are not an absolute predictor that people have made their voting decision already. However, they do show that a significant number of people have thought about changing their vote recently.

This is significant because voters don't tend to change their minds much between campaigns, says Dr Robinson.

"Once they have put the effort into the change, they are unlikely to think too much about the decision again until the election campaign."

So we are likely to see a continuation of these poll results all the way through to next year.

The latest poll results are also bad news for the minor parties. Dr Robinson has also found that the more people make their voting decision before the election campaign the less likely they are to vote for a minor party.

Date: 28/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Election/Politics; Government Policy commentators



Picture perfect: Bachelor of Design (photography) graduates celebrate at Wellington's Civic Square. Pictured are Amber Griffin, Charlotte Clemence, Josie Tabitha Wilton, Anastasia Blades, and Jess Silk.

Golden graduates celebrate

Six hundred newly-capped graduates were told they were the gold of the city today.

Wellington Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw said students undoubtedly had a positive economic impact on the city, but more importantly they give a city liveliness.

You just can't imagine Wellington without students, he said as he addressed the new graduates at Civic Square.

This part of town is going to get more lively, as we are going to build a music school right here. It will transform Civic Square.

Yesterday the Minister for Tertiary Education, the Hon Dr Michael Cullen, announced \$11 million Government funding towards a new New Zealand School of Music building to be built on Civic Square. The NZSM is a centre of musical excellence established by Massey and Victoria universities.

The first NZSM graduates joined Massey graduates at the Michael Fowler Centre today.

Speakers at this year's ceremonies were Director of Art and Visual Culture at Te Papa, Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, and former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Morgan Williams.

Students, families and friends attended the two ceremonies at the Michael Fowler Centre. The first ceremony included graduates from the New Zealand School of Music, the College of Creative Arts, the College of Education, the College of Sciences, and the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies.

Graduates of the College of Business, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences were awarded their qualifications at the second ceremony.

An event to honour Māori graduates took place on 28 May at the Museum Building.

Date: 29/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Wellington)



Dr Michael Cullen and Professor Elizabeth Hudson

Cullen praises music school partnership, pledges \$11m to purpose-built HQ in central Wellington

Tertiary Education Minister Michael Cullen has hailed the New Zealand School of Music partnership between Massey and Victoria Universities as an example of an outcome the Government wanted from its education reforms.

Announcing the Cabinet's agreement to contribute \$11.15 million to the school's plan for a \$40 million purpose-built home in Wellington's Civic Square on Monday, Dr Cullen said partnerships help build critical mass in teaching and research.

"They help to develop capability and they help to cut duplication.

"The partnership between Massey and Victoria to create the New Zealand School of Music fit those aims neatly."

Established as centre of musical excellence in 2005, the school has been formally operational since January last year.

It has about 300 students – a number Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Andrea McIlroy predicted would increase with a central city base.

Dr Cullen's announcement was made at a Beehive function to mark the school's first graduates.

The building plan has support of local MPs from all parties and backing from the Wellington City Council, which will provide the \$5 million former Circa Theatre site.

Private donors have also pledged assistance.

Victoria Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh said the a purpose-built home would enable the school to achieve the full benefit envisaged by the partnership.

Professor McIlroy said the central city site was perfect. "Civic Square, so close to the Wellington Town Hall, the Michael Fowler Centre and other performance venues, opens the doors for enhanced collaboration with organisations, such as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

"Its location will also bring more students into the inner-city and enliven the vicinity socially and economically."

School Director Professor Elizabeth Hudson said the Government's backing meant that fundraising efforts could now begin in earnest.

"To achieve the ambition of the school, it has quickly become clear a new building is not window-dressing, but an absolute necessity. A single space within which to operate will not only mitigate the challenges of working across two universities, but will realise our vision for collaboration. Through student presence and through staff and student performances, we can contribute to the cultural and economic development of Wellington."

Dr Cullen told this year's graduates they were following earlier graduates with inspiring stories. Examples included Madeleine Pierard, who won the 2005 Lexus Song Quest, and the jazz students from the Conservatorium of Music who formed Trinity Roots in 1998.

“New Zealanders want us to be a creative nation; one that celebrates those who express what's special about us through their creativity. New Zealanders want to take pride in who we are. That is what national identity is all about. It's why this government made national identity one of our core themes, along with families young and old, and economic transformation.

“Our creativity is expressed through many forms, and the talent of our music graduates provides many shining examples.

“I am sure the future for the school in new accommodation will help to foster more of our talent. Those who study in the new facility will follow the pathway trod today by the graduates we are celebrating here tonight.

“So I wish you every success in bringing together your new facility. I wish the school all the best for the future. And I wish graduates every success in their creative endeavours.”

Date: 29/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Funding; Wellington



Wellington celebrates new graduates

The first graduates of the New Zealand School of Music will join Massey graduates at the Michael Fowler Centre today (Tuesday 29 May).

Since January 2005 Massey University and Victoria University have been operating the joint New Zealand School of Music, a centre of musical excellence.

Students, families and friends will attend the two ceremonies at the Michael Fowler Centre. The first ceremony will include graduates from the New Zealand School of Music, the College of Creative Arts, the College of Education, the College of Sciences, and the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies, starting at 9.30am.

In keeping with tradition, the 600 newly-capped graduates and University staff will process from Parliament to Civic Square at 1pm, where Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw will greet them.

Graduates of the College of Business, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences will be awarded their qualifications at the second ceremony, at 2:30pm. Speakers at this year's ceremonies are Director of Art and Visual Culture at Te Papa, Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, and former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Morgan Williams.

An event to honour Māori graduates will take place on 28 May at 2.30pm at Te Kuratini Marae on campus.

Date: 29/05/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington

Former NY Times staffer to teach global journalism



Alison McCulloch, a member of *The Denver Post* team that won a Pulitzer Prize in journalism for its coverage of the Columbine killings, is to teach a global journalism paper at the Wellington campus next semester.

The paper goes beyond journalism produced in the United States, Britain and locally. It looks at how journalists in Russia and the Middle East perceive and report the news.

For the past five years Dr McCulloch was a staff editor on *The New York Times*' foreign desk and *Sunday Book Review*. She also worked on the news desk at the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris.

She says globalisation makes it increasingly important for people to understand the way international events are reported. I'll talk about why there are different media approaches political and philosophical and the social underpinning of those.

A graduate of the Massey journalism programme in 1982, she worked at Radio New Zealand, *The Dominion* and *The New Zealand Herald* before moving to the United States in 1993. Her PhD in Philosophy was completed at the University of Colorado.

She was a copy editor at *The Denver Post* in 1999 when two students murdered 13 people, wounded more than 20, and killed themselves at Columbine High School. For its powerful coverage of the tragedy, the *Post*'s team of reporters and editors won the Pulitzer Prize, one of journalism's highest accolades.

Date: 31/05/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Mobile computing centre launched

The University has officially launched its Centre for Mobile Computing in Auckland this month. This formalises the initiatives of researchers in the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at the Auckland campus who have taken the lead in building New Zealand's capability in mobile computing.

The establishment of the mobile computing centre is in line with the third wave of computing and signals the ubiquitous computing that is following on from the era of networked personal computing. The days where people will want access to computing on the move, and use their mobile phones as a computing tool, are already upon us, say the Massey researchers.

Mobile computing research at the campus dates back to 2004 and the initiation of the m-classroom project for professional mobile learning using a range of data-enabled and location-aware devices. Research interests have expanded to include mobile business involving mobile supply chain applications and customer relationship management. Research into applications of mobile computing in the health arena are focused on aspects of chronic disease management including information, disease monitoring and treatment and support for carers.

The director of the Centre for Mobile Computing, Professor Tony Norris, says the official launch demonstrates a commitment by Massey University to taking a significant role in research in this field.

Chief executive of Tuanz, Ernie Newman was guest speaker at the launch and said the establishment of the centre was a powerful and timely signal from the University.

"We in New Zealand need to accelerate the transformation of our ICT sector from being largely a sales outpost for the giant ICT multi-nationals, into a part of the economy that contributes new thinking and development in this space on a large scale, utilizing kiwi innovation. This in turn will enhance community and business awareness of the technology from an end user perspective, and thus strengthen uptake right across our economy."

Mr Newman applauded the Massey research team for their focus in business, health and education.

"I see enormous potential in each of these three fields to contribute solutions to some of the great social challenges of our times."

Date: 31/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences



Pictured from left, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland) Professor John Raine, National Party leader John Key, business student Bianca Symes, who was one of the organisers of Mr Key's visit, and College of Business Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Larry Rose.

Business students host National Party leader

National Party leader John Key says New Zealand's "brain drain" is the world's worst and he told students at Massey's Auckland campus yesterday that half of them would probably be living and working overseas within the next decade.

Mr Key spoke to a lunchtime audience of students and staff at the invitation of the student group at the College of Business.

"The brain drain worries the hell out of me," he said. "I have no doubt we can kiss goodbye to at least half of you in the next five to 10 years."

The National leader extolled the benefits of education for both the individual student and the future of the country, and answered questions from the students.

Date: 31/05/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business

Professor of Animal Welfare Science and Emeritus Professor of Education take Queen's Birthday honours

Two senior academics have been awarded Queen's Birthday honours for their services to education. Professor David Mellor is named as an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) and Emeritus Professor John Codd becomes a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

[Click her for a list of all the Massey people in this years' honours list. \(PDF\)](#)

Professor David Mellor

Professor David Mellor is co-director of the University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre, and a Distinguished Scientist at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. One of five principals of the Riddet Centre, he is also Professor of Applied Physiology and Bio-ethics and Professor of Animal Welfare Science. Professor Mellor is a consultant to the New Zealand Department of Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and forestry, National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee and National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Overseas consulting includes work for the Australian Federal and State animal welfare agencies, the Canadian Council of Animal care, the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture and the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE).



Professor Mellor graduated with a BSc from the University of New England in Australia in 1966 and spent 22 years in Scotland, completing a PhD at the University of Edinburgh in 1969 before working as head of physiology at the Moredun Research Institute. In 1988 he made the move to Massey, as Professor and head of department of Physiology and Anatomy, a role he held until 1997.

“The opportunities for wide practical application of my sciences, in particular physiology and animal welfare science, and exploration of related ideas at the science-bioethics interface, which have arisen in New Zealand have been well beyond any I could have imagined on arrival – it has been a wonderful 19 years.

“Throughout my career I have had the great good fortune to have worked with many talented and committed people whose engagement with science and the wider perspectives on science that the humanities offer, especially ethics, has equaled my own. The active, invigorating, intellectually challenging, productive and good-humoured input into the very wide range of projects we have undertaken together has been most enjoyable.”

Professor Mellor said he is delighted to have received the honour, and is deeply touched that he had been nominated. He takes further reward from watching many former undergraduate and postgraduate students grow into their chosen careers.

“To play some part in that process and help them make the most of their talents has been most rewarding. Regular reports of their successes and satisfaction with the paths their lives have taken has reinforced that pleasure.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor for the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson says that Professor Mellor's honour is richly deserved. “He has worked tirelessly for the advancement of the understanding of animal welfare and related issues and has managed to generate a worldwide reputation for his efforts.”

The official citation for Professor Mellor's honour notes that he is an active teacher, researcher and consultant on animal welfare, and is internationally recognized for his contribution to the humane, ethical and responsible care of experimental animals. He received the New Zealand Science and Technology Silver medal in 1999 and was made an Honourary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2005. He received the Massey University medal for research Excellence and the Riddet Centre Team medal in 2005. In 2003 Professor Mellor was elected an associate of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Animal Welfare Chapter.

Emeritus Professor John Codd

Emeritus Professor John Codd has been named a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to education. He has been involved with a wide range of educational activities, including as a school teacher, educational psychologist, and academic for over 30 years.



Professor Codd has researched and written extensively in his fields of interest, focusing on educational policy analysis and was active in assisting the merger between the Palmerston North Teacher's College and Massey University where he served as a staff member from 1974 – 2006. He also served as an academic representative on the University Council.

Massey University Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says the honour for Professor Codd is extremely well-deserved. "He is one of New Zealand's foremost scholars in the field of educational policy analysis and has made significant contributions to education in general, and particularly at a university level."

Professor Codd has had more than 70 articles and book chapters published in national and international journals. He wrote *Knowledge and Control in the Evaluation of Educational Organisations, Philosophy; Common Sense, and Action in Education Administration*. He was a member of the New Zealand Association for Research in Education and the Philosophy of Education Society of Australia.

At graduation ceremonies in 2006, Professor Codd gave an address to graduates in Palmerston North. Citing a Massey University research report released by the Education Ministry and Teachers' Council that found teachers felt overworked, undervalued, underpaid and insufficiently supported, he told graduates that as professionals they had to trust in each other and cooperate to regain the respect of the wider community.

The same report had found that many teachers had low opinions of the ability and performance of their colleagues. Professor Codd said it was urgent that society found ways to value education professionals more highly and that as teachers themselves, there were ways they could help achieve this.

"Collective action is more effective than isolated individual effort," he said. "Professional educators must have the confidence and trust in themselves to make those judgements and to be prepared to justify them to those who are so affected."

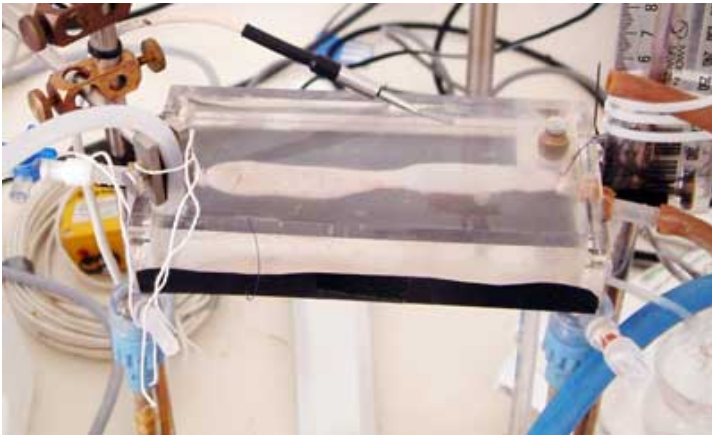
The veteran education specialist described those entering into teaching as having taken on a task "essential to human survival itself".

Professor Chapman says that Professor Codd has a strong international reputation for his research in a range of countries. "He has taken the university role of critic and conscience of society very seriously. His critiques have always been very soundly based on careful reasoning and scholarship. Colleagues in the College of Education will be proud of this important recognition."

Date: 01/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education; College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



For the first time ever, University researchers have been able to use live intestine to get a better understanding of how food is mixed during digestion.

World-first living intestine study points to new generation of food and medicines

▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE NEWS item: [dialup 56k](#) or [broadband 128k](#)

Massey scientists have discovered a weak link in human digestion that could revolutionise healthy eating and medical treatment for the chronically-ill.

The University's Digesta group, a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, have for the first time been able to analyse the work of the small intestine, the principal organ of digestion and absorption. Associate Professor Roger Lentle says that until now, the only way to understand what was going on was by mathematical simulation. His team of scientists is the first in the world to measure the extent of mixing in a section of living intestine that is kept alive in a tank that simulated normal conditions in the body. Intestine from a possum, a mammal with an intestine that was large enough to measure the mixing was used. The team used a complex system of coloured pulses of material to measure the level of mixing along with video imaging and computer software and frame-by-frame analysis to measure movements of the intestinal wall. Unlike the mathematically produced results, which indicated that mixing was poor, the small intestine was found to produce quite good levels of mixing. This was partly due to a jerky motion of the muscles in the intestinal wall that help to create a turbulent environment, and to the coiling of the small intestine inside the belly.

A key finding that is important for the design of foods is that any increase in the thickness of food within the small intestine significantly impaired mixing.

“This indicates that foods which are designed to thicken when they enter the small intestine will not mix and digest well and thus will be slower to release their load of glucose or fats,” Dr Lentle says. “An example of a potential future application is a new drink which you may have in the morning with your bacon and eggs, which thickens when it reaches the intestine and stops or slows absorption of the fats. Drinks could also be developed to impair the absorption of glucose and cholesterol.

The findings also bode well for sufferers of intestinal diseases including Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis. Some drugs used for treating these conditions need to stay within the small intestine, Dr Lentle says, so a drink could be formulated to take with the medicine to ensure the drug is not prematurely absorbed.

“So the medicines end up in the place where they can do most good,” Dr Lentle says. “A further use is in getting probiotics [dietary supplements containing potentially beneficial bacteria] to the lower bowel, which is where they can do the most good, by preventing them from being killed on their way through the small intestine by mixing with bile salts”

As well as commercial applications, the research has shown for the first time that the physical form of food has the potential to slow digestion and improve glycaemic index, by influencing mixing in the small intestine rather than by simply delaying the emptying of the stomach as had previously been thought

The work was made possible when the team, based at the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, developed a new electronic spatiotemporal mapping technique that enabled them to simultaneously measure lengthwise and widthwise changes in the living intestine. Five pictures of the gut per second were

captured on video and electronically processed to generate movement maps of the intestine. The findings are currently being published in the prestigious Journal of Physiology.

Date: 01/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; School of Veterinary Science; Video Multimedia



Architect's drawings show the proposed School of Music building, second from left, at Wellington's Civic Square.

MPs unite for School of Music

Wellington MPs are setting aside political differences to lobby the Government to give the New Zealand School of Music a new home in Wellington's Civic Square, at a cost of up to \$50 million.

MPs Chris Finlayson (National), Marian Hobbs (Labour), and Heather Roy (ACT) are working with the Wellington City Council to lobby the Government.

The New Zealand School of Music is teaching at Victoria University's Kelburn site and Massey's Conservatorium of Music as a new home is sought. The two universities have the backing of the council to build the School's home on the former Circa theatre site in Civic Square, and a fundraising campaign for the building is underway.

The centrepiece of the project is a new building, which would cater for 600 students and 50 staff. It would include an auditorium seating up to 800 people.

Locating the School on one central site would have many benefits, says Professor Elizabeth Hudson, Director of the School.

"The Civic Square site offers the best location for the School because of its close proximity to performers and other performance venues. It is conveniently located between the main campuses of both universities, and will foster the School's contribution to the growing cultural precinct centred on the waterfront."

The council is helping the school with fundraising and project support. It would lease the site, valued at \$5 million, at a peppercorn rate, as its contribution.

"Political sponsorship and support is important, Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw told the *Dominion Post*.

"We need the thick end of \$40 50 million to build and we are waiting for a response for support from the Government and the Tertiary Education Commission," he says.

The school, assisted by the council, formally approached Finance Minister Michael Cullen and Culture and Heritage Minister Helen Clark in 2005 to garner support.

The money, along with \$10 million from the private sector, will be used to cover the capital cost of building the new school.

Date: 03/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Music and campus life; Wellington



Professor Harjinder Singh (far left) and Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan (far right), with staff from the Riddet Centre.

Riddet Centre to share Government's \$200m funding for research excellence

Massey now hosts two of the seven national Centres for Research Excellence, its Riddet Centre the only new addition to share in the \$200 million special Government research funding announced last week.

The Riddet Centre, a collaboration in fundamental sciences research with two other universities and two crown research institutes, joins the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, which has had CoRE funding since 2002.

Together they will receive just over \$38 million in operating funding over the next six years and more than \$3 million in capital funding.

Riddet Centre co-director Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan says the work of the centre has been recognised internationally for several years as at the forefront of food industry research, resulting in more than \$20 million of external funding. He predicted the new backing would make it the undisputed world leader.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says she is delighted that the AWC, has retained its status and that the Riddet Centre has been selected as a new CoRE.

“The Riddet Centre has been remarkably successful to date, and the CoRE funding is going to allow it to place even more emphasis on the fundamental science that is so important to the food industry. The research produced at the Riddet Centre ultimately leads to applications for the food industry. That’s critically important for New Zealand given the importance of the food industry to the national economy. The Riddet Centre will join a select group of outstanding research institutions focusing on the food industry worldwide.”

Professor Kinnear says our successful applications to receive CoRE funding is a reflection of Massey’s contribution to the fundamental sciences.

“This is really an acknowledgement of what Massey does very well – sciences that relate to the land-based industries. The CoRE concept has been really creative and it’s great to see the Government continuing its commitment to funding CoREs. Through them we have established a critical mass with collaboration between researchers from a number of different institutions.

“The Allan Wilson centre has been doing outstanding fundamental research in the area of evolutionary biology that has given insights into the prehistoric fauna in New Zealand and I’m delighted that this group has assurance of funding to continue its cutting-edge work involving DNA sequencing.”

The first seven CoREs were established by the Government in 2002-03 to encourage development of research by providing incentives for researchers to contribute to New Zealand’s future development, conduct world-class research and work inter-institutionally. Massey hosts the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution and is partnered in this CoRE by Auckland, Otago, Canterbury and Victoria Universities, bringing together ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who are working to unlock the secrets of plants

animals and microbes. The University is also a partner in two other CoREs, the National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies and the National Centre for Growth and Development.

The Riddet Centre was formed in 2003, initially to bring together talent from Massey, Auckland, and Otago universities. The partnership is now extended and includes AgResearch and Crop and Food Research.

Located at the Palmerston North campus, it is led by Professor Moughan and Fonterra chair in dairy science Professor Harjinder Singh, both Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Professor Singh is overseas, but Professor Moughan says he and the team are thrilled by the CoRE announcement.

“The work we have been doing is world class. This level of support will take us to the top of that class. This CoRE funding will allow us to build on the real momentum we have established over the past four years and keep us at the forefront of world research.”

Professor Moughan says the partnership with the universities of Auckland and Otago, and with AgResearch and Crop and Food, means there is already a seamless pathway to provide innovation to the food industry.

“This is a real boost for the fundamental sciences underpinning more targeted applied research.

“We are here to innovate the innovators, to undertake the fundamental research and develop completely new ideas. This is going to greatly bolster our work in the fundamental science.

“The work we do is about understanding food at a nanoscience level, and this funding means we may be able to recruit additional staff, some likely to be international, in pursuit of that goal. That is good news both for the University and the wider New Zealand community.”

Professor Kinnear congratulated Professors Moughan and Singh for “visionary leadership” of the Riddet Centre.

“This has moved it from a centre of research excellence within Massey to a national Centre of Research Excellence. Our success to date reflects not only the commitment of Massey researchers but also of our collaborating partners and institutions, without whom this success would not have been possible.”

Executive director Professor Mike Hendy says the Allan Wilson Centre is delighted to be included as one of the current six CoREs to be funded for an additional six years and be identified as a centre of world class research and researchers.

The increased funding will enable the centre to support additional high potential emerging researchers.

The centre's research programme continues to be focused on interpreting the ecological and evolutionary information in molecular sequence data of particular relevance to the biology and peoples of New Zealand and the Pacific.

[Visit the Riddet Centre website](#)

Date: 05/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Funding

Calling Kiwis around the world

Researcher launches online survey of New Zealanders living overseas

New Zealanders living overseas are being asked to take part in a wide-ranging survey of why they left and why they stay away.

Kaye Thorn, a lecturer in the Department of Management and International Business at the University's Auckland campus is hoping New Zealanders both at home and overseas abroad will help enlist participants for her survey.

With an estimated 24 percent of New Zealand-born people now living in an OECD country other than their own, she says we now have one of the highest levels in the OECD of exodus from the homeland.

Ms Thorn's research, will pose a wide range of questions to Kiwis abroad who participate. She says the study results may help efforts to stem the so-called "brain drain".

"Most research focuses on just one key reason for mobility – economic motives. This is a simplistic view. The reality is that factors influencing a decision to live and work in another place are multi-faceted and complex. The factors involved are career, economics, cultural and travel opportunities, the political environment, quality of life and relationships.

"This research seeks to discover the relative importance of the factors that influence the self-initiated mobility of highly educated New Zealanders across national boundaries."

She says she would expect the mix of factors that influence this group to move away will be different for different people at different stages of their lives.

"I would expect a single 40 year old male is going to have different considerations than a woman of the same age with children and a partner, for example."

"But we need to understand the relative importance of the factors influencing a decision to be mobile. Until we understand this, we have little opportunity to either retain or entice back our skilled talent."

She is seeking at least 1000 participants and is asking New Zealanders to forward the link to the online survey to kiwis abroad. <https://www.massey.ac.nz/~kthorn>

Date: 06/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Wheel Blacks in action, from left: Tim Johnson (Auckland), Steve Hannan (Canterbury), Dave Klinkhammer (Waikato), Jeremy Tinker (Canterbury) and Sholto Taylor (Hawke's Bay).

Crash, bash, it's the Wheel Blacks

As the Recreation Centre basketball courts echoed with the crashing of reinforced wheelchairs and the occasional hiss of punctured tyres, it could only mean one thing: The Wheel Blacks were on campus.

New Zealand's wheelchair rugby team training squad is based at the University's Sport and Rugby Institute in Palmerston North this week at the start of their preparation for next year's Paralympics in Beijing.

Manager Barry Hislop says it is the foundation camp for the build-up to next year.

We setting the team plan and team culture for the next phase of our journey.

Extensive fitness trials and numerous practice games will help establish a squad.

Wheelchair rugby evolved out of a game called murder-ball, played on a basketball court with a volleyball.

It is the first time the team has used the institute and Mr Hislop is enthusiastic about the quality the facilities and their accessibility for disabled athletes.

I've come here to conferences in the past and it's a good New Zealand sports culture.

The nearby Recreation Centre provided the required hard surface for the fast-paced game. This is one of the highest performing teams in the country, Mr Hislop says. They are Oceania champions and won gold at Athens in 2004.

Squad members are from Manawatu, Auckland, Canterbury, Waikato and Hawke's Bay. With the team are four trainers from the NZ Academy of Sport.

Date: 06/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Professor David Mellor and Professor Kevin Stafford

Centre gets worldwide remit for animal welfare

The University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre has been named a collaborating centre of the OIE, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and will provide expert scientific, bioethical and educational advice for the OIE and its 169 member countries. The centre is the first in New Zealand to be acknowledged as a collaborating centre, and the only collaborating partner with a sole focus on animal welfare.

Co-director Professor David Mellor says the Centre has a foundation of at least fifty years of scientific, veterinary and practical research. Professor Kevin Stafford, the Centre's other co-director, says it is now in a powerful position to influence animal welfare around the world. There is increased likelihood of the University attracting research contracts and further strengthening links to other animal welfare organisations and centres. The Centre also works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which supported the OIE recognition, and has taken a major role in development of New Zealand's animal welfare infrastructure.

A "virtual" centre, it operates across the University's Institute for Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences and Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Current projects include developing practical solutions to welfare problems, evaluating husbandry practices, developing efficient and acceptable methods of pest control, preparing livestock industry and other animal welfare codes, devising and validating parameters for stress assessment, teaching animal welfare sciences, applied animal behaviour and ethics, and analysing ethical dimensions of welfare problems and technological developments.

Consultation on the need for an animal health body took place from the late 19th century, and, after a serious outbreak of animal disease in Belgium in 1920, the OIE was formed in Paris in 1924. It is involved in veterinary public health issues including zoonoses (diseases transmitted to humans from animals), food hygiene, drug residues and the environment. More recently it has included animal welfare among its global roles. The Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong, which focuses on new and emerging diseases, is the only other Southern hemisphere OIE collaborating centre.

Caption: Professor David Mellor (left) and Professor Kevin Stafford are delighted the University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre now has a worldwide remit for welfare advice.

Date: 07/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science

Health Research Council funds Massey projects

The University is to receive \$5.6 million in research funding from the Health Research Council of New Zealand's annual funding round. Te Pumanawa Hauora, the Maori health research programme, gets \$2.3 million, with other Maori health programmes allocated \$2 million and further projects receiving \$1.3 million.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear congratulated all the groups to receive Health Research Council (HRC) funding, saying it was a testament to the University's recognition of the importance of research. "It is part of our role in offering research training in a research-active environment and part of our commitment to advancing fundamental knowledge and applying this knowledge to benefit communities and the nation."

Te Pumanawa Hauora has been running since 1993, and the HRC funding supports the second half of a six-year programme. Centre Director Chris Cunningham says the team is really excited to be able to continue its work.

"The new funding will allow research to continue into particular programmes around child health, health of older people and mental health, as well as contributing to building Maori research capacity. Where work goes next includes examining the relationship between physical activity and ageing ... what makes for good health as you age as a Maori person?"

Work on children's health will move to a pilot study of about 400 children and young people in the Bay of Plenty, both speakers and non-speakers of Maori language, using a self-assessment questionnaire to see how children and their families feel about their health.

"We know there is a relationship between your self-assessed health status and health outcomes," Dr Cunningham says. "We want to see how children rate their health and what things they consider important."

Other projects to receive funding are:

- The Whariki Research group receives \$852,482 for work on the health implications of conferred privilege and structural advantage and \$813,650 for research into media, mental health and wellbeing in New Zealand.
- The School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work receives \$897,876 for a four-year longitudinal study of people with spinal cord injury.
- The Sleep/Wake Research Centre receives \$149,962 for a 12-month feasibility study on sleep during pregnancy and postpartum and its relationship with maternal mental health.
- The Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, a Centre of research Excellence hosted by Massey University, receives \$132,000 to work on eukaryotic signature proteins.
- The Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences receives \$142,000 for a 12-month study of New Zealanders attitudes to electronic health records.
- The School of Health Sciences project researching nursing and Maori patient outcomes receives \$311,620 for a 15-month study.

Date: 07/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Funding; Maori

Glimpse of times past at Fieldays

University staff are again bound for Fieldays, the University this year hosting a premier feature site inside the Mystery Creek Pavilion. New for this year is an alumni lounge in the stand, allowing alumni to drop in and update their details or find out about alumni events and offerings. An alumni function will also be held on Thursday evening at the ASB marquee, hosted by Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson.

Alumni relations manager Leanne Fecser says that as well as providing some comfy seats, visitors may get a glimpse of times past.

“As well as photos from recent alumni events we are bringing a lot of old photos – many people who come along to Fieldays may be surprised to find their parents captured on black and white film! We'll also have copies of recent publications including MASSEY magazine, and will be able to sign people up for the new electronic newsletter, which has been really popular.

“We know that we have at least 90,000 alumni in our community, yet have only 65,000 of those on our databases. We're hoping that at Fieldays we will be able to get back in touch with many more, knowing that Massey has a long history of providing agricultural and related training.”

A breakfast is being held on Thursday for prospective agricultural students to hear first-hand from former and current students and staff members including Director of the Agricultural programme Ewan Cameron. For the first time, the University is also sponsoring the Ag Artwear competition, providing a \$1000 prize for the under-21 category. Daily fashion shows will take place in the Spantech Pavillion at 10.30am and 2pm, with an extra show at 12 on Friday and Saturday. Wellington-based fashion and design lecturer Lillian Mutsaers is on the judging panel, with awards made at 10.30am on Thursday.

Director of the Centre of Precision Agriculture Dr Ian Yule will be available from Tuesday to Thursday to discuss any aspects of his research, including the project on advanced mapping of fertilizer application. By placing a global positioning system on the spreader and analyzing the spread pattern, a detailed spread map is produced. Dr Yule says the Fieldays are really useful for catching up with many former Massey students and developing closer links with the many companies and enterprises the University works with in agriculture.

Date: 11/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture





BAppSci student Monica Paalvast, (either second from left or if you cut off the guy, left) and graduate Moana Puha, with St Peters College students Rachel Dickson, Rachael Phillips and Daniel Pascoe, St Johns, at the Fieldays breakfast.

New grads motivate future students

The motivation and enthusiasm of Waikato secondary school students, who had got up early to attend a 7am breakfast hosted by the University during the annual Fieldays, was recognised by Professor Jacqueline Rowarth.

The Professor of Pastoral Agriculture told the students, parents and careers advisers at the annual breakfast that the agricultural industry is crying out for keen, motivated people – who in turn will be rewarded by good salaries, challenging roles and flexibility in their career options.

“The gold collar workers of the future will have a science degree and some business qualifications. People who have done science are going to be needed everywhere. (A career in agriculture) is a commitment that does require enthusiasm and motivation, but it can be a great time. If you want a career working with the land, doing good, contributing to economic development and balancing life with work, then the industry wants you,” she said.

Three recent graduates of the University shared their experiences with the prospective students. AgResearch research associate Moana Puha said her Massey degree gave her the grounding that allowed her to move through the ranks. She talked of the many career options she had with her BAppSci – research associate, banker, field officer – and the social skills and ability to continue learning Massey had given her.

James Barbour, field officer for Ballance Agrinutrients, said he chose to come to Massey after Matamata College because of the practical component of the BAppSci degree. As well as the benefit of gaining an internationally recognised qualification he had had a wonderful experience at Palmerston North in the halls of residence and on many sporting fields.

First-year BAppSci student Monica Paalvast spoke about her first six months at Massey, her life in the halls, and how the induction programmes had helped her make friends and adjust to her new life away from home.

Date: 12/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award winners Dr Bryan Walpert, left, and Dr Tracy Riley, with Tertiary Education Minister Dr Michael Cullen and College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman.

Massey staff receive national awards for teaching excellence

Two Massey staff members were last night named winners of tertiary teaching excellence awards of \$20,000 each. It is the second year running that Massey has had two of the 10 winners.

Dr Tracy Riley, from the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy in the College of Education, is a specialist in teaching gifted children and teaching teachers of gifted children. Dr Bryan Walpert, from the School of English and Media Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, teaches creative writing and specialises in poetry.

Tertiary Education Minister Dr Michael Cullen presented the awards at a function at the Beehive. Dr Cullen, the Acting Prime Minister and Finance Minister, recalled his life before politics as a university lecturer at Otago, saying good teachers wanted to leave students feeling inspired.

“Teaching has a special intrinsic reward in giving knowledge and inspiration to students: in knowing that you led someone to see something and develop their own capacity. And, of course, one doesn't get to become a teacher at tertiary level without both experiencing some excellent teaching and being the victim of teaching that isn't.”

Teaching had always been important, Dr Cullen said. “But skills and knowledge are becoming more and more important, as the foundation of our modern economy. Therefore excellence in teaching is becoming more valuable. And as our future unfolds, the quality and excellence of our education system will need to meet the demands of a higher skill and knowledge-based society.

“When we recognise excellence in teaching through these awards we are doing much more than motivating teachers to reach a special standard. Our celebration is also a way of inspiring others with recognition of what it takes to achieve excellence.

“Tertiary teachers have twin responsibilities - teaching and research. Both are essential functions. These awards were introduced with a conscious intention to focus on teaching as an art by itself and to recognise excellence.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor for the College of Education Professor James Chapman, who attended the function on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, congratulated Dr Riley and Dr Walpert, saying it was recognition of their outstanding contribution to teaching at the University.

“It reinforces the value that Massey places on teaching and it is good to see that being recognised at a national level,” Professor Chapman said.

“I think there are many others who are demonstrating similar outstanding skills and this is just the tip of the iceberg really.”

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington also paid tribute to the Massey winners.

“These national awards recognise exceptional teachers who show outstanding commitment to their subject and demonstrate knowledge, enthusiasm and a special ability to stimulate learners' thinking and interest,” Professor

Warrington said. "We should all be delighted that, again this year, academic staff of Massey University have been recognised as premier teachers. We are indeed fortunate to have such high calibre performers on our staff and to have them rewarded in this way. I extend warmest congratulations to you both on behalf of all of your colleagues in the University."

Dr Riley has been at Massey for 11 years. She has a PhD in special education, with an emphasis on gifted and talented education, from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Dr Walpert has been at Massey for three years. The former United States magazine and newspaper journalist, has a PhD in English from the University of Denver, Colorado.

The other award recipients were Margo Barton from Otago Polytechnic, Donna Buckingham and Associate Professor Katharine Dickinson from Otago University, Dr Christine Rubie-Davies from Auckland University, Dr Diane Johnson from Waikato University, Associate Professor Angus McIntosh from Canterbury University, and Peter Mellow from Auckland University of Technology.

Each receives \$20,000, which may be used for professional development.

Selena Chan from Christchurch Polytechnic received the Prime Minister's Supreme Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award worth \$30,000. Ms Chan is a Massey alumna, having received a Masters in Adult Education in 2002.

Date: 12/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Teaching

Smokers' lung damage continues even after quitting, study finds

A new study shows that lung damage in smokers continues to progress, even after they have stopped smoking. The finding comes from an international team of researchers in respiratory medicine including a Massey University clinical pharmacology lecturer, Dr Felix Ram.



Until now, it has been widely thought that lung damage ceases when smoking ceases. The new study is the first to show that once smokers have established lung disease with the bronchial inflammation caused by smoking, it will continue after they have stopped smoking.

“The study has wide implications for how we manage patients with smoking related lung disease and for all smokers at large,” Dr Ram says. “Instead of telling smokers that it’s never too late to quit, the new public health message is never take up smoking.”

The study was conducted with bronchial biopsy samples from patients in various hospitals in Britain, including the London Chest Hospital. There were 65 current smokers and 36 former smokers, aged between 60 and 65 years, who had been or still were smoking a pack a day, says Dr Ram. The study subjects had the smoking-related chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that brings with it chronic bronchial inflammation.

The researchers say their results showed no statistically significant differences between smokers and ex-smokers in the numbers of any of the inflammatory cell types or markers analysed.

“This doesn’t mean that there is no point in quitting smoking,” Dr Ram says. “Lung inflammatory damage will continue but smoking has other health effects and smokers will still benefit from giving up.”

Although now based at the School of Health Sciences at Massey University’s Auckland campus, Dr Ram has ongoing research collaborations with leading researchers in respiratory medicine in Europe.

The research was recently published in the journal of the European Respiratory Society.

Date: 12/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Who should see our health records?

A new research project will investigate public attitudes towards the sharing of confidential personal health information held in electronic health records.

Researcher Dr Dick Whiddett says the issue is topical and important, given that the Government's health care strategy provides for more sharing and integration of such information between, for example, general practitioners, hospitals and other agencies.

The Massey University is the first New Zealand-wide research on the issue. As well as providing a clearer picture of attitudes, it will assist policy making by identifying the requirements for an electronic consent system that would allow patients to specify who they want to be able to access the information

Dr Whiddett, from the Department of Information Systems, says if patients think personal information might be distributed against their wishes, they may forego treatment or be reluctant to disclose information that may be crucial to diagnosis and treatment.

"E-health – or the application of modern information and computer technologies to the delivery of modern healthcare – can lead to major health benefits and improved outcomes," he says. "But it can also increase threats to patient privacy. To realise the benefits of e-health systems we need to have a better understanding of the privacy aspects so that we can design systems that not only reduce these threats but actually enhance and protect privacy."

He says such systems, particularly new mobile technologies, also offer opportunities to deliver more effective care to communities with special needs such as indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities and chronic diseases. Pilot studies by the research team have already shown that public attitudes towards the use of their health information vary widely between individuals, reflecting similar overseas studies. Dr Whiddett says the new study will clarify the range of these attitudes and also aim to identify the extent to which the attitudes of Maori respondents are different from the others.

He notes that the pilot studies indicated that in general people are happy to have their information shared between general practitioners and hospitals, but less happy to have it shared with, for example, Work and Income New Zealand.

The inter-disciplinary, cross-campus project involves Dr Whiddett and Inga Hunter from the Department of Information Systems in the College of Business, Professor Tony Norris and Claire Jordon from the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences in the College of Sciences, and John Waldon from the School of Maori Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

It has just received a funding grant of \$160,000 from the Health Research Council.

Date: 12/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators

NZ brand smoke row prompts call for plain packaging of all tobacco products



Marketing researcher Professor Janet Hoek says the advent of New Zealand-branded duty free cigarettes adds weight to the case for removing all branding from cigarette packets.

The Smokefree Coalition and Te Reo Marama (the Māori Smokefree Coalition) are calling for the immediate withdrawal of the cigarettes, which are available in airport stores throughout the country, saying they are an affront to all New Zealanders.

The cigarettes are made in Luxembourg, but come in black packaging, which includes the New Zealand silver fern.

Professor Hoek says the packets also include the descriptor 'luxuriously mild cigarettes', which, she says, is a further cause for concern. Research by Professor Hoek and marketing colleagues has shown that the descriptors "mild" and "light" can be misleading. "We know that smokers inappropriately associate health attributes with these descriptors. Add an attempt to associate these new cigarettes with a "clean, green" brand like New Zealand, and you have seriously misleading packaging".

Professor Hoek supports a move to ban all branding from cigarette packets, with health warnings as the only pictorial image, as well as the withdrawal of the New Zealand branded packets.

Smokefree Coalition Director Mark Peck has described the cigarettes as an outrageous attempt to exploit New Zealand's image. Te Reo Marama Director Shane Kawenata Bradbrook says the silver fern is an internationally recognisable symbol of New Zealand and its inclusion as branding for cigarettes is an insult.

Date: 14/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH

Scientists gather for Evolution 2007

More than 900 of the world's top evolutionary and molecular biologists will be in Christchurch from Saturday, attending a prestigious conference held outside North America for the first time. The Evolution 2007 event is a joint meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Society of Systematic Biologists and the American Society of Naturalists, hosted by Massey University's Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution.

Massey University's Distinguished Professor David Lambert and Dr Craig Millar from the University of Auckland are the conference organizers and Dr Ian Anderson, formerly from Massey University is the conference secretary. Professor Lambert is a principal investigator of the Allan Wilson Centre and members of his laboratory will present findings from their recent research. They will be presenting work on rates of gene mutation in Adélie penguins from the Antarctic.

Distinguished international speakers include Professor Michael Ruse, who has written very widely on the nature of Darwinian biology and selfish genes, Professor Scott Edwards, of Harvard University, whose interests include genome an sex chromosome evolution, and Oxford University's Professor Charles Godfray.

Professor Lambert says that being awarded the hosting rights for this conference is an exceptional coup for New Zealand generally and is "a credit to the international reputation the Allan Wilson Centre has achieved". The Allan Wilson Centre is one of seven [Centres of Research Excellence](#) established by the New Zealand Government and has recently been awarded new funding for another six year period. The centre brings together senior researchers from five universities. Massey University, the host organisation, is joined by researchers from the Auckland, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago universities. The centre comprises world-class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who are working together to unlock the secrets of our plants, animals, and microbes, including: How did they get here? How fast does evolution happen?

Evolution 2007 takes place from 16 to 20 June at the Christchurch Convention Centre. For more information on the work of the Allan Wilson Centre: <http://awcmee.massey.ac.nz> and for information on Evolution 2007: <http://www.evolution2007.com/>

Date: 14/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar

Dire humanitarian consequences predicted in new era of Palestinian politics

The fall of the Palestinian Authority (PA) government of national unity heralds a new era in Palestinian politics with regional and international implications, says Middle East politics lecturer and author Dr Nigel Parsons.

“For Palestine, it marks the consolidation of Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip, the effective political separation of Gaza from the West Bank, and the probable entrenchment of Fatah rule over the West Bank from Ramallah.”

The humanitarian consequences of Palestinian civilians are likely to be dire, as aid delivery grinds to a halt, says Dr Parsons from the School of People, Environment and Planning.

“Gaza is totally dependent on Israel for basic infrastructure like electricity and water. What happens if the PA ceases to exist and a separate Islamist regime emerges in its stead? Will Israel sever its ties altogether? How will this affect service delivery?”

“For the Middle East, the ascent of Hamas in Gaza constitutes a major setback for pro-western Arab regimes in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia; conversely, it marks a triumph for Syria and Iran.

“The Hamas offensive emerged against a background of a prolonged contest for power following the death of Yasir Arafat: Presidential elections in 2005 were won by Mahmud Abbas for Fatah; legislative elections in 2006 were won by Hamas and led to the appointment of Ismail Haniyya as prime minister.

“The critical point of contest between the two was the Ministry of the Interior, responsible for control of the internal security apparatus. Fatah and Hamas had agreed on the independent Hani al-Qawasmi, but he proved unable to assert control over the Fatah-dominated security services and recently resigned. This explains Hamas' focused offensive on the installations of the security apparatus.

“The intra-Palestinian violence gripping Gaza cannot be understood independently of four decades of Israeli military occupation and the Israeli and United States-led international boycott of the Palestinian government since January 2006.

“Subscribing to the Israeli agenda, the US and the European Union heightened the crisis whilst foregoing an opportunity to engage constructively with political Islam. That too will have wider repercussions.”

Date: 18/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Home affordability improves in more regions

[Download the full report \(PDF\)](#)

Signs of a small improvement in home affordability show up in four regions in the latest quarterly report from Massey University.

It became easier to buy a home in Waikato-Bay of Plenty, Central Otago-Lakes, Otago and Southland in the three months to May 31.

However, affordability – a measure that factors in average prices, pay and interest rates – worsened in eight regions and still worsened nationally, in the quarter by 4 per cent and by 11.9 per cent for the year to May.

Only Central Otago-Lakes, New Zealand's least affordable region, showed an improvement on an annual basis.

The Home Affordability report from the University's Property Foundation shows the overall decline in affordability was primarily due to increases in the national median house price (4.1 per cent), outstripping increases in the average weekly wage (1.4 per cent), with weighted mortgage interest rates also up (1.25 per cent).

Regionally, affordability was a mixed picture and shows fluctuations within regions. There were improvements over the May quarter in Central Otago-Lakes (6.6 per cent), Southland (4.8 per cent), Otago (2.2 per cent) and Waikato-Bay of Plenty (0.2 per cent).

By comparison, the regions to show an improvement in affordability in the February quarter were Otago (5.6 per cent), Nelson-Marlborough (5.4 per cent), Taranaki (2.0 per cent) and Wellington (0.4 per cent). This makes Otago the only region to show an improvement for two quarters in a row this year.

In the May quarter there were quarterly declines in affordability in eight regions: Northland (5.8 per cent), Auckland (5.2 per cent), Canterbury-Westland (4.9 per cent), Wellington (2.8 per cent), Taranaki (2.6 per cent), Manawatu-Wanganui 2.4 , Nelson-Marlborough (2.2 per cent) and Hawke's Bay (0.6 per cent).

In the 12 months to the end of May, national home affordability declined by 11.9 per cent, with increases in house prices well ahead of average weekly wage increases (5 per cent) and mortgage interest rate increases (2.8 per cent).

Central Otago-Lakes showed a 3.8 per cent improvement in affordability but all other regions recorded declines. The largest decline was in Southland (26.8 per cent), followed by Wellington (18.3 per cent) and Manawatu-Wanganui (16.9 per cent).

Central Otago-Lakes remains the least affordable region, followed by Auckland and the Nelson-Marlborough region.

Date: 21/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Clean energy researcher awarded

The University's Dr Aaron Marshall has been recognised as an emerging leader in research and science, named an inaugural recipient of the Elizabeth Ellen Dalton Award. Dr Marshall works on developing nano-materials that could reduce global reliance on oil.



Dr Marshall says The EE Dalton award of \$10,000 will enable more fundamental investigation of electrolytic nano-particles and water electrolysis systems. The research has the potential to place New Zealand at the forefront of production in nano-materials, particles one-million times smaller than the thickness of a human hair, used in hydrogen energy technology. Recent work for the project includes investigation of nano-particles' efficiency and long-term stability for producing hydrogen gas from water.

The electrolyzers being developed will compete in supplying hydrogen gas for industry and automotive fuel applications. If the hydrogen is produced using electricity from renewable sources, the gas is a completely clean and renewable energy carrier with the potential to replace oil as a major fuel source.

“Natural gas is the most common source of hydrogen used in fuel cells,” Dr Marshall says, “but of course it is not sustainable. Water electrolysis is a clean and simple way to produce hydrogen gas from electricity.”

In January, Dr Marshall was awarded a \$260,000 Foundation for Research, Science and Technology post-doctoral fellowship to enable the three-year nano-materials study. Dr Marshall developed chemical processes to produce nano-sized particles while completing his PhD at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He is now part of Associate Professor Richard Haverkamp's Nanotechnology Group.

An EE Dalton Award is also being made to Dr Matthew Barnett of the AgResearch as part of Nutrigenomics New Zealand, and to Dr Ishwaree Neupane, of Canterbury University's physics and astronomy department. The awards will be presented on June 20 at the MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Awards. The awards come from a bequest from the estate of Ellen Dalton, who wished the money to be used for research.

Date: 21/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Bridging the gap between research and business

Professor Claire Massey has been a driving force in an initiative by the International Council of Small Business to make relevant research more accessible to users.

At the council's recent annual conference held in Turku, Finland, Professor Massey was re-elected as Senior Vice-President (Research and Publications). She was also presented with the President's Award for services to the organisation.

Professor Massey is head of the Department of Enterprise Development, Director of the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research and acting head of the Department of Management.

She is the first New Zealander to fill a senior presidential role within the international council, which has nine regional affiliates across every continent and about 2500 members. It is also the second time she has received the President's Award.

She says the latest honour was very unexpected "but it is pleasing to see that the initiatives that I have put in place this year have been appreciated".

Those initiatives have been about delivering greater benefits to members and a wider group of stakeholders, through her portfolio of research and publications.

They include the creation of Bridges, a groundbreaking web-based email publication aimed at closing the gaps between the four groups represented by the council: researchers, educators, practitioners, including business people, and policy makers.

Professor Massey describes Bridges as an "exciting development that involves taking the best and most relevant of research – for example, some of the long papers presented at our conferences that are of particular interest to business people and policy makers – and making this research more widely available in a form people can cope with".

A summary, "longer than an abstract, usually two or three pages long", is created and posted on the council's Bridge web site. Comment is encouraged. "This means Bridges work both ways: the researchers are communicating their findings clearly to users whose responses can be fed back to the researchers," says Professor Massey.

She says one example of a user who may stand to gain could be a policy maker at the Ministry of Economic Development.

As well as helping to develop a process of workshopping good papers from conferences to make them more publishable, Professor Massey has been working closely with the editor of the council's journal, The Journal of Small Business Management.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Research



The Munster participants of the e-tandem project, with Ute Walker (right) and Christina Holtz (second from right).

Language learning in tandem, online

Take two groups of students from different universities, studying different courses in two different languages, and put them together online to help each other learn. That's e-Tandem, a form of collaborative online learning, piloted in semester one in the School of Language Studies by Dr Ute Walker.

The project involved a group of extramural intermediate German language students at the Palmerston North campus and students of an English for the Social Sciences course at the Wilhelm's University of Münster, in Germany. The students communicated using Wimba voice tools that support spoken language in asynchronous and real-time mode.

Working in small groups, the students sourced and exchanged information and discussed ideas in order to complete a written task (New Zealand) or an oral presentation (Germany), relevant to their respective curriculum.

Dr Walker says that planning together with the project partner in Münster, Christina Holtz, was a profitable and enriching experience, involving identifying common learning outcomes, designing tasks around contemporary global themes and addressing or anticipating challenges, not least due to time differences between the two countries.

For the students, the e-Tandem provided a cross-cultural encounter and an authentic learning experience using the foreign language. Feedback Dr Walker collected during a recent visit to the University of Münster complements other baseline data for a TEC-funded distance learning guidelines project, jointly undertaken with Professor Cynthia White of the School of Language Studies.

A tandem task may be used in the Introductory German II course again next year, after students have learnt to use the communication tools in Semester One, Dr Walker says.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Teaching



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy, Director of Ako Aotearoa: National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence, Dr Peter Coolbear, and Chairman of the Governance Board Bryan Gould.

Ako Aotearoa established

Ako Aotearoa was officially established with a powhiri at the Wellington campus on 4 July.

The National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence, is part of a \$20 million government initiative to boost the quality of teaching in all branches of the post-school education sector.

A consortium of institutions headed by Massey won the contract to establish the centre in 2006. These include Auckland University of Technology, the University of Canterbury, Christchurch College of Education, UCOL, and Manukau Institute of Technology. The centre will comprise a national centre in Wellington and regional hubs in Christchurch, Palmerston North and Auckland.

The pōwhiri was an opportunity for mana whenua to welcome the Director of Ako Aotearoa, Dr Peter Coolbear, his management team, and Bryan Gould, Chair of the Board of Ako Aotearoa.

For further information visit <http://www.nctte.ac.nz>

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Teaching; Wellington

Victoria Cross honour marks significant milestone

The award of the Victoria Cross for New Zealand to Corporal Bill (Willy) Apiata announced recently marks a significant milestone in New Zealand's military history, says Associate Professor Glyn Harper, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies.

It is the first Victoria Cross awarded to a New Zealander since August 1943, and the first to be awarded under the new regulations for the Victoria Cross for New Zealand which were put in place in 1999.

“The Victoria Cross is the highest of all honours that the Monarch of the British Commonwealth can bestow and it takes precedence over all honours, awards and decorations including knighthoods,” says Dr Harper. “As an indication of its significance, the wearer of a Victoria Cross is entitled to receive a salute from anybody in uniform, regardless of their rank. So, if Corporal Apiata was to encounter a commissioned officer, in breaking from military protocol, the officer would initiate the salute.”

Corporal Apiata's citation for the Victoria Cross states that he rescued a wounded comrade under fire, carrying him more than 70 metres to reach safety.

“There is no doubt that this was an action worthy of a Victoria Cross,” Dr Harper says. “In fact it mirrors the very first two VCs awarded to New Zealand servicemen. Captain Charles Heaphy was the first New Zealand serviceman to win the Victoria Cross during the New Zealand Wars. Like Apiata, he was awarded the decoration for rescuing comrades under fire. During the Boer War, Farrier Sergeant Major William Hardham carried out a similar act rescuing a wounded trooper while under fire.”

The mana the Victoria Cross carries throughout the British Commonwealth and among the military community in general is incredible, Dr Harper says.

“This is why a small piece of bronze worth only a few dollars sells for millions on the collector's market. The award of the Victoria Cross for New Zealand to Corporal Willy Apiata this week is an immensely positive development for the New Zealand Defence Force and for the award itself.”

Dr Harper and Colonel Colin Richardson co-authored a book on the Victoria Cross last year, *In the Face of the Enemy: The complete History of the Victoria Cross*.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



New Zealand Army personnel in Iraq.

Joining forces over contemporary warfighting

Retired US Marine Colonel Thomas Hammes is among speakers at this year's Warfighting seminar, as the New Zealand Army and the University join forces to provide a two-day session to improve participants' understanding of warfighting in a contemporary environment.

The event is hosted by the University's Centre for Defence Studies on the Palmerston North campus.

US Marine Colonel Thomas Hammes is an acknowledged expert in counter-insurgency warfare. While the senior marine fellow at the US Institute for National Security Studies he wrote *The Sling and The Stone*, which criticised both the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



In 2006 Col Hammes was one of the retired military officers who, with Generals John Batiste and Eaton, called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, testifying before the senate democratic policy committee. Col Hammes will speak on future warfighting concepts, his visit supported by the US Embassy.

Other speakers include retired UK Major General Robert Gordon, ex United Nations commander. Defence Minister Phil Goff and Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae will each give an address. Professor Robert Patman of Otago University will speak on the global strategic context in 2007, with Associate Professor Iain Spence of the University of New England speaking on lessons from the past.



The Warfighting seminar will be held on 29 and 30 August at the Japan lecture theatre.

An exhibition of the artwork of New Zealand Army artist Captain Matt Gaudie will be held in the foyer, with staff and students able to view the exhibition between 10.30 and 12.30 and 1.30 and 3pm on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 August.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Palmerston North



Inaugural recipients of the Takutai Wikiriwhi Te Rau Puawai Scholarships, Patrick Mendes and Rebecca Wirihana.

Joint scholarships to address gaps in Maori mental health expertise

Encouraging more students to work in the Maori mental health workforce is the aim of a just-launched joint venture between Massey University and the Auckland District Health Board's Maori mental health services.

The Takutai Wikiriwhi Te Rau Puawai Scholarships pilot is the result of a partnership between Massey's Te Rau Puawai Workforce Development Scholarship and Maori mental health ADHB. Candidates are those already in the workforce and seeking to gain further professional qualifications.

Maori mental health workers and Massey extra-mural students Rebecca Wirihana and Patrick Mendes are the inaugural recipients of scholarships which provide around \$3000 each for study fees, mentoring and learning support for Massey students studying in a mental health related programme through the Schools of Maori, Psychology, Health Science and Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work.

At a special June launching ceremony at the Manawanui marae in the grounds of the board's Maori mental health services in west Auckland, Massey's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie said scholarship further reflected the unfurling of Te Rau Puawai, which means "plant of a hundred blossoms".

By 2005, more than 150 Te Rau Puawai bursars had graduated from Massey with undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications. The scheme was launched in 1999 as a joint initiative between Massey University and the Ministry of Health.

Ms Wirihana, a Massey graduate with a Bachelor in Psychology and now a key worker at ADHB's Kapua Awatea Maori mental health service in Auckland, is currently enrolled part-time at Massey's Auckland Albany doing post-grad diploma in psychology. She is working towards doing the Clinical programme in psychology in 2009.

She says the scholarship will help her enormously, not only with fees but also by providing mentoring, access to conferences and links with other academics working in her field.

Patrick Mendes is an extra-mural Massey student and also hopes to enter the clinical programme in psychology. Having graduated in 1999 from Waikato University with a Bachelor in Maori and Psychology, he's spent the past 10 years working in a range of mental health services, from helping prisoners as well as working for early childhood, and children and adolescent services. He is keen to promote a stronger "cultural clinical interface" within Maori mental health services, he says.

The scholarship programme is named after Takutai Wikiriwhi, the kaumatua involved with Maori mental health services for over 20 years in Auckland.

Te Pua Winiata, manager Maori Mental Health, said she understood there were currently about 44 Maori clinical psychologists practising in New Zealand, of whom eight actually work in Maori mental health services. It was hoped that this figure would significantly increase as more Te Rau Puawai psychology students graduate as clinical psychologists.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Explore - HEALTH; Maori; Scholarships

Matariki heralds a return to tradition

Matariki heralded a return to tradition for the School of Māori Studies as staff celebrated the Māori new year with a dinner and a lecture for local secondary schools on 22 June.

Students from Hato Paora College, Turakina College and Monrad Intermediate School were among those who attended the lecture, the school's first formal celebration of the Maori new year for many years.

Dr Rangi Matamua, Tuhoē, who gave the Matariki lecture on the Palmerston North campus, said the event was part of a real renaissance of interest in Matariki. He said that although there are tribal differences in celebrations, the differences really didn't matter.



“What matters is that our tupuna really took note of their environment, they knew when the eels were running and they knew when the birds were fat... We have lost so much of that - our stars are on TV. It's Paris Hilton or Desperate Housewives – the stars don't seem to compete with the latest version of Play Station. We don't take note of what happens round us.”

Matariki is the small and distinctive star cluster that disappears below the horizon in April, reappearing in the north-east of the pre-dawn sky in late May or early June. In ancient times Matariki arrived at the end of the harvest and was therefore a time of plenty. The event was considered so important that tribes would have a lookout watching for the rising, with preparation then taking place for the celebrations.

Most celebrations are held at the next new moon after Matariki has re-appeared. This year that took place on June 16.

“Matariki rises when food house is full,” Dr Matamua said. “It is a sign for people to get together. They had heaps of food so they sat around singing songs, creating waiata, remembering the past and planning for the future. In today's society we have lost that, the most important thing that is driving us is money.”

“Matariki comes up every year to remind us it's about each other.”

The way Matariki looks at its reappearance is also significant: if the stars in the cluster are clear and bright it is thought the year will be productive and warm. If the stars appear shimmering and hazy, it is believed a cold winter is in store and activities such as preparation of the ground for crops must be carried out accordingly.

Astronomy was an exciting and deep science, Dr Matamua said. “Our tupuna knew this. The fact they had names for more than 400 stars, shows they had the depth of knowledge. They knew what happened in the stars affected us on earth.”

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori



Ben Thomsen's all-terrain inline board.

Café high chair among design award finalists

The only stackable, flat pack high chair in the world is among the finalists at a competition for up-and-coming product designers.

Kaichair designer Gus Donaldson says there is no highchair designed and marketed specifically for cafes, despite strong growth worldwide in cafes.

“The Kaichair is aimed at cafe owners looking to capture a greater share of the young family market. Its time and space saving features appeal to cafes which have space constraints, and have a well considered interior aesthetic.”

The Kaichair is one of four finalists for the Dyson Award. This year all finalists are recent Massey graduates.

Acting regional director at the Auckland School of Design, Azhar Mohamed, says Massey designers have always been among the finalists and the winners, since the Dyson Award was launched in 2001.

“We are glad to be able to continue our tradition of excellence in design. Our design education places great emphasis on research and usability to come up with award-winning intellectual properties targeted at both national and international markets.”

The Dyson Award is held in association with the British Council Design Ambassador Programme, the Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ) and the Designers Institute of New Zealand to recognise and reward New Zealand designers with product design ideas that best demonstrate innovative and inspiring solutions to everyday problems.

Mr Donaldson works as a technician at Massey's Institute of Design for Industry and the Environment in Wellington. The three other finalists are Chris Moors, Stephen Smith and Ben Thomsen, all graduates from the Auckland School of Design.

The winner will be announced in Auckland on 3 July. They will travel to Britain to meet key members of the British design community.

They will also represent New Zealand and compete against other emerging product designers for the James Dyson Award, a global design award.

The award is open to final-year tertiary students studying design, technology or engineering, and to graduates in these areas who are in their first five years of work force.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Pasifika students to mentor high school pupils

A pilot programme to link Massey Pasifika students as mentors to high school pupils is due to be launched in Auckland next month.

“The Pasifika@Massey Learning Community Initiative involves having Pasifika students from the Auckland campus as mentors and learning buddies of high school pupils within Pasifika communities,” Pasifika development advisor Sione Tu’itahi said.

“The primary aim is to enhance and sustain a culture of learning and high achievement for Pasifika peoples as part of Pasifika@Massey’s contribution to the socio-economic advancement of Pasifika peoples.”

Northcote College, on the North Shore, is likely to be the first venue for a Massey-linked learning support centre, with discussions under way at the moment, said Pasifika student liaison advisor Tevita Funaki.

The scheme will be sustained through the establishment of a dedicated fund which donors will be invited to contribute to. The fund would be used to pay student mentors to be available for learning support at community-based homework centres for at least five hours a week.

The main aim of these sessions is to “help high school students with their studies so that they can successfully continue on to tertiary level studies”, says Mr Tu’itahi.

The scheme is due to kick off late July on the North Shore and west Auckland.

It is one of several ventures being fostered under the Pasifika@Massey strategy adopted a year ago to promote education and research in the Pasifika community.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Pasifika



Business success in nine minutes

A nine-minute ride on Wellington's cable car will be long enough to judge the best business idea in a new competition.

The University has teamed up with other tertiary institutes and businesses in a new competition the Cable Car Challenge to find the best and cleverest business concept in the Wellington region. Finalists will be judged during a nine-minute ride in the Wellington cable car. A \$50,000 prize package is at stake.

The Wellington campus hosts the New Zealand Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research, which includes the largest cluster of enterprise researchers in Australasia and provides policy shaping research to government and industry.

Centre director Professor Claire Massey says cultivating an entrepreneurial culture is critical to the development of new businesses. In many countries, business plan competitions are held to encourage people who are thinking about going into business.

The competition runs until 31 July. See www.cablecarchallenge.com for more information.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business

Four staff have been awarded Fulbright grants this year

Ryan Higgs, who graduated with a BAppSci (Hons) earlier this year is among the recipients of Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science and Technology Graduate Awards. Up to 11 awards worth up to US\$25,000 are made each year. Mr Higgs will travel to Cornell University to complete a Master of Science degree in Animal Science, specialising in dairy production and nutrition.

Willie Franco, from San Diego, is completing a Master of Fine Arts at Massey's Wellington campus. He received a Fulbright US graduate award, one of about ten made each year to cover travel, tuition and living costs.

Sarah-Jane Paine, PhD student in physiology at the University's Wellington campus, receives a Fulbright travel Award worth up to \$5000 to present a paper on sleep and circadian rhythms at the 21st annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies in Minneapolis and give a lecture at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr Christopher van der Krogt, lecturer in religious studies and history at Palmerston North, will participate in a six-week Institute on Religious Pluralism at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Institutes are intensive academic programmes for multinational groups of secondary school educators, university staff and related scholars to deepen their understanding of American society, culture, politics and institutions.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

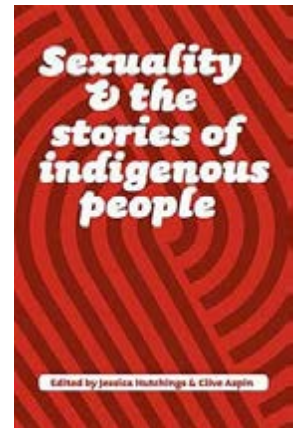
Categories: Funding; Scholarships

Book explores being takatāpui

Indigenous stories of sexuality are the focus of a new book co-authored by a researcher from Te Pumanawa Hauora, the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development.

Sexuality and the Stories of Indigenous People by Jessica Hutchings and Auckland University's Clive Aspin explores aspects of being takatāpui – the Māori word that describes non-heterosexuals, lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, transsexuals and queers.

The book was compiled while Dr Hutchings was the Inaugural Resident Scholar at Te Mata o Te Tau, the Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship. She calls it a milestone for Te Mata and a marker of achievement among the Māori research sector at Massey.



Dr Hutchings (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Huirapa) says since the beginning of time sexuality has played a fundamental role in ensuring good health and well-being of people throughout the world.

“Today, there is a growing understanding of the importance that sexuality plays.”

She says for indigenous people, understanding of sexuality today is heavily influenced by the historical understandings passed down by the ancestors.

“Gradually, as we uncover the truth about what our ancestors believed and peel back the veneer of colonisation, it is clear that the sexuality of indigenous peoples is vastly different from the dominant Western paradigm.”

Stories in this book from 17 contributors testify to the diversity of Māori and indigenous sexuality and provide inspiration for people who want to know more about sexuality and its role in our lives.

Sexuality and The Stories of Indigenous People is published by Huia Publishers.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book

Time to tackle troubled youth

New Zealand must do something to work more effectively with troubled young people, Professor of Social Work Robyn Munford says, particularly the “hard-core”.

The number of children and youth referred by Police to Child, Youth and Family is expected to reach 10,500 this year, resulting in about 7600 family group conferences and 180 detentions in youth justice facilities – on average 134 nights per stay.

“It's time to ask really hard questions when we have troubled young people who do not want to engage in their communities. They are missing out on ordinary things, being involved in schools, in recreation, and in their community. In a country like New Zealand we shouldn't be having such high numbers of young people marginalised, we have to find more effective ways of finding out why.”

Professor Munford and Dr Jackie Sanders are working with an international team of experts to understand the root causes of the behaviour of troubled young people, and to design systems and supports that more effectively intervene to reduce the harm they do to themselves and others. Canadian family and youth research expert Dr Michael Ungar is visiting the team this week, to design the New Zealand component of an international study to identify the most effective combinations of services and interventions for the most troubled youth.

Dr Sanders says that intervening reduces both cost and the damage troubled young people inflict upon themselves. “Not intervening effectively means that a number of these young people will graduate into the adult criminal justice system.

“While many of these youth commit only one offence or come to the notice of authorities on relatively few occasions, a small group come to attention repeatedly. For this group the average number of convictions is 51 and the costs of intervening are high; on average they cost \$3.1 million and the top 10 per cent cost \$6 million each.”

Professor Munford says the team has been working on this issue for several years, and is particularly interested in “what makes a difference” for the youths and children themselves, and for their families.

“Michael Ungar helps to look not just at the young people that are excluded but the ones that come back and why. In essence he looks at their resilience, that determination to keep going.

“We have invited him because he has innovative and creative ways of looking at resilience and it's also really important that he works with indigenous populations. The population of Nova Scotia, his home, has a lot of similarities with our population.”

Dr Michael Ungar is in New Zealand from June 18 to 22. He has worked for more than 20 years as a social worker and marriage and family therapist with children and families in child welfare, mental health, educational and correctional settings.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators



Moss Burmester.

Moss to captain team at world uni games in Bangkok

Swimmer Moss Burmester will captain the New Zealand team at the 2007 World University Games in Bangkok in August.

Burmester, a design student at the Auckland campus, is one of 14 Massey students among the 65 who will receive University Blues awards at a function at the Wellington campus on Friday.

Competing in the 50m, 100m and 200m butterfly and possibly the 400m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relay, Burmester will captain 120 competitors and officials from nine sports.

"It's an honour. I've wanted to carry the flag into an opening ceremony for a long time now and I'm really looking forward to it. Most of all, I'm looking forward to helping the other athletes out and creating a good team atmosphere," says Burmester.

With more than 9500 competitors from 170 nations competing in 17 sports, the World University Games are the second largest international multi-sports event after the Summer Olympics.

Burmester is also one of five athletes shortlisted to receive the New Zealand Universities Sportsman of the Year award at the Blues Awards Ceremony.

Blues will be presented to 65 sportspeople on Friday 29 June at Massey Wellington's Great Hall.

Blues are awarded to those who have excelled in sport as a player, coach or administrator, while filling the academic requirements of the University.

Massey and Waikato are celebrating joint top university status with 14 recipients.

Student Sara Randall, rally co-driver to New Zealand champion Richard Mason (also her fiancée) will receive the first ever Blue for motorsport.

Massey recipients of 2007 Blues are:

Canoe/Kayak – Michael Dawson and Mark Yungnickel (Palmerston North)

Canoe Polo – Joanna Wright and Tania Perrett (Palmerston North) and Olivia Spencer-Bower (Wellington)

Hockey – Emily Naylor (Palmerston North)

Ice Hockey – Andrew Hay (Wellington)

Karate – Amy Thomason (Wellington)

Motorsport – Sara Randall (Palmerston North)

Rollersport – Sarah-Jane Jones (Palmerston North)

Rugby – Anna Richards (Auckland)

Surf Life Saving – Johanna O'Connor (Auckland)

Swimming – Moss Burmester (Auckland)

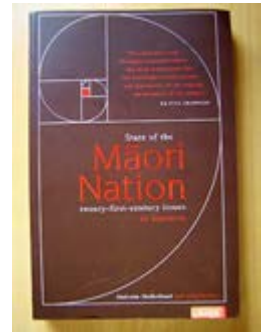
Yachting – Matt Coutts (Auckland)

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Music and campus life; Sport and recreation

Demand for Māori voice sees second print run for book



A second print run of last year's book *State of the Māori Nation* has gone on sale after the first 1000 copies sold.

Four Massey staff were among the 26 authors and one of them, Malcolm Mulholland, was also editor.

The others are Professor Robert Jahnke (Ngai Taharoa, Te Whanau a Rakairoa and Te Whanau a Iritekura o Ngati Porou), the head of Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi, Dr Jessica Hutchings (Ngai Tahu), resident scholar of Te Mata O Te Tau, Dr Farah Palmer (Ngati Mahuta and Ngati Waiora), a lecturer in sports management, and Mr Mulholland (Ngati Kahungunu), a senior research officer in the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori).

Mr Mulholland says the book was written around the time of the 2004 foreshore and seabed controversy, the hikoi to Parliament that followed and the formation of the Māori Party in response to that.

“It was a time when many Māori were feeling like they weren't being heard,” he says. “The reprint proves that not only do people want to hear what Māori have to say, but that there is a demand for that type of publication.”

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; Maori



Taxi drivers face greater sleep risk

Although taxi drivers have a high risk of sleep problems, including the disorder Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome (OSAS), many are reluctant to seek treatment, according to health researcher Dr Ridvan Firestone.

OSAS is a sleep disorder characterised by repetitive pauses of breathing resulting in lack of oxygen to the brain.

It causes daytime sleepiness and raises the risk of road accidents. Often the condition will go undiagnosed and untreated for years.

Dr Firestone, from the Centre for Public Health Research in Wellington, surveyed 241 Wellington taxi drivers and conducted focus groups.

Her research shows that a high proportion of taxi drivers in the study had a moderate to high risk of OSAS. Pacific drivers had a significantly higher risk compared to drivers from other ethnic groups.

One in six drivers reported excessive daytime sleepiness – one of the main risk factors for OSAS.

Factors such as age, neck size, snoring and observed apnoeas were the main predictors of OSAS among taxi drivers. Increasing neck size, excessive daytime sleepiness, snoring and observed apnoeas were prevalent among middle-aged and older taxi drivers, which suggests OSAS may be common among taxi drivers. This is consistent with findings from previous research,

She found that there were several reasons why taxi drivers were deterred from seeking treatment.

These included confusion about whether the driver or the taxi company was responsible for health and safety, medical costs, fear of discovering other health conditions, and the drivers' limited knowledge of OSAS.

“These barriers are a major cause for concern. They are used to support the belief that earning a living is more important than personal health and safety,” says Dr Firestone.

“My key finding is that improving drivers' knowledge about OSAS is unlikely to change their behaviour, without concurrent measures to address systemic issues in the taxi industry and the health care system.”

Dr Firestone says international studies show that if sleep problems are treated, accident rates among drivers return to average.

Dr Firestone received her PhD at the graduation ceremony in Wellington last month. She conducted the research while at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre.

“My parents have been taxi drivers for years, so I've always been interested in exploring the health effects of shift work,” she says.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Development specialist to join delegation to Pacific

Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens from the School of People, Environment and Planning, has been invited to join the delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters to the Pacific from 8–14 July.

The group, comprising MPs, business people, academics and news media, will visit New Caledonia, the Marshall Islands and Samoa.

The aim is to emphasise the importance New Zealand places on its strong links with other Pacific nations and its part in that community, to develop personal, professional and political links between delegates and their counterparts in the host nations, and support economic development.

Dr Scheyvens, who heads the University's Development Studies programme, expects to contribute by drawing on her knowledge of sustainable development issues facing the region, particularly in relation to the tourism sector.

“I also hope to gain further insights into governance issues, human rights, social wellbeing, and other development concerns in the region.”

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Pasifika

E-Learning Facilitator appointed

The College of Education has appointed Ben Kehrwald as E-Learning Facilitator, a position he says will aim to balance the 'e' with the 'learning' and assist the College to make good choices about the use of computing and communications technologies in the design, development and production of effective learning programmes.

"A key advantage of e-learning is flexibility. Electronic delivery offers teachers and students flexibility of time and place in educational programmes.

"Flexibility of place means that students can study at home without having to travel to campus," Mr Kehrwald says.

"Flexibility of time means that students can study at a time that suits them rather than having to attend class at fixed times. This allows students with daytime commitments to continue their studies at their own convenience, and helps break down barriers to education."

Mr Kehrwald is a member of the Educational Technologies Research Cluster and comes to Massey from the University of Southern Queensland.

His research interests include social learning theory, social processes in technology mediated environments, and e-learning as it relates to a broader lifelong learning agenda.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural

Adoption gets celebrity treatment, stigma remains

The author of an in-depth study on relationships between adoptive children and their birth families says stigma about the subject persists, despite the recent wave of high-profile celebrity adoptions.

“Adoption has recently received considerable media attention, which can be attributed to the trend of American celebrities such as Madonna, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt choosing to adopt children to assemble a family,” says Julee Browning, in a new introduction to her Social Anthropology Masters Thesis.

Completed two years ago, a revised version of the study has just been published as a monograph by the School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland.

It's the first study to explore relationships between adoptive children and their parents who have been reunited for at least ten years beyond the so-called “honeymoon period” of initial reunion.

She interviewed 20 adults who were adopted under the closed system, which prevailed until 1985 when records were opened. New Zealand was the first country among those with similar adoption laws to do so.

In New Zealand between 1940 and 1990, 108,899 adoptions were facilitated, most based on the “closed adoption system”.

Her study, titled *Blood Ties With Strangers: Navigating the Course of the Adoptive Reunion over the Long Term*, found that there was no clear or predictable pathway to the way relationships developed between adoptees and birth families. None of those she interviewed had regrets about reunions, which often brought mixed blessings – desired knowledge of biological origins on one hand yet an often unsatisfying feeling of not really belonging.

“There was talk of fitting or not fitting. Of whether they feel like a family member or not. A birth mother might say ‘this is my daughter’, ‘she's one of the family’ etc, but the behaviour might contradict that. Some were thrilled at being introduced as a son or daughter and others cringed. There is a constant navigation.”

Since completing her study, Ms Browning has observed – anecdotally at least – that ongoing stigma towards adopted people continues and is reflected in offhand comments about behaviour resulting from being adopted.

She links this to what she describes as the continued “pathologising” of adoption by experts, such as American Nancy Verrier (author of *The Primal Wound*), who was the key speaker at a 2005 conference run by the Canterbury Adoption Awareness and Education Trust in Christchurch.

“Verrier told the conference that most people who had been adopted felt abandoned and this experience had repercussions for future relationships: a lifelong experience of grief for both adoptee and birth mother. Separating babies and their mothers is an unnatural process that leaves a void in both mother and child. “A newborn baby,” she said, “would not choose to be separated from their mother.”

However, it should be noted that as a psychotherapist Verrier's comments are based on the experiences of those who have presented to her for therapy and this is not necessarily representative of the population of adopted people or birth mothers,” Ms Browning writes.

“Verrier claims that the primal experience for the adopted child is abandonment, a form of post-traumatic stress disorder characterised by depression, anxiety, helplessness, numbness and a loss of control, which leads her pessimistically to conclude that adoptees will live out the rest of their lives with a perpetual feeling of being a victim, of being powerless, of being helpless to help oneself.”

Ms Browning says there is no statistical basis for such theories, and that “there is no way to know whether all people who have been adopted experience relating and relationship difficulties more than the norm for their population.”

“One young woman attending the adoption conference posed this question to Nancy Verrier: ‘This is all new information for me and I'm just wondering, I don't feel any of this stuff, am I in denial?’”

An adoptee herself, Ms Browning concedes that her interest in the subject goes beyond dry academic study.

Although wary of drawing attention to her own adoptive status, preferring her study to be judged on its own terms, she acknowledges the importance of having met her birth parents and knowing who she came from. In line with other research, her study found that having this information was vital, and a core experience for adoptive people.

“Even if it doesn't work out and the relationship doesn't continue, people have no regrets for having that information – who do I look like, why do I have these tendencies.”

“The common feature throughout the participants' comments was one of ambivalence and in some instances, emotional strain.

“Because long-term adoption reunion is a new phenomenon there is no ideal relationship model which the parties involved can emulate and thus, those involved experience very little societal understanding or support,” she writes.

“Despite the challenges, the highs and lows of the relationship, both parties in long-term reunion persist, often with a ‘handle with care’ ethos.

“But this fragile relationship is seen as worth pursuing and the participants, both those happy with their relationships and those not so happy with certain aspects, all agree that there have been no regrets and the relationship is what it is, whether that be satisfying or not so satisfying.”

Other issues canvassed in her study included whether birth parents had any moral obligation to include adoptive children with whom they'd been reunited long term in their wills – not something they are legally bound to do.

Dr Graeme MacRae, social anthropology lecturer at Massey's Auckland School of Social and Cultural Studies and supervisor for Ms Browning's work, said the publication of the monograph would make one of New Zealand's hidden histories more widely available.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

International recognition for animal welfare expertise

The University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre has been named a collaborating centre of the OIE, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and will provide expert scientific, bioethical and educational advice for the OIE and its 169 member countries.

The centre is the first in New Zealand to be acknowledged as a collaborating centre, and the only collaborating partner with a sole focus on animal welfare.

Co-director Professor David Mellor says the Centre has a foundation of at least fifty years of scientific, veterinary and practical research. Professor Kevin Stafford, the Centre's other co-director, says it is now in a powerful position to influence animal welfare around the world.

There is increased likelihood of the University attracting research contracts and further strengthening links to other animal welfare organisations and centres. The Centre also works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which supported the OIE recognition, and has taken a major role in development of New Zealand's animal welfare infrastructure.

A "virtual" centre, it operates across the University's Institute for Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences and Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Current projects include developing practical solutions to welfare problems, evaluating husbandry practices, developing efficient and acceptable methods of pest control, preparing livestock industry and other animal welfare codes, devising and validating parameters for stress assessment, teaching animal welfare sciences, applied animal behaviour and ethics, and analysing ethical dimensions of welfare problems and technological developments.

Massey University's bid to establish a Collaborating Centre was supported by MAF. The Centre will work with the OIE in the development of international guidelines and standards on animal welfare and will provide further opportunity for collaboration with similar organisations within New Zealand and elsewhere.

MAF Biosecurity Director of Animal Welfare, David Bayvel, said that the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre at Massey University is a key component of New Zealand's animal welfare infrastructure

"It is recognition of the respect held for New Zealand expertise in this area and reinforces New Zealand's reputation as a significant contributor to global animal welfare developments."

Consultation on the need for an animal health body took place from the late 19th century, and, after a serious outbreak of animal disease in Belgium in 1920, the OIE was formed in Paris in 1924. It is involved in veterinary public health issues including zoonoses (diseases transmitted to humans from animals), food hygiene, drug residues and the environment.

More recently it has included animal welfare among its global roles. The Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong, which focuses on new and emerging diseases, is the only other Southern hemisphere OIE collaborating centre.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Distance learning champion aims Massey for top

The University's new director of distance education, Associate Professor Mark Brown, has a goal of making Massey the Asia-Pacific region's top extramural provider.

Dr Brown has just taken on the role of champion for one of the most important parts of the University's business. Extramural enrolments accounted for 28 per cent of total equivalent full-time students last year and 44 per cent of head count.

He believes Massey will remain New Zealand's and even Australasia's pre-eminent supplier but only if it moves quickly to embrace the technology that modern students expect.

"We can't afford to rest on our laurels; we need to invest in a number of core services and systems."

The first of these is to standardise the ability to submit assignments electronically, something which occurs but not in all cases.

The second is the wider use of new electronic tools for teaching – software that enables students to interact with each other on-line and with their teachers.

Increasingly, students have an expectation of course materials coming in a variety of formats including on-line audio and video, as well as printed material, Dr Brown says.

"Rather than random acts of innovation, we want to get entire programmes to adopt a new, more contemporary 'rich media' approach to distance education."

It is not just the technology that is available but the use to which it is put, he says, backed up by quality teaching.

Massey has two current key features that make it the best provider. The first is the library, which extramural students consistently rate highly as a service. "It has a great service culture and an electronic support base to match," Dr Brown says.

The other is the Student Learning Centre and in particular the pre-reading assignment service that allows extramural students to get assignments read and commented on, with a response within 48 hours, before they submit them for marking.

"That is a fantastic service we offer to distance students and it complements the excellent support for students provided by the Extramural Students' Society."

What also makes Massey special is the range of papers it offers and the fact that in many cases the person teaching the paper or course is the one who designed it.

Massey has some of New Zealand's best tertiary teachers, says Dr Brown, and that is demonstrated by its success in the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

"I see my role as co-ordinating the work already going on among service units and academic units in the colleges. Much of that work is excellent but it needs to be pulled together and benchmarked against what other institutions are doing.

"If we aim to match or better what the best providers in the world are doing, we will achieve our goal of number one in the region."

The other factor is that a lot of the competition for students is not so much from other New Zealand universities but overseas ones, particularly in Australia.

Distance education has created a global education market, he says. Unlike in New Zealand, Australian universities are able to attract government subsidies for New Zealanders enrolled on their distance education programmes and therefore charge them Australian fees.

In New Zealand Australian distance students usually pay international student fees. Dr Brown will devote 60 per cent of his time to the new role and the equivalent of two days a week in the College of Education co-ordinating the doctor of education programme.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural



Seminar calls for more women at the top

Three Massey women attended the first nationwide leadership programme for senior academic women from 11–15 June in a bid to improve the number and status of women at the top in the tertiary sector.

Drs Claire Robinson, Antonia Lyons and Rosemary Stockdale, were among 20 participants from the eight New Zealand universities selected by their institutions for the residential programme in Wellington.

“The programme is long overdue given that women still only represent 17 per cent of professors and associate professors in New Zealand,” says EEO Commissioner, and former Massey staff member, Dr Judy McGregor. “All of the women chosen are senior lecturers or above and we hope to see them becoming professors, deans and vice-chancellors in future.”

The Human Rights Commission and representatives of Auckland and Massey universities were involved in establishing the programme, which will run twice a year, with the second programme in September.

According to Dr Lyons, all the women attending the course found it a great opportunity to hear inspirational stories from senior women in and outside the university sector, to network with women from other universities, to look for opportunities, and develop strategies for career advancement.

Dr Robinson, who heads the Institute of Communication Design in a college headed by a woman Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor Sally Morgan) on a campus headed by a woman Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Andrea McIlroy) in a university headed by a woman Vice-Chancellor (Professor Judith Kinnear) says that until attending the course, she had not been aware of the under-representation of women in senior management throughout the New Zealand university system.

She considers that a first step in addressing the statistics would be to make all staff aware of them.

At Massey, for example, she points out that despite constituting 41 per cent of the academic staff as at 31 December 2006, women only make up only 19 per cent of senior academic staff (professors and associate professors). Although this is a higher percentage than the national average, Dr Stockdale says there is still some way to go before the imbalance is resolved.

The programme was endorsed by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee and partly funded by the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust. The first programme was over-subscribed with Otago, Canterbury, Massey and Waikato sending three women, instead of two.

Professor McIlroy hosted a dinner for the programme, which was attended by other senior women on the Wellington campus.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar



Industrial designer inspired by Māori values and mythology

Academic souvenirs – for most students – consist of a pile of written assignments.

Industrial design graduate Emma Kitson's study memorabilia is a collection of treasured objects, including a Māori-themed soft toy, an adaptable sleeping mat for marae overnight stays and a chrysalis-shaped lamp.

"I've got lots of things I made during my time as a student, and there are some I'm really proud of," says the 33-year-old who now works as a programmes assistant at the New Dowse art gallery in Lower Hutt.



Emma (Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe and Waitaha), graduated last year from Massey's Wellington campus with a Bachelor of Design (Honours), having majored in Industrial Design.

"After graduating in the late 90s with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Otago Polytech, I went on to work in museums and theatre," she says.

"This gave me some insight into the stories that objects can tell, the history and nostalgia associated with them and their connection with rituals and emotion.

"I have always been fascinated by how things work and the processes involved in making different objects. I aim to create objects that are easy to use, beautiful and have a story to tell."

Her final year project involved researching the potential for Māori Industrial Design. A soft toy based on the mythical Māori character Manaia (representing knowledge and spiritual guardianship) was the result. A prototype of the toy is intended to accompany a computer programme for learning te reo.



At the New Dowse, she is currently setting up an exhibition of models and drawings from Peter Jackson's blockbuster movie King Kong.

A stint of overseas travel to check out international design innovations is her next step. But Emma's ultimate goal is to one day have her own design business developing products that are functional, beautiful and imbued with Māori values.

"It means more than just slapping a Māori motif onto something," she says.

Emma, who was inspired to return to study as a mature student by her great aunt Jeanette and aunt Barbara – both who attended university as mature students – says although industrial design is still in its infancy in this country, there is a strong need for local manufacturers to boost exports by developing high-quality, unique products that are not in competition with mass manufacturing markets like China. She plans to be doing just that in the near future.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Features



Banking Studies senior lecturer Claire Matthews with Community Board chairman John Harman.

Small town fights back after being abandoned by the big city banks

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The tiny Tararua town of Eketahuna is setting up its own money exchange after the big banks refused to set up shop there or even provide an automatic teller machine.

The initiative owes a lot to the town's do-it-yourself attitude – the community already runs the local supermarket and the local petrol station – and to the knowledge and experience of senior lecturer in Banking Studies Claire Matthews, who lives in nearby Pahiatua.

Mrs Matthews, a Tararua District Councillor, proposed the idea of a money exchange for the town, which has had no banking facilities since the Bank of New Zealand closed its branch 11 years ago.

The nearest banks and ATMs are either 35km south in Masterton or 25km north in Pahiatua.

Mrs Matthews has more than 20 years' experience working in and researching the banking industry. Her research report for her Masters in Business Studies, completed in 2000, looked at the experience of two towns in Northland, after the closure of their last bank branch.

“In the 1990s a lot of small rural towns lost all banking facilities, as the banks closed many branches around the country,” she says. “The number of branches in New Zealand reduced by 42 per cent between 1993 and 1999. The towns of Maungaturoto and Waipu were of particular interest because they had established money exchanges. I visited both communities and talked to people and one of the things that struck me was how similar Maungaturoto was to Eketahuna.”

Last year, after the district council's final bid to get a bank to establish an operation in the town was again turned down, Mrs Matthews decided Eketahuna could do better on its own.

“A bank branch is only of use if you are with that bank, and an ATM really only allows withdrawals, which may attract higher fees for customers of other banks. I suggested that a money exchange, as I had seen in Northland, would be more appropriate.”

Since then she has worked with the council and the Eketahuna Community Board to develop the proposal, using her research report as a basis.

The exchange will be run by staff in the council's service centre, which is also the town's library. It will aim to break even rather than make a profit, Mrs Matthews says, with the council subsidising the operation for the first six months on a trial basis.

It will provide access to cash through an eftpos machine, change for businesses, cash or cheque deposits, and cheque cashing for approved customers. Deposits will be taken by courier to banks in Masterton. It is expected to be up and running by August, with a few issues, including security, still to be worked through.

“Fees will be charged by the exchange, in addition to fees charged by the customer's own bank. This is what makes it suitable for a community to run for itself, but not something that the banks would be interested in.”

The return of banking facilities is expected to boost the local economy and possibly help attract small businesses to the town, which has a population of only about 500 but serves a relatively large rural area. Existing retailers who were considering moving out have also indicated that the new exchange will persuade them to stay.

Mrs Matthews is confident that it will be a success. "The disadvantage for Eketahuna is that it is 11 years since their last bank closed, whereas in Maungaturoto the money exchange opened on the next working day, and in Waipu there was a gap of only a few weeks. In Eketahuna, the delay means that people's banking behaviour has changed to take account of the lack of a local bank branch.

"However, in a recent survey, people said they would use the new facility. Eketahuna is a community that believes in supporting itself and I believe locals will get behind the exchange to make it successful."

Eketahuna has always had to work hard to get the facilities it wants but others won't provide. When the last grocery store in town closed its doors in 1987, the Community Board formed a charitable trust, offered debentures to local people and purchased a building for a new supermarket. It opened in 1988 and is still operating successfully. When the local petrol station burnt down in 2001 and there was no prospect of any of the major companies reinstating it, debentures were issued again.

The \$250000 raised was used to restore the station and forecourt. The business was leased to a local operator and re-opened in 2003. Community Board chairman John Harman says all debentures for both projects have since been paid back to community supporters.

Date: 24/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Video Multimedia

New opportunities in India for New Zealand IT companies – and management training

New partnerships between the University and India's leading information technology trainer will create new opportunities for New Zealand start up companies – and for management training.

The University's Graduate School of Business (GSB) and its Auckland-based e-centre have both signed agreements for partnerships with India-based CMC Limited, formerly IBM.

The e-centre partnership is designed to create new routes to Indian and international markets for IT startups, while the GSB partnership will create a range of management education opportunities in New Zealand and India.

CMC is the leading education provider in IT in India, with more than 250 training centres. Whereas many IT companies focus on the international market, CMC is domestic-focused.

The e-centre initiative is centred on exporting innovative technology solutions developed in New Zealand to a global market, which will be facilitated by CMC.

“The business model will entail the e-centre conducting evaluations of up and coming New Zealand technology companies that are looking to go global,” says R. Ramanan, Managing Director and CEO of CMC. “Candidates that are accepted will receive the support of CMC to bring them to the global market.”

Twenty companies are currently being evaluated, some of which are already in commercial negotiations with companies in India, facilitated by CMC.

The relationship is also intended to open up new routes to market for more mature companies as well as startups.

The partnership with the Graduate School of Business will involve a number of training and educational offerings in India and New Zealand.

Mr Ramanan says rapid growth in the Indian economy is driving the need for business education. “Universities and colleges in India do not have access to world-class business programmes. In addition, global companies are setting up base here and demanding that the managerial capability they have elsewhere in the world is comparable in their Indian offices.”

He believes this tremendous demand for management capability can now be addressed. “Massey can help us bring world class capability to this area,” he says.

The partnership will be flexible but may include short course executive education. The Massey Masters of Business Administration Executive two-year programme may also be run in India.

Indian MBA students may also work in internships with the e-centre start up companies, creating a merging of the two partnerships.

Date: 26/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

America's Cup fans should sleep in

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A sleep researcher says America's Cup fans need to make sure they get enough sleep.

Dr Leigh Signal from Massey University's Sleep/Wake Research Centre says, "It's great that our team is doing well. Yachting fans can look after their health by making sure they get enough sleep."

While the yacht races themselves take about two hours, weather conditions can delay the starts, sometimes for several hours after 1am NZ time.

"Reducing your sleep even for one night by three to four hours will affect how you feel and how you function," Dr Signal says.

"If you are getting up night after night, the effects will accumulate. You will continue to feel sleepier and more irritable each day and your functioning will continue to decline.

"Sleep loss affects our ability to respond quickly, maintain attention, and perform cognitively complex tasks such as problem solving."

She says if people get less sleep than they need over several days, the body's drive for sleep continues to increase. This raises the likelihood of microsleeps, where a person falls asleep for a few seconds at a time.

"It is therefore important to take care with tasks that might affect your safety or the safety of others. Driving is one example. If you feel sleepy you should not be driving."

She advises people to get more sleep at other times, by going to bed earlier or sleeping in, or taking a nap at a another time during the day.

"Going to sleep earlier than normal can be difficult as our internal biological clock is telling us we should still be awake. However, if you are sleepy from getting less sleep over the past few days this is likely to be easier."

Date: 27/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Sport and recreation

Pregnant women offer insights for asthma research

Health researchers working on a groundbreaking asthma study to determine whether and why children raised on farms have greater asthma resistance want another 600 pregnant women from the lower North Island.

So far 200 women have joined the study, which involves filling out a questionnaire.

Dr Jeroen Douwes from the Centre for Public Health Research says asthma and allergies are becoming more common in New Zealand, but living on a farm may protect children against developing these conditions.

His team is studying what prevents people from developing asthma and allergies. They want pregnant women from both farming and non-farming backgrounds to help.

Dr Douwes says children whose mothers had been frequently exposed to farm animals during pregnancy had a 50 per cent reduction in risk of having asthma, hay fever or eczema.

His team is now investigating which specific aspects of animal contact during pregnancy are protective. They also want to find out more about how these factors affect the child's immune system.

In order to do this, they are seeking pregnant women in the lower North Island. They need 800 women to provide enough data for results to be useful.

Dr Douwes says the results will help develop programmes to reduce asthma and allergy risk.

The centre has an \$800,000 New Zealand Health Research Council grant for the three year study.

Dr Douwes says his team is looking for pregnant women from the lower North Island, including Taranaki, Taihape, and Hawke's Bay.

Women who are interested can contact the centre's research nurse Heather Duckett on free phone 0800-000-544

Date: 27/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

BZP ban right decision on balance

The Government's decision to move to ban benzylpiperazine (BZP), the active ingredient in most so-called "party pills" was a tough call but, on balance, probably the right decision, says Dr Chris Wilkins from Massey's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes (SHORE).

Dr Wilkins led a major study by SHORE researchers of legal party pill use in New Zealand, which was published last year and cited by both proponents and opponents of a ban to back their arguments.

The study identified levels and patterns of use and demographics of users, their use of other drugs, any harm or problems associated with use. It also gauged availability and measured levels of dependency.

A random survey of 2010 people aged 13 to 45 years was conducted in February and March last year, which found that one in five had tried legal party pills and two in five (40 per cent) of 18 to 29-year-olds. Men were more likely to have tried them than women (24 per cent, compared with 17 per cent) and Māori were more likely to have tried them than non-Māori (26 per cent compared with 19 per cent).

Dr Wilkins was surprised at the numbers of people who had tried party pills, saying earlier that initial estimates were a figure closer to 5 per cent than 20 per cent.

"Our survey indicated that party pills were the fourth most widely used drug in New Zealand after alcohol, tobacco and cannabis. That was unheard of in any other country."

While most users reported fairly minor problems, a small number of users had experienced serious problems and had been admitted to hospital intensive care units with potentially life-threatening conditions.

"There has been no research on the long-term effects of BZP or the role BZP may play in psychological illness. Consequently, there was a strong case for stricter regulation of the use and sale of party pills and on balance a ban appears to be the low-risk decision. It will be interesting to see if a black market develops and the extent to which the authorities can control any criminal trade that develops."

Date: 28/06/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators

Higher use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco in gay, lesbian and bisexual population

Gay, lesbian and bisexual people are significantly higher users of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs than the heterosexual population, according to the latest analysis of national health data.

The disparity in rates of substance use have been found by Massey University researchers analysing data from the New Zealand Health Behaviours Surveys, commissioned in recent years by the Ministry of Health.

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual populations were only slightly more likely to use alcohol. However, while 42,7% of the gay, lesbian and bisexual group reported that they smoked tobacco regularly over the last year, this compared to only 27.7% of heterosexuals. The gay, lesbian, and bisexual population was also more than twice as likely to have used Marijuana over the last year as heterosexual survey respondents; nearly four times as likely to have used amphetamines on a regular basis in the previous 12 months; more than four times as likely to have used LSD over the last year; and more than three times as likely to have regularly used Ecstasy over the previous year.

The researchers were also able to compare various sub-groups finding that disparities were particularly elevated for lesbian and bisexual women with regards to illicit drug use, and for gay and bisexual men with regards to alcohol and tobacco use. Māori gay, lesbian and bisexual people when compared with Maori heterosexuals and their non-Māori peers reported lower usage of alcohol but higher usage of tobacco and some illicit drugs.

Lead researcher, Frank Pega, is presenting the findings to the annual conference of the Public Health Association and says this is the first comprehensive national evidence from a general population survey that differences do exist between the groups.

He says: "The implication of this research is that public health policy on substance use needs to address these health disparities by including also gay, lesbian and bisexual communities as priority populations. The findings also highlight a need for health promotion initiatives and substance use interventions targeted specifically at gay, lesbian and bisexual populations to be established".

"Other research has already established that gay, lesbian and bisexual peoples' substance use is related to their experience of discrimination and to social stress arising from this."

Mr Pega is a member of the Whariki Research Group working with the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE). With researcher Dr Nicole Coupe he took data from the Health Behaviours Surveys on drug use conducted in 2003 and on alcohol use in 2004. The surveys were a major research undertaking that saw over 15,000 New Zealanders interviewed by telephone

Mr Pega and Dr Coupe found that a higher proportion of the gay, lesbian and bisexual group drank alcohol and smoked tobacco. The findings also show that the group that identified as gay, lesbian and bisexual were significantly more likely than the heterosexual group to have experimented with and be a regular user of cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy and Amphetamines.

Date: 01/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Massey launches award scheme

Massey University tonight launches a new Vice-Chancellor's Award scheme, designed to support and encourage students who might otherwise forgo tertiary education.

The launch will be at Porirua's Aotea College, at the school's annual prize-giving ceremony. Massey University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha will hand 17 fifth-formers an award stating the recipient is "currently demonstrating the academic and personal qualities required for university study."

From tonight, the programme will be expanded to include selected sixth-formers next year, and the seventh-formers in 2001. Participating students entering Massey for full-time study will have a waiver of first year tuition fees up to a maximum of \$3,100, and a \$500 cash grant for living expenses.

The three schools taking part in the pilot scheme are Aotea College, Flaxmere College in Hastings, and Lyton High School in Gisborne. Up to 9 bursaries will be awarded in each of the two years of the pilot scheme and Professor McWha says the scheme could be extended to other schools.

Aotea College principal Brent Lewis said he is delighted with the Massey initiative. "We look forward to many of our students qualifying for these awards both now, and in the future." The award would give students who had not previously considered tertiary study the chance to be "exposed, encouraged and supported" in understanding university life. "Massey has recognised that some students might not be considering university study for financial reasons, or through not understanding what is involved with the university way of life."

Mr Lewis said students receiving the awards would not necessarily come from deprived families. The "best and the brightest" would be selected, irrespective of their backgrounds. "Giving the award to any student who meets the requirements is a hugely motivating force, particularly as it permeates through to sixth and seventh forms" It creates that awareness; people are being tracked, opportunities are being lined up, experiences are available. That's an immensely powerful and motivating force - the seed is being planted at an early stage."

College of Education Pro-Vice Chancellor Luanna Meyer describes the award as an "exciting joint partnership venture" with schools determined to get more students into university. Each selected school is demonstrating a commitment to support students thinking of further study and communities with a history of limited participation in university study are being targeted. "It is vitally important to begin talking with students about tertiary education no later than fifth form, because by then, they should be thinking about their career choices."

Participating schools will be assisted in developing a "culture of learning and teaching" that encourages both an "appreciation and capacity" for tertiary education, irrespective of background. Many school leavers are not aware that by getting a university degree, potential income over a lifetime is doubled. "And that will have huge benefits in terms of quality of career and life," says Professor Meyer.

A unique aspect of the scheme is the way in which the schools are being entrusted to decide which students have the academic and personal qualities needed for university study. "By approaching these issues from a school perspective, I believe we will each understand better how we can support these young people in achieving their goals." Professor Meyer says New Zealand is losing ground in the percentage of less-affluent students now moving on to tertiary study.

"One of our goals with this scheme is to show that we can turn this situation around, that university study is not only for the children of wealthy parents" We can't waste the talent of our young people, simply because the school doesn't have access to the same resources.

"Massey has identified 60 students within the three participating schools who are on track for university studies. 'so it's quite a large group - we're not setting up one two people to be tall poppies, we're looking to develop a peer support group, where this will be viewed very positively. It will be something they're proud of, rather than embarrassed by."

Professor Meyer says once the first generation of recipients are seen to be achieving, that recognition could help change a community's attitude towards further education. "Then we hope increasing numbers of students will meet the criteria."

Date: 01/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Research shows some pregnant women binge drinking

While most women cut their drinking when they become pregnant, beneficiaries drink more, a study has found.

Senior Lecturer Food Nutrition and Health at the Albany campus, Patsy Watson, says pregnant women beneficiaries on binges consumed enough to put their average blood alcohol levels over twice the legal driving limit.

Mrs Watson spoke out about the findings to national media. She said the results were indicative of a serious public health problem; "the effects of which will not become evident until these children enter the education system."

Alcohol can cause malformation, slow growth and nervous system problems in foetuses. The study found that 11 per cent of pregnant women habitually drank to intoxicating levels. Women under 25 were the biggest drinkers, but 44 per cent of all Maori drinkers drank to excess, compared to 3 per cent of New Zealand European drinkers.

Mrs Watson's research found that in the beneficiaries group, mean alcohol in-take increased to give a mean blood alcohol level over twice the New Zealand legal limit during a drinking session.

"The foetus appears to be most susceptible to alcohol damage in the second and third week after fertilisation, a time when many women do not know they are pregnant and have not reduced their alcohol consumption."

The research also found that despite smoking's proven negative effect on an unborn baby's growth, 13 per cent of pregnant women surveyed continued the habit. The smokers were also most likely to be heavy drinkers, says Mrs. Watson.

"The infants born to these mothers are at added risk, having two potential toxins to deal with."

Iron deficiency anaemia was the most common nutritional problem found in the women, followed by folate and calcium shortages.

The research was funded by the Ministry of Health.

Date: 01/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Future-focused graduates prepared for the classroom

A new degree programme promises to better equip teachers for modern classrooms and bring higher rates of pay for graduates.

Massey University's College of Education has launched a four-year primary teacher education programme that will bring New Zealand in line with international teacher training standards. The programme addresses the latest curriculum changes and best teaching practices. It also puts teacher preparation on a similar footing to other specialist professions with four-year qualification programmes including social work and engineering. New students will enter the programme from next year.

Teacher Education Professor John O'Neill says that because society makes huge demands on today's primary teachers, the new programme has been designed to develop student teachers' knowledge and confidence in much greater depth.

"Everything the students do over the four years is intended to equip them to perform as a teacher in our diverse classrooms of 2012 and beyond," Professor O'Neill says.

"The extra year allows students to systematically develop their knowledge and thinking, and it also provides more time to develop their teaching skills. It encourages the 'can do' attitude that is necessary to be a successful teacher who makes a real difference to young people's life chances."

College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says that the new programme recognises the value of educators, the challenges they face and ensures graduates a salary advantage when they enter the workforce.

"New Zealand is one of the only countries in the OECD that retains three-year teacher preparation programmes, so the move to a four year programme brings us into line with other countries," Professor Chapman says.

Graduates will be equipped with a dual qualification on completion of the programme, receiving a Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary and a Diploma in Education Studies.

Rather than simply merge the two qualifications, the College of Education undertook an extensive consultation process in order to build a new programme from the ground-up.

"It is essentially the reform of a degree, a substantial change that started three years ago in response to the major changes that have been taking place in contemporary education," Professor Chapman says. "More than 70 per cent of college staff have been involved in shaping it - which is twice the number of those who will actually teach this particular programme. The result draws on a wealth of expertise and represents the true merger of pre-service teacher education in a university environment."

The groundbreaking programme includes in-depth literacy and numeracy components, fully interwoven themes addressing biculturalism, inclusion, and ICT to best meet the needs of the 21st century classroom

It will be available internally at Palmerston North and Napier, and extramurally.

Date: 02/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Teaching

School-age entrepreneurs compete for scholarships

New Zealand's first and only total immersion programme for budding young entrepreneurs starts today in Palmerston North.

For the more than 60 secondary school students from throughout the country who will compete to become the winning business team this year there is an added inducement: Scholarships towards study at Massey's College of Business will be offered to all contestants, with scholarships of higher value going to members of the winning team.

New Zealand Business Week started 17 years ago. It was based on an American concept developed by one of the originators, Dr David Tweed from the College of Business, working with Palmerston North Boys' High School. The New Zealand model has been adopted in Australia.

This year 60 students will take part, from schools as distant as Western Springs College, Orewa College, South Otago College, Otago Girls' High School, Marian College in Christchurch and St Oran's College in Wellington. There is a strong contingent from Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa and Manawatu.

During the week the students work to a tight schedule, including visits to local businesses, lectures, team building activities at Linton, their own trade fair, panel discussions, theatre sports, coaching from their mentors and, most important, company meetings.

Special events this year include sessions with Massey lecturer and former Black Ferns captain Dr Farah Palmer, academic and author Professor Richard Buchanan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington and Roger Wigglesworth from the Ministry of Economic Development.

Contributing business people include Mark Cleaver from Aero Sports protection, Grant Irvine, pharmacist, photographer and farmer (on diversifying your business), and Bill Kermod from Direct Capital.

Department of Management lecturer Dr Colin Higgins, one of the organisers and a "graduate" of the programme, says the whole week is run on "real life, real time".

The students form "company" teams and are each given two business advisers and mentors, mostly representatives of leading businesses in the Manawatu. One of this year's advisers is a university student who was a competitor in a similar programme in the United States.

Throughout the week the teams make a series of company decisions, which are fed into a computer business simulation programme created by Dr Tweed. The consequences of their decisions are reported back to the teams and acted on. They also put their companies on show at a Trade Fair which is open to the public. Visitors are given "funny money", to invest as they see fit, depending on the success of each company's pitch".

The winner will be announced at a special Business After Five function on Thursday night, jointly hosted by Vision Manawatu, with Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly as guest speaker. Afterwards, there will be dinner and theatre sports featuring Black Sheep star Nathan Meister, with a breakfast and de-brief on Friday morning.

Students from the following schools are participating:

Western Springs College
Rangitikei College
Wairarapa College
Iona College
Mahurangi College
New Plymouth Girls' High School
Orewa College
Paraparaumu College
Central Hawke's Bay College
Palmerston North Boys High School
Napier Girls' High School
South Otago High School
Francis Douglas College
Taratua College
Opotiki College
St Patrick's College

Katikati College
St Oran's College
Marian College
St Mathew's Collegiate
Otago Girls' High School
Feilding High School
Naenae College
Bream Bay College
Kapiti College
Sacred Heart College
Te Puke High School
Hutt Valley High School
Gisborne Girls' High School
Villa Maria College
Pukekohe High School

Date: 02/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Scholarships



Massey psychologists reach out to Auckland community

The Centre for Psychology on the Auckland Campus is opening its doors to the community, offering consultation, treatment and training for those working in the profession.

“We have so many resources to offer, we can play an important role working with the many organisations and services that are already out there doing a very good job,” says the new Director of the Centre, Dr Kerry Gibson (pictured).

The move to bring psychology to the community has been planned since the University established the centre, one of New Zealand's largest. It is a centre for research and teaching but also for treatment and consultation across the community. Staff include clinical psychologists, organisational psychologists, healthy psychology consultants and therapists.

“There are good organisations working in all sections of the community. We are a state of the art facility backed by leading edge research, we are very committed to reaching out to support and facilitate a range of services and organisations.”

Already the centre is “reaching out” to school counselors across the region to support them in their work. Dr Gibson has an extensive background in working with children and families and says there is a great need in the region for more resources in this area.

Services offered include psychological assessment and testing, psychotherapy, workplace counseling and support, and a range of training options for psychology workers.

“We are here to assist with the common psychological problems like depression and relationship difficulties to families and to individuals, and to offer our services, resources and expertise to organisations.”

“This is an invitation to organisations to come and knock on our door,” says Dr Gibson.

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Date: 02/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

International role for academic

Management lecturer Craig Prichard is to take a leadership position with the world's leading professional association for management academics, one of only seven New Zealand academics to do so.

Dr Prichard has been voted in as chair-elect for the Academy of Management's Critical Management Studies Interest Group (CMS). The United States academy has nearly 18,000 members world wide, with about 100 of them in New Zealand.

Dr Prichard, who last year won an Academy of Management outstanding symposium award, follows six other New Zealand-based academics who have held executive positions within the academy.

They are professors Ralph Stablein, from the Department of Management at Massey, Kerr Inkson, formerly of Massey and now with the University of Auckland, the late Mary Mallon and Roy Stager Jacques from Massey, Kate Kearins from the Auckland University of Technology and Marjo Lips-Wiersma from Canterbury University.

From August, when the academy holds its annual conference in Philadelphia, Dr Prichard will take up a series of executive roles over a five-year period and in 2010 will chair the interest group.

He says the CMS group is the fastest growing grouping within the professional society and this year has nearly 900 members, two thirds of whom are based outside the United States. He says being elected to the leadership role is a huge vote of confidence from his colleagues around the world.

According to the Academy of Management's website, the CMS group is dedicated to the critical analysis of management and to generating radical alternatives.

"It might seem a bit bizarre to have a formal group within the academy that is so openly critical of management practice," says Dr Prichard. "But I think this tells us something about the importance of challenging things, and also about the problems that surround the practice of management.

"It's important to bear in mind that CMS is not critical of managers as people. You might say that managers as people get a lot of 'hospital passes'.

"Mostly they aren't personally responsible for some of the situations organisations get themselves into. But at the same time it's not possible for them to simply say 'I was just doing my job'.

"Being openly critical of management is nothing new, of course, and it is something most of us do. CMS is really just taking the next step and saying, 'OK, so what do we need to do differently?'"

Dr Prichard says the group puts much of its energy into placing critical analysis firmly on the management research agenda and also attempting to change management education.

Date: 02/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Fellowships for IVF, diet researchers

Two of 11 Foundation for Research, Science and Technology postdoctoral fellowships awarded this year have gone to researchers based at the Palmerston North campus.

Dr Gabe Redding of the Institute of Technology and Engineering has been awarded a fellowship of \$261,000 over three years to continue his work on in-vitro fertilisation, while Dr Abby Thompson of the Riddet Centre has been awarded \$315,000 over three years for work on genomics.



Dr Redding's project *Modelling the transport of substances in the ovarian follicle for the improvement of assisted conception in humans* is an extension of his PhD in bioprocess engineering supervised by Associate Professor John Bronlund.

"The long-term goal is to fully explore the contribution engineering can make to improving the outcomes of assisted reproduction technologies such as IVF," Dr Redding says. "The work is really novel because reproductive biology and engineering are two disciplines which are seldom paired."

The PhD work was undertaken as part of a wider programme contract awarded to AgResearch, also funded by the foundation.

Dr Abby Thompson will travel to Reading University in England for her project, *Impact of dietary lipids and genotype on cardiovascular risk through effects of insulin signalling and endothelial function*. The work will investigate the health consequences for individuals that have certain genes of eating diets containing different types of fats.



"The new work will allow us to have a better understanding of how our genetics can impact the way our food can affect our health. Ultimately, this area of research will enable dietary recommendations that are person-specific, rather than guidelines that are applied to a whole population," Dr Thompson says.

"Sometimes only some individuals will show a link between eating a certain food and a change in their health. For example, saturated fats are often seen as having a negative effect on our health through their association with heart disease and clogging of the arteries, but there are some people who can eat as much saturated fat as they like and it does not appear to have any negative effect on them at all".

Dr Thompson completed her BTech at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health and Riddet Centre co-director Professor Harjinder Singh supervised her PhD. The strong group at Reading University includes linkages to European researchers, Dr Thompson says, but the recent naming of the Riddet Centre as a Centre of Research Excellence makes it increasingly likely that she will return.

The postdoctoral fellowship scheme is intended to foster the development of emerging scientists and future science leaders. Objectives include assisting doctoral graduates to further develop and enhance their skills and knowledge in science, engineering and technology and, where appropriate, to focus some of this development and enhancement into perceived areas of need for New Zealand. The awards also enable postdoctoral researchers to obtain exposure to international developments in science, engineering and technology of potential interest to New Zealand and to enable New Zealanders who have completed doctoral degrees overseas to undertake postdoctoral research here.

Date: 03/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Anna Richards named NZU Sportsperson of the Year

Rugby player Anna Richards, from Massey's Auckland campus, is NZU Sportsperson of the Year. A first five-eighth with the Black Ferns, she was a finalist for Sportswoman of the Year at the 2006 Halberg Awards.

She held off a strong challenge from Commonwealth Games swimming gold medallist Moss Burmester to be awarded the title. Burmester, also from Massey's Auckland campus, will captain the New Zealand team at the 2007 World University Games in Bangkok in August.



Richards, a post-graduate student in sport management was honoured for her outstanding performance in last year's Women's Rugby World Cup in Canada, which saw her named player of the match in the final against England.

Massey sportswomen and men dominated this year's University Blues Awards for sporting achievement year, scooping 14 of the 65 awards.

Blues winners received their awards at a ceremony held at Massey's Wellington campus on Friday (29 June). They included: Canoe/Kayak – Michael Dawson and Mark Yungnickel (Palmerston North); Canoe Polo – Joanna Wright and Tania Perrett (Palmerston North) and Olivia Spencer-Bower Wellington); Hockey – Emily Naylor (Palmerston North); Ice Hockey – Andrew Hay (Wellington); Karate – Amy Thomason (Wellington); Motorsport – Sara Randall (Palmerston North); Rollersport – Sarah-Jane Jones (Palmerston North); Surf Life Saving – Johanna O'Connor (Auckland); Swimming – Moss Burmester (Auckland); and Yachting – Matt Coutts (Auckland)

Massey and Waikato are celebrating joint top university status with 14 recipients.

Student Sara Randall, rally co-driver to New Zealand champion Richard Mason (also her fiancée) received the first ever Blue for motorsport.

The Universities Blues Award is the highest sporting accolade given in the tertiary system.

It is part of a tradition dating from 1922 in New Zealand and earlier in England, where the colours of Oxford and Cambridge Universities came to be a symbol for sporting excellence.

Date: 03/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation

Local trust assists Wairarapa students

Fourteen students have been named as this year's recipients of the Sydney Campbell Scholarships. The scholarships assist diploma and degree students from the Wairarapa studying agriculture or horticulture at Massey University, with recipients this year each receiving \$1500.

The scholarships are derived from the Sydney Campbell Trust, owner of the Riverside Farm property near Masterton. The farm is leased to the University on a long-term basis and is used for farm-related research, especially focusing on areas that will benefit the Wairarapa. The major portion of the Trust's income is used to fund the scholarships.

Recipients this year are: Peter Apthorp, DipAgri, Pahiatua; Elizabeth Ashby, DipVetNursing, Carterton; Clementine Barton, BVSc, Masterton; Peter Beech, AgriBus, Masterton; Andrew Bouton, BApplSc/Agr, Masterton; Jennifer Breukers, BVSc, Masterton; William Cuttance, BVSc, Pahiatua; Kate Ferry, BVSc, Eketahuna; Noelle Finlayson, BVSc, Featherston; Wendy Hull, BApplSc, Pongaroa; Craig Lawrence, BVSc, Masterton; Sarah McKenzie, BApplSc, Masterton; Ilyse McMillan, BVSc, Masterton; Amy Smith, BBS/BSc, Masterton.

Date: 03/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Scholarships



Team 'Eat our dust' put their robot car through its paces

Robot cars compete

The University's Wellington campus became a race track on 2 June, as first year Bachelor of Engineering students and their robot cars competed in the Robolympics.

The students competed in five events of skill and cunning, including climbing a ramp, negotiating a maze and following a spiral circuit. Cars were equipped with sensors which read and steer along the lines marked on the course.



Sixteen teams spent a month building their cars and keeping a blog of their progress, as part of the paper Engineering and Media Fundamentals.

The top spot was taken out by Liam Grattan and Tom Leijen, known as Team Alpha. The pair spent 18 hours working on their car.

Mr Leijen says that apart from a few last minute adjustments, everything went better than expected.

I still can't believe the team that came second gave us some spray-on glue to give our tracks that bit more grip for the hill climb if they hadn't given us that they would have won.

Mr Grattan says he enjoyed his first experience of working with electronic circuits.

It was a great learning curve and inspiration for me. My favourite part of the project was just seeing what people came up with at the end and seeing all the different and creative angles.

Dr Wyatt Page from the Institute of Information Science and Technology says he was impressed by the quality of the students' work.

It was a great success. There was some really good work there, both in the cars and the blogs. We awarded a special prize for best aesthetics to Team Paddy Wagon, for their innovative design with flashing lights and micro sound system.

The Robolympics are a regular event at the Palmerston North campus, but this is the first time they have been held at Wellington.

This is the first year the Bachelor of Engineering has been offered at the Wellington campus, and it's going very well, says Dr Page.

The programme has 35 first year students and offers three majors: Mechatronics, Multimedia Systems Engineering and Software Engineering.

Date: 04/07/2007

Type: University News

Cool idea wins design award

 [Watch the ONE Breakfast item](#)

A cooling vest for athletes has won the Dyson Product Design Award for Massey industrial design graduate Stephen Smith.



He beat three Massey graduates who were finalists for the \$3000 prize.

Mr Smith's "Arctic Skin" vest stabilises a sportsperson's body temperature via a cooling process, which enables them to maintain an optimal physical performance for longer periods while competing.

Mr Smith, a product designer from Greenhithe, Auckland, says he drew on his competitive sports background for ideas.

"The vest provides a solution for endurance athletes who need to overcome dehydration during competition. It stores drinking water and the vest's fabric absorbs water in its in-built cooling system to prevent athletes from overheating and suffering from dehydration," he says.

He says while he has researched the marketplace and produced a prototype for Arctic Skin, the product is at concept stage only, and he would welcome an opportunity to commercialise his design.

Open to final year design and engineering students and recent graduates, the Dyson Product Design Award recognises emerging designers whose work demonstrates the ability to think differently and create products that solve problems and work better than existing products.

Acting regional director at the Auckland School of Design, Azhar Mohamed, says design research has always been at the core of teaching at Massey.

"The fact that all the finalists are from Massey's Auckland and Wellington Schools of Design proved the calibre of our graduates. I am thrilled by their success."

Recent PBRF rankings confirmed Massey as New Zealand's leading design school.

Head judge Designer's Institute product representative David Lovegrove said the Arctic Skin stood out for its innovation and creativity and reflected the award criteria and Dyson philosophy of making products work better.

"All finalists are enthusiastic designers and they are passionate about their products," Mr Lovegrove said. "They each undertook a thorough design process which led to well-developed concepts."

"What particularly excited the judges was the potential for sporting, military and safety markets, and its global possibilities."

The other finalists include Ben Thomsen's "All-Terrain In-line Board", a skateboard reinvented to move on grass; Chris Moor's "Surge Surf Ski", a surf lifesaving ski designed for better handling and speed in the water; and Gus Donaldson's "Kaichair", a space-saving highchair for cafes.

Mr Smith was also named a British Council New Zealand Design Ambassador, and will travel to Britain in September with \$3000 travelling expenses and have the opportunity to tour Dyson's Research, Design and Development facility.

He says he felt overwhelmed by the award and was excited about the huge opportunities of his trip.

The Dyson Award was set up in 2001 by Avery Robinson, the distributors of Dyson in New Zealand. It is hosted in association with the British Council New Zealand Design Ambassador Programme, DINZ, IPONZ and the New Zealand Listener, to recognise and reward up and coming New Zealand designers with product design ideas that best demonstrate innovative and inspiring solutions to everyday problems.

Date: 04/07/2007

Type: Audio Visual



Dr Stannard in the underwater weighing tank.

Faulty fat measure blamed for higher insurance charges

[▶ VIDEO](#) [Watch the ONE NEWS item](#)

Life insurance companies are using a flawed measure of assessing body fatness as the basis for charging many customers higher premiums, Massey health researchers say.

Dr Steve Stannard, an expert in human body composition, has examined the use of Body Mass Index (BMI) as an indicator of future health on behalf of Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health colleague Matthew Barnes.

Mr Barnes, manager of the human performance laboratory at the University's Palmerston North campus, had applied for a new life insurance policy but faced a high premium due to his BMI of 36. His insurance company, ING, had rated him as obese, he says, even though he had completed blood screening tests showing he was healthy and was a confirmed fitness enthusiast. The insurance company rejected Mr Barnes explanation that his BMI was due to muscle mass from lifting weights, the decision adding \$8 to his monthly premium.

"A person's BMI is calculated as their weight in kilograms divided by the square of their height in metres," Dr Stannard says. "Population statistics show that if a person has a BMI of 26 or more their chances of developing conditions related to excessive body fat, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease, are greater than those with a BMI between 20 and 25.

"However, BMI is not a tool to diagnose individual health status, rather it was developed to broadly describe populations for statistical use. Despite this, all the major insurance companies use BMI. Where Matt Barnes has come unstuck is that the extra weight he carries is muscle, not fat."

TV programme Fair Go investigated the case and found that most major insurance companies used BMI.

ING agreed it would instate the normal premium for a healthy person if Mr Barnes could show that his body fat was below 25 percent. Fortunately, Dr Stannard is working with Professor Chris Cunningham, director of the University's Research Centre for Maori Health and Development, Te Pumanawa Hauora. They are currently conducting research on the body composition of young Maori men using a custom-built underwater weighing tank. Mr Barnes was measured by PhD student Isaac Warbrick and Professor Cunningham.

"Underwater weighing is the gold standard for measuring a person's percentage body fat," Professor Cunningham says. "It relies on the Archimedes principle which states that the mass that a person loses when submerged in water is directly proportional to their body volume – thus the underwater tank simply measures their volume. We can then measure their body weight using conventional scales and weight divided by volume gives us density. Once we know body density, from very good published data describing the body's fat and non-fat tissue density, we can calculate the percentage body fat."

Mr Barnes body fat was calculated to be 22%, and, after discussions with ING, he is paying a reduced premium.

"Matt is fortunate in that as a science graduate and a University staff member he had both the knowledge and the environment where he was able to question the process the insurance company had in place," Dr Stannard says. "It is likely that there's quite a few people out there who are paying higher premiums than they otherwise

should, and in reverse others who are paying less than they should because of the misplaced reliance the insurance industry has on BMI as a tool for medical diagnosis.”

Date: 05/07/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Research; Video Multimedia; Wellington



British MPs acknowledge nuclear test veterans report

The report into the health of New Zealand nuclear test veterans, undertaken by a team led by Dr Al Rowland of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, has been acknowledged in the United Kingdom House of Commons.

The Labour Mp for Norwich North, Ian Gibson, lodged an early day motion – a device to stimulate debate and recognition in the house – applauding the study. Dr Gibson and John Baron, Conservative MP for Billericay, also planned to request a parliamentary inquiry into the detonations, which took place in the South Pacific from 1957.

The New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans' Association commissioned Dr Rowland to look at the cells of 50 veterans for damage. Dr Rowland says the findings are unequivocal: in a matched control group of men of the same age, his team found an expected frequency of 10 chromosome translocations per 1000 cells, but in the veterans' group, the average number of translocations was considerably higher at 29 chromosome translocations per 1000 cells. Workers who were close to the Chernobyl nuclear accident or involved in the clean up after the accident had about 20 translocations.

Dr Gibson has asked for a copy of the report.

“We really need a similar thing for this country.”

There were 40,000 servicemen and civilians at the UK tests, 22,000 of them from Britain and the rest from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

Dr Gibson's early day motion (EDM), lodged on 15 May, has attracted support from 87 other MPs. Although most EDMs are never debated, they are used to publicise the views of individual MPs, draw attention to specific events or campaigns, and to demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view.

More than 400 of the 551 sailors who took part in Operation Grapple have died. The New Zealand Test Veterans Association is now urging the New Zealand Government to fund studies into the health of veterans' children and grandchildren.

Date: 05/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Government Policy commentators



The winning team, with some of their advisers. From left to right: Jess Nelson, Sara Jones (Idaho Business Week.), Evan Kroll (Stevenson's Structural Engineering), Astrid Genet, Fiona Turner (Massey University), Nicole Bourke, Sophie Duggan, Joshua Miers-Jones, Toni Stills, and Fraser Stewart.

Blacks take the honours in New Zealand Business Week

The future is far from black for seven students from seven New Zealand secondary schools.

As the Black Team, the students took first prize in New Zealand Business Week, the country's only total immersion programme for budding young entrepreneurs. The annual programme, which ran through last week, is organised by Massey University's College of Business and Palmerston North Boys' High School, with support from the Manawatu business community.

The winning team was: Sophie Duggan from Iona College in Havelock North; Nicole Bourke from Central Hawke's Bay College; Fraser Stewart from Palmerston North Boys' High School; Astrid Genet from Napier Girls' High; Joshua Miers-Jones from Katikati College; Jess Nelson from Palmerston North Girls' High School, and Toni Stills from Villa Maria College in Christchurch.

More than 60 students from throughout the country took part in the non-stop residential programme in Palmerston North. All participants were offered scholarships towards study at the College of Business, with scholarships of higher value for members of the winning team.

Organiser Dr Colin Higgins says standards were high this year and selecting a winner was a close call. "It didn't really become clear until the last event in the week's agenda, the Trade Fair, where teams put their 'products' in front of the public."

The week's activities also included visits to local businesses, lectures, team building activities at Linton army camp, panel discussions, theatre sports, coaching from their mentors and, most important, team meetings.

The students form "company" teams and are each given two business advisers and mentors, mostly representatives of leading businesses in the Manawatu. One of this year's advisers was a university student who was a competitor in a similar programme in the United States.

Throughout the week the teams focused on a retail clothing project, making a series of company decisions, which were fed into a computer business simulation programme created by Dr David Tweed. The consequences of their decisions were reported back to the teams and acted on.

The winner was announced at a special Business After Five function, jointly hosted by Vision Manawatu, with Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly as guest speaker.

Date: 09/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear with Associate Professor Peter Snell and Health Minister Pete Hodgson.

Excellence recognised at Parliament

The University's Research Medals and Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence were presented at a formal dinner at Parliament last month. Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear hosted the event in association with Health Minister and Massey alumnus Pete Hodgson. Mr Hodgson said he was delighted to host his alma mater at Parliament.



Associate Professor Peter Snell was guest speaker.

The individual medal went to Professor Neil Pearce, Director of the Centre for Public Health Research and the team medal went to the Research Centre for Maori Health and Development, both from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Early career medals were awarded to Dr Ajay Awati from the College of Sciences, Dr Ben Marshall from the College of Business and Dr Glen Pettigrove of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Barry Scott, from the College of Sciences, received the supervisor's medal.

Recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for teaching were Dr Tracy Riley, Dr Bryan Walpert, Dr Andy Martin and Dr Sharon Stevens.

Caption: Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear with all the medal winners. From left; Te Kana Kingi, Eljohn Fitzgerald, Barry Scott, Glen Pettigrove, Steve Stannard, Malcolm King, Professor Kinnear, Ajay Awati, Amohia Boulton, Brendon Stevenson, Chris Cunningham, Ben Marshall, Maureen Holdaway, Heather Gifford, John Waldon and Neil Pearce.

Date: 11/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington

Vet nurse nets nutrition award

Veterinary nurse Emily McKeague has taken out a national award for knowledge, aptitude and enthusiasm in pet nutrition just two months after graduation.

Ms McKeague works at the Massey University veterinary clinic on the Palmerston North campus, and is pictured (right) assessing the condition of a slightly overweight Husky named Larka.



It was while studying for her Diploma in Veterinary Nursing that Ms McKeague completed a case study and entered the Buddy Award, which was held for the first time this year.

After graduating with a Diploma in Vet Nursing in March, Ms McKeague is completing two science papers in preparation for starting her BVSc next year. She intends to buy a laptop with the \$1000 she received for the Buddy Award.

Clinic head nurse Lara Angevine said that Larka was carrying just a couple of extra kilos at 25.5kg, with her deceptively thick coating adding kilos.

“What we want is to be able to feel the ribs but we don’t want to be able to see them – and we want to be able to see the hips without a lot of extra padding over the top of them.”

The Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences offers veterinary nurse training at the teaching hospital to 30 students each year. The nursing students are trained alongside veterinary science students, with an emphasis on practical training. As well as companion animals, the teaching hospital cares for horses and production animals.

Date: 12/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Mike Dwyer and fellow student Stephanie McKillop prepare to sell the turbo packs.

Essentials not forgotten in Turbo wax promotion

[▶ VIDEO Watch the Close Up item](#)

Brazilians are world renowned for their passion and prowess at soccer but in the Manawatu it is a Brazilian of a different kind helping promote rugby.

Beers, burgers and Brazilian waxes are being given away as part of a promotion aimed at getting students to support the Manawatu Turbos in their second season back in the premier division Air New Zealand Cup.

Michael Dwyer, a third-year Bachelor of Business Studies student majoring in sports management and coaching is selling \$40 Turbo packs on the Palmerston North campus as part of his practicum assignment for his degree.

Mr Dwyer reckons the packs, which include tickets to the season's five home games, are a bargain and worth closer to \$150. He had 500 to get rid of and they are selling fast as the first home match looms in just three weeks.

The biggest talking point – and arguably most sought after item – in last year's Turbo packs was the voucher for a Brazilian wax at Palmerston North beauty salon Studio 31.

“The wax,” Mr Dwyer says, “is back.”

When invited to contribute a discount voucher to the pack, Studio 31 owner Wendy Newth was so confident anyone who had one Brazilian would be back for repeat business she threw in the first-time wax voucher for free. Clearly her business instincts proved correct because with the usual charge of \$67, the wax voucher alone is worth more than the price of the pack.

Add to that a can of beer from Speight's and a Big Mac from McDonald's Rangitikei St (both Manawatu Rugby Union sponsors), a green Turbos poncho and wristband, and the modern student rugby supporter could find his or herself fed, watered, dressed up and feeling special under the poncho as they cheer from the sideline.

The general admission tickets to FMG Stadium are worth \$15 each and provide entry to games against Waikato (on July 26), Bay of Plenty (August 19), Otago (September 9), Counties-Manukau (September 15) and Hawke's Bay (September 29).

Mr Dwyer is one of a group of students who do practical promotional work for the rugby union and other local sports events organisations to gain practical business experience in their final year.

Date: 13/07/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Business; Music and campus life; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



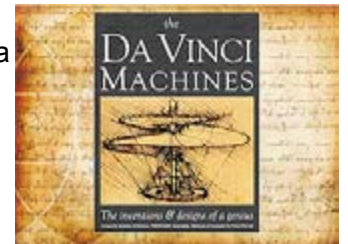
Prof. Allan Anderson, acting Te Manawa CEO Michael Ludbrook, Prof. Ian Warrington and Prof. Robert Anderson at the exhibition opening.

Engineering and Technology students' skills on show alongside Leonardo da Vinci

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ONE Breakfast item.](#)

Massey University's School of Engineering and Technology students have put their work on show alongside that of the 20th century's most visionary inventor, Leonardo da Vinci.

An exhibition of 60 models of machines and other devices based on the drawings of 15th and 16th century artist, scientist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci is on show at Te Manawa's city art gallery in Palmerston North from 28 July until 22 October.



It is just the second New Zealand appearance of the exhibition, put together a decade ago by a group of Florentine artisans and academics using materials that would have been available when Leonardo was alive (1452-1519).

Sponsored by the University, Dr Eileen Fair and Science Centre Incorporated, the Da Vinci Machines exhibition features models of flying machines, nautical craft and military machines that he envisaged often centuries before similar objects were invented and used.

The models will be displayed alongside copies of Leonardo's original drawings and interactive displays encouraging visitors to operate the machines themselves.

A group of fourth-year students from the School of Engineering and Technology have designed for display modern versions of the drawings using the latest computer design technology. These suggest links between Leonardo's version of a glider and the iconic World War II fighter plane, the Spitfire; a car-like machine powered by springs and the Formula 1 Ferrari; and his LV39 robot and the chatty Star Wars android C3PO.

A wide range of supporting activities are being run in conjunction with the exhibition. On the evening of 7 August, the School will host a function for the Manawatu business community, which will allow local businesspeople the chance to preview the displays. Local technology and engineering firms will have their activities on show adjacent to the exhibition to provide a contrast between Leonardo's discoveries with their modern counterparts.

On 8 August, several of the senior Massey staff will present three short talks about Leonardo's work.

Dr Stephen Marsland will discuss images and geometry, the fact that Leonardo was one of the first artists to think of images mathematically.

Associate Professor Richard Haverkamp will give a talk entitled "Nanotechnology – small beautiful and useful", which is based on a claim Leonardo made in about 1490 that by the time of his life all the useful and pleasant

subjects had been considered or discussed by other people.

The third talk will be by Professor Bob Hodgson and Garry Allan on machines that use artificial intelligence, an idea that eluded the man who had the genius to invent or foreshadow the bicycle, the helicopter, aeroplanes, parachutes and scissors, when he wasn't painting.

Te Manawa Director of Exhibitions and Programmes Peter Sarjeant says the exhibition has grown since it first appeared in New Zealand, at the Auckland Museum in November 2005, with another 10 machines added by the group from Florence. Two of the artisans would travel from Italy in the first week of the exhibition and build a further machine – a prototype bicycle envisaged by Leonardo centuries before its actual invention. The construction will be a “live” part of the exhibition, Mr Sarjeant says.

“One of the things I really like about the exhibition is that it showcases innovations and inventiveness, which ties in with what's happening in the Manawatu – with Massey, the CRIs, Te Manawa, our whole region really.”

Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington says the exhibition should inspire young people and encourage students to consider careers in technology and engineering.

“Massey's leadership in subjects as diverse as nanotechnology, food technology, and computer-aided design offer many choices to those who seek training in these and related fields.”

Date: 13/07/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: Exhibition/Show; Palmerston North; Video Multimedia

Greenhouse gas expert appointed research professor

A new Professor of Environmental Sciences has been appointed, a joint initiative between Massey University and Landcare Research.

Landcare Research principal scientist Surinder Saggar was formally appointed to the first joint professorial research fellowship on Friday. Professor Saggar's area of expertise includes agricultural greenhouse gas emissions including mitigation, and soil organic matter and nutrient cycling .

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the appointment is an example of productive co-operation.

“The area of environmental science is something close to Landcare Research's heart and something which Massey plays a key role in. In bringing together the two institutions, I look forward to real progress being made.”

Landcare Research chief executive Dr Warren Parker noted the need to collaborate with people who shared similar values.

“When we look at Massey and its aspiration to excellence and its will to be a University that is willing to get its hands dirty in the soil, we identify with that because we as a company are also committed to making a difference. We want to see our science applied to make New Zealand a healthier and more successful country with a truly sustainable environment.”

Professor Saggar has an outstanding record of research and service in agriculture and environment, both in India, where he spent the first few years of his career, at Massey and in his current position at Landcare Research. A soil scientist with more than 35 years' experience in soil biogeochemistry and environmental research, his research spans across a broad spectrum in soil and environmental science related to sustainable primary production systems and greenhouse gas emissions. Recent strong collaboration with Massey University has seen Professor Saggar co-supervise many postgraduate students.

Professor Saggar has been the recipient of numerous accolades: The M.L. Leamy Award for the most meritorious contribution to soil science by a New Zealand Society of Soil Science member published in the past three years; Landcare Research Regional Achievement Award for pursuing possible mitigation strategies in trace gas research; Fellowship of the New Zealand Society of Soil Science (FNZSSS) for distinction in research and advancement of soil science, and for strong leadership in New Zealand and international soil science through commitment to excellence in research, communication and teaching; and the Norman Taylor Memorial Award for outstanding scientific contributions to New Zealand and international soil science.

He championed the a tripartite memorandum of understanding between Landcare Research, the University and Punjab Agricultural University, India that provides the mechanism for a number of projects including sabbatical research visitors and PhD student exchange.

Professor Saggar and his wife Seema have lived in Palmerston North for 20 years and have been involved with many community organisations. He is a Justice of Peace and has been a chairman of the Ethnic Council of Manawatu. He was also instrumental in organising the “Green Screen Awards”, the signature event of Palmerston North City Environmental Trust.

Date: 17/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences





Students at Peterhead School in Flaxmere, Hastings, wearing their Adidas raincoats provided by KidsCan.

Free raincoats aid health, self-esteem at low-decile schools

[▶ VIDEO](#) [Watch the one news item](#)

A programme tackling child poverty by giving raincoats to children at low-decile schools has done more than simply keep kids dry – it has boosted their self-esteem, pride in their school and attendance in the process.

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, who teaches and researches social policy at Massey's School of Social and Cultural Studies, has just evaluated the charitable trust KidsCan's free raincoat scheme – believed to be unique internationally. A concurrent scheme provides free muesli bars and fruit for a quick nutrition boost to children in poorer areas.

Dr O'Brien found that many children were so proud of their quality black Adidas rain jackets adorned with the All Black silver fern logo that they wore them rain or shine.

"It is resoundingly clear that gifting of a normally expensive and quality item has made a huge impression on the children for whom this rarely, if ever, occurs," he says in the just-released report titled Full Tummies and Dry Clothes: Evaluating the KidsCan Programmes.

"The All Black logo has also played an important part. Reports of some children wearing them every day and all day and of all children taking much more care of their raincoats than any other item of clothing is clear evidence of this. Furthermore, there are numerous reports that it has lifted self-esteem and pride in both themselves and their schools."

Anecdotal evidence suggests that having a raincoat means more children attend school on rainy days, when they might otherwise have stayed home because they lacked one.

A food distribution programme offering free muesli bars and pottles of fruit to children was also deemed successful by the report.

KidsCan was founded two years ago by Julie Helson and Carl Sunderland, concerned by the high levels of child poverty in New Zealand. Consultation with 90 schools about the most pressing needs for children revealed that wet weather gear and food topped the list.

It has distributed 16,000 jackets, 2000 pairs of shoes and currently supplies muesli bars and fruit salads to 6000 children at 68 schools a week.

Lack of food interferes with a child's ability to concentrate, learn and affects behaviour.

The study, through recording teachers' and principals' observations, confirmed that offering a nutritious health bar and fruit pottle helped children cope with class work. The availability of food at school had been pivotal in extreme cases of deprivation, such as reported by one school principal who told Dr O'Brien: "There are children who don't have dinner. They might get some bread and make a sandwich. They might then come to school with no breakfast. And you can see the unhappiness they bring with them. [It's] on their faces, you can see them walking to school unhappy at the beginning of the day and you can ask 'what's up' and they say, 'I'm hungry'. They fill their tummies on what they get out of the water fountain."

Dr O'Brien praised the schemes, but recommended that organisers ensure schools with real need were the key recipients of the products, that clear guidelines be given for fair and wise distribution of raincoats and food, that children did not feel left out or singled out, and that parents are well-informed about the programmes.

He concluded that the Government should play a greater role. "If it is true that children 'fill their tummies on what they get out of the water fountain' this is indeed an indication of a serious level of hunger faced by some children in New Zealand today.

"Perhaps the Government should seriously consider taking responsibility for ensuring all children are adequately fed, until such time as poverty is eradicated in New Zealand."

Date: 18/07/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: Any



Potter phenomenon boosts learning

The Harry Potter series, which culminates in the release of the seventh title Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, is boosting children's interest in reading and stimulating learning, experts say.

Writing teacher Dr Lisa Emerson, a senior lecturer in the School of English and Media Studies, says the Potter series is a remarkable phenomenon.

“The fact that we have children desperately longing for a book to come out and speculating about its plot is very encouraging in that children are looking at books differently,” Dr Emerson says. “Probably the only comparable literary event is when [Charles] Dickens was writing in the 19th century and people used to wait for the next edition to come off the boats. Harry Potter is a one in a hundred years phenomenon.”

Dr Emerson says that while the books are not great works of literature, they are very clever and well-written children's books.

“Also the books have changed genre. The early books were school stories with a twist but they have now moved into fantasy, which is quite amazing. They have integrity – they work brilliantly from one to the next and it takes considerable skill to be able to achieve that. Some are better than others, of course, but I do think we'll still be reading them in years to come.”

Senior lecturer in the College of Education Brian Finch is writing his doctoral thesis on the educational value of watching video, using the second volume in the series, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

He says that while it is encouraging that Potter has made reading a valued activity by children, watching movies also has educational benefits.

“When children engage with film they know lots of detail about the dialogues, the characters and they are immersed in the action. They have a very good depth of knowledge of the stories, so that too shows valuable learning.”

Many of the nine and 10-year-olds he interviewed had read and re-read the second book, and watched the movie many times.

“Harry as a hero is very attractive. He is not a superhero and like us, he's not top of the class or the best at ordinary things but he has these unusual talents we would like to have. Kids identify with him.”

The first of the seven Harry Potter books, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, was published in 1996. British author JK Rowling has sold more than 300 million books worldwide.

Date: 19/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

FoRST funding for University projects

Five major Massey University projects have been successful in winning \$13.6 million in new funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. The annual funding round, announced this afternoon, is intended to assist New Zealand develop its economy, manage resources sustainably and respond to climate change.

The projects to receive funding are:

- PolyBatics researchers based in the Institute of Molecular Biosciences receives \$500,000 per year for two years for work on biodegradable nanoparticles made to order by genetically-modified bacteria.
- *Economic integration of Immigrants*, a project led by Professor Paul Spoonley of the School of Social and Cultural Studies, receives \$627,000 per year for five years to investigate how well or poorly immigrants are able to participate in sustainable and productive employment.
- The Nanomaterials Research Centre receives \$1.4 million over two years, for research into solar cells. Work on storage, generation and efficiency of solar energy has been undertaken by NRC for several years and has received ongoing funding from FoRST.
- A longitudinal study of ageing led by Dr Fiona Alpass of the Department of Psychology receives \$750,000 per year for five years. The work is focused on factors contributing to quality of life and independence in the elderly.
- The Riddet Centre receives \$4.275 million over five years for the future foods project, led by Centre co-directors Professor Harjinder Singh and Professor Paul Moughan. The project is a large programme to investigate the nanostructure of foods post-ingestion, with the aim of developing healthier foods.

The Riddet Centre was named by the Government as a Centre of Research Excellence last month, securing Government funding for six years and acknowledging its status as a world-class research institution. The Centre was formed in 2003 to initially bring together talent from Massey University, the universities of Auckland and Otago. The partnership is now extended and includes AgResearch and Crop and Food Research, with a hub at the University's Palmerston North campus.

Professor Moughan said he was delighted that FoRST has elected to support the Riddet Centre's premiere foods research platform.

“The support is particularly important following the recent announcement of CoRE funding. Collectively the new Government funding is a big boost to New Zealand's research and capability development in food innovation.”

Date: 19/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Funding

Not all cherries and bananas for pokie players

Four College of Creative Arts students are helping to get the problem gambling message across to young people.

Jess Michaels, Anna Smith, Janine Schenk and Tori Carew, who study Design and Photography at the Wellington campus, are working with the Problem Gambling Foundation in Wellington. Their first project is a range of T-shirt promoting the dangers of pokie machines and their link to problem gambling.



Foundation Health Promotion Adviser Louise Hill briefed the students on how the gambling industry works, where the money goes, and the social harm caused, particularly by pokie machines. "I then asked them to think up ways to make gambling a 'sexy' issue and the T-shirts are one of their ideas," Ms Hill says.

"The rationale is that when young people become interested and engaged in a social issue, the issue tends to gain momentum. At present, problem gambling is not an issue with much profile amongst young people, and although it impacts on everyone, it often goes under the radar. To change this, young people need to be involved in informing other young people about the issue. We chose Design students because they can work on the marketing of problem gambling as a social issue within the scope of their existing university work."

The T-shirts are branded "Pow! Pokies!" Some are comic book-style. Another features the familiar pokie fruit symbols, with the slogan: "It's not all cherries and bananas".

The T-shirts are available from the Foundation and are also being promoted by the Downtown Community Ministry in Wellington which says it has many clients who admit to problem gambling behaviour.

Date: 20/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Energy conference underway

 [Listen to the RNZ Morning Report item \(.MPA file 6.1mb\)](#)

Climate change could be stabilised by 2050 using new technology, climate change expert Professor Ralph Sims says.

The University's Centre for Energy Research is holding its fourth annual energy postgraduate conference on 17 and 18 July, supported by the new National Energy Research Institute (NERI).

The conference provides a forum for research students in the broader energy-environment area to present their work to peers, supervising staff, and attendees from government and industry.

Keynote speakers include Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimmons and chief executive of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Mike Underhill.

Professor Sims, director of the Massey Centre for Energy Research, will speak on climate mitigation at a public lecture at the Palmerston North Convention Centre at 5.30pm on 17 July.

As well as Massey graduates, attendance is open to NERI partners, including Auckland, Canterbury, Lincoln, Otago, Victoria and Waikato universities, CRL Energy Ltd, Crop and Food Research, Industrial Research Ltd, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Landcare Research and the New Zealand Centre for Advanced Engineering.

Massey staff or students wishing to attend conference sessions should email a.g.duncan@massey.ac.nz.

Professor Sims lecture will be held from 5.30pm in the social gallery of the Palmerston North Convention Centre on 17 July.

Date: 20/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar

Spirit of Samoa gets Massey student in rugby design finals

Wellington Textile Design student Charlotte-Rose Ferguson has reached the finals of an international competition to celebrate the Rugby World Cup, and sports brand Puma's sponsorship of the Samoan rugby team.

The International Rugby Fashion Redesign Competition began in early March, with entrants asked to customise a Puma lifestyle rugby shirt in the spirit of Samoa or the sport of rugby. The students could re-design, stitch, draw, paint, bead, or use patches and iron-on transfers to personalize their shirt.



Ms Ferguson, whose entry focused on the spirit of Samoa, is one of five finalists in the category of Best Original Men's Design. The other finalists are from Milan, Moscow and Paris.

Antonio Bertone, from Puma International, says all of the finalists added relevant themes and imagery to the existing Puma lifestyle rugby shirt or tailored the Puma rugby lifestyle shirt fabric to their liking, redesigning the silhouette. "Shirts were decorated with symbolic Samoan elements that included flowers, eagles, tattoo-inspired designs, and tribal Samoan masks. Other submissions included a bathing suit, a dress, a tote bag made to look like a rugby ball, and a scarf," says Mr Bertone.

"Puma brings style to sports, and these students did an incredible job capturing the spirit of Samoa, and the performance lifestyle element that's in our DNA."

The most original and distinctive designer will be announced in September on the eve of the 2007 Rugby World Cup and will receive either a cash award or a trip to Paris. Winning shirts will be displayed online at www.PUMA.com, and the original winning designs will be displayed at an exhibition in Paris.

Date: 23/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Research highlights steps for improving Māori responsiveness by local government

On the eve of the opening of candidate nominations for the 2007 local authority elections tomorrow (27 July), staff at Massey University are releasing findings of research that highlights the need for candidates to have much greater skills in how they engage with Maori in their communities.

The report, *Maori Engagement With Local Government: Knowledge, Experiences, and Recommendations* by Dr Christine Cheyne and Veronica Tawhai, presents research that explores Maori interactions with local authorities. It reveals that Maori have a considerable interest in the activities of local authorities but that many councillors and staff in local government have limited skills for engaging Maori.

“Participation in local authority decision-making, such as voting in local elections, is important to the representativeness and legitimacy of local government,” says Dr Cheyne. “Low voter turnout was a big concern following the last two elections in 2001 and 2004. This research set out to understand what Maori think about voting and other opportunities for participation in local government. It identifies ways that local councils can improve Maori participation. This is especially important for the growing population of rangatahi Maori [Maori youth], who increasingly will make up a larger proportion of new voters.”

“Maori have provided clear messages on how local governments can improve their engagement of citizens,” says Miss Tawhai. “Relevant and diverse forms of information and ways to participate is a start. However, overwhelmingly, Maori desire local authorities that are connected, responsive, and accountable to Maori communities. That Maori feel this is not the case is the primary reason why they choose not to participate.

“Some major changes are required in the ways local authorities operate if we are to encourage full participation from our communities,” says Dr Cheyne. “The legislation that local government operates under requires councils to establish, maintain and improve opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision-making processes and provide relevant information to Maori. When we talk to Maori we find that this isn't happening. Rather than focusing on the non-voters we need to focus on the councils' efforts to engage their citizens. Too often councils lack the necessary skills.

“Local authorities' efforts to secure full Maori participation are important to both upholding the terms of the Treaty of Waitangi and ensuring the health of our democracy,” says Miss Tawhai. “There is some good work now being done by the Electoral Commission in trying to reach young people using innovative ways of communicating with them about getting on the electoral roll, such as texting. However, we need much better efforts by councils themselves as they are the front line.

“With elections coming up it is important for councils, which run the elections locally, to have strategies for engaging Maori voters, especially rangatahi Maori. We don't want to again see headlines that followed the elections in mid-October lamenting low turnout.”

This report is intended to assist local authorities in their efforts to enhance Maori participation, and stimulate further research by local authorities with Maori in their communities, such as *mana whenua*.

The report will be released and key findings presented today (26 July) at Kainga Rua, Massey University, Palmerston North.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators; Maori

Robots, sleep, small business and Antarctica covered in University lecture series

This year's flagship Massey University lecture series in Wellington features four authorities on electronics, small business, sleep disorders and photography.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lecture Series for 2007 starts tomorrow (26 July), with the final lecture to be held in late August. Sponsor Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy says the series provides a showcase for the University's research strengths in Wellington.

"This year we feature four world-class scholars, specialising in four very different fields," Professor McIlroy says. "However, those domains have one important factor in common: They represent an area of research excellence that has flourished at the Wellington campus."

Professor Serge Demidenko, from the Institute of Technology and Engineering, delivers the first lecture, titled *Taming the Electronic Beast: New Challenges in the Electronics/Semi-conductor industries*. Professor Demidenko, an international expert in cybernetics, including robotic systems, will outline new challenges and solutions within the two industries and examine their importance globally and in New Zealand.

The second lecture will be delivered next Thursday (2 August) by Professor of Enterprise Development Claire Massey, Director of the Small and Medium Enterprise Research Centre. She will analyse international approaches to SME development and present a framework for developing New Zealand firms, focusing on the people who own and operate them.

The third lecture, on 16 August, features Professor Philippa Gander, Director of the Sleep/Wake Centre, and is titled *Fatigue and Work/Life Balance Among Junior Doctors*, Professor Gander researches sleep patterns and disorders and their effect on productivity, especially amongst shift workers.

Professor Anne Noble has titled her lecture *Of Landscape and Longing*, to be held on 30 August. She will reflect on the medium of photography and the questions that inform her long-standing investigation into the imagination and representation of Antarctica.

The lectures are open to the public, with invited guests from each sector covered by the lectures. They are held at the Theatrette in the Museum Building at the Wellington campus, in Buckle Street, starting at 6pm. Refreshments are provided and parking is available.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Major health study of South Asian women

Over 250 South Asian women have been recruited for a major study of health and nutrition issues particular to this ethnic group.

The Auckland based project was launched six months ago, led by Pamela von Hurst at the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. It's thought to be the first wide scale observation of the health of this section of New Zealand's Indian population, which now numbers around 107,000 people.

Different factors, including diet and climate, come to bear on the health of this ethnic group when they move to countries like New Zealand. Researchers suspect that dietary changes have led to an increase in cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. They are also considered to be at risk of vitamin D deficiency because they are exposed to less sunshine in the New Zealand climate and because it is harder for their darker skin to make vitamin D.

Pamela von Hurst says the researchers are very pleased with the high level of participation from this community. The success of the recruitment and the progress of the study, she says, have been significantly aided by the support of the Mt Roskill Medical and Surgical Centre. The centre is in the heart of Auckland's Indian community and participants have been able to meet the Massey research team there on Saturday mornings to give blood samples and provide wide ranging data.

Six months into the study, 100 of the women recruited who have been found to be deficient in vitamin D are now part of an intervention where some are given the vitamin in a supplement and others are given a placebo. The vitamin D supplement valued at \$25,000, has been provided for the study by Blackmores Ltd.

"Little is known about vitamin D supplementation and there are a lot of questions relating to the level of dosage required. This is a controlled trial to see if the dosage we are giving is effective in raising the serum vitamin D levels – or the levels of the vitamin in their blood," says von Hurst.

She says studies of vitamin D levels in people the world over are increasing.

"We're hoping to have some significant findings from our study very soon."

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Team Massey behind top equestrian talent

Elite equestrians now have the backing of a world-class support team, ensuring they can study at Massey while still competing at the highest level.

Team Massey includes equine experts in nutrition, physiotherapy and eventing, as well as human performance experts, who will mentor and support students accepted into the programme. The equestrians' horses are stabled free of charge at the on-campus Equestrian Centre.

The team includes international event rider and coach Andrew Scott, who teaches in the equine science programme. Equine and ruminant veterinary lecturer Dr Simone Hoskin will assist with equine nutrition, while equine veterinary lecturer Dr Harry Carslake assists keeping horses in optimum condition. Human performance lecturer

Dr Steve Stannard will work with the equestrians on their fitness, and former vet nurse and equine science lecturer Niki Lourie will work with horses on their responses to training. Ms Lourie is the physiotherapist for the New Zealand equestrian team, and trained in England with internationally-renowned physiotherapist Mary Bromley.

Two young equestrians are the first accepted into the programme, Sophie Wigley and Sam Taylor, both originally from Canterbury. Ms Wigley is a third-year vet student, Mr Taylor a fourth-year vet student.

Both are recipients of Prime Minister's scholarships, which support elite sportspeople by paying academic fees and a living allowance. Ms Wigley and Mr Taylor both compete in eventing, which includes dressage, showjumping and cross-country.

The Team Massey concept includes free stabling for one horse and access to the world-class arena. The availability of the equestrian centre on was a major factor in the decision to attend Massey, Ms Wigley says, and her horse Amarillo has been on site since she started. Mr Taylor has two horses at the centre, Judge's Decision and the D.V.8.

Mr Taylor says that Team Massey is great. "It's so helpful to get the advice and just have someone to go to," he says.

Ms Wigley is now looking to the top-level Richfields three-day event in December.

"So work is starting now on getting him [Amarillo] back into work, getting him fit. I come here three times a day, to feed him in the morning and night and ride during the day – we often have long lunch time breaks between lectures so I can ride at lunchtime."

Veterinary and equine science lecturer Dr Chris Rogers came up with the Team Massey concept in response to hearing of the difficulties achieving at the top level and studying. Former students including Heelan Tompkins and Andrew Scott opted to attend classes then drive for hours to train.

Dr Rogers was aware of the expertise around the campus, contacted key players and got the group together.

"People thought it was a great idea, the goodwill really was there. We all have a real commitment to developing young people and the equine degree also assists to develop potential within the industry. We felt we could also allow them to maximise their sporting potential while studying at the same time."

Dr Rogers said there was also considerable benefit for other students.

"These elite equestrians will act as role models and provide guidance for riders at varying levels. As well, we can use the students and their horses as case studies which is particularly valuable."

Date: 24/07/2007

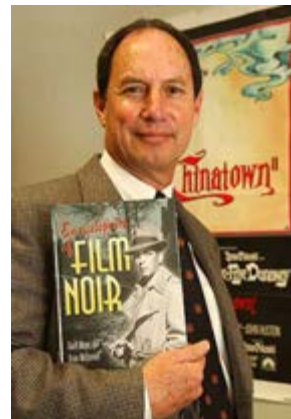
Type: University News

Categories: Music and campus life; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Film noir specialist co-authors international book

Dr Brian McDonnell didn't realise the 1944 movie *Double Indemnity* – starring Fred MacMurray and Barbara Stanwyck in a murder pact – was a classic film noir when he first watched it, gripped, on a black-and-white tele at home one rainy Sunday afternoon as a teen.

As a university student in Auckland in the 1970s, he was struck by the 1974 neo-noir film *Chinatown* and wrote a lengthy critique of it for student newspaper *Craccum*, comparing it to earlier film noir movies such as *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Big Sleep*.



The recent publication by an American press of a handsomely authoritative yet highly accessible tome on film noir is the culmination of his lifelong intrigue with the edgy, erotically-charged 1940s and 50s American classic crime movies, starring the likes of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

A senior lecturer in film and media studies at the Auckland campus, Dr McDonnell has co-authored the 496-page hardcover *Encyclopedia of Film Noir* – just published by Greenwood Press, Connecticut - with Australian academic Associate Professor Geoff Mayer, who teaches at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

The pair – who have both taught at the Palmerston North campus have collaborated across the Tasman to produce a comprehensive, illustrated guide to film noir titles, actors and directors. They've also penned a series of informative, rigorously researched essays delving into film noir themes to explore “the vexed question of whether it can be considered a film genre, its relationship to hard-boiled crime fiction, its iconic presentation of the American city, political and cultural influences associated with the post-war and Cold War periods (including the activities of the House Committee on Un-American Activities), and film noir's distinctive visual style.”

The publication of such a substantial book is in itself a testament to the enduring popularity and influence of film noir long after the genre's fedora hat, trenchcoat-wearing, cigarette puffing heroes made their mark.

Film noir refers to the wave of low-budget American films based on hard-boiled crime fiction by authors such as Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett and James Cain that were made between the early 1940s and late 1950s. As Dr McDonnell points out, the term ‘film noir’ was coined by French critics later on.

“It was a term made up by people looking back: a retrospective, critical label.”

This label by French film critics came about after a deluge of moody, unsentimental American crime films hit the French cinema after World War II. During the war years from 1939 to 1945, French audiences were banned by Nazi occupiers from seeing American films. When US movies did return, critics noticed a distinct change in style, theme and treatment.

Recognisable by their iconic visual style of high-contrast lighting, sinister or downbeat urban settings, use of flashback and voice-over and commonly featuring a detective and femme fatale embroiled in an ill-fated affair, film noir has retained an element of chic and kudos that reverberates in film and fashion well into the 21st century. Unlike the conventional, syrupy and simplistically wholesome Hollywood movies and musicals of the same era that endorsed the ideal happy family American lifestyle, film noir has proved a more enduring film genre with its shadowy worlds, and its haunted characters driven by carnal instincts and plagued by moral ambiguities, says Dr McDonnell.

While the characters in conventional Hollywood movies were cleanly defined goodies and baddies, a film noir hero was a tangle of good and bad impulses.

Film noir was very much a post-World War II phenomenon too, reflecting a toughening of the American psyche as the nation faced economic hardship, and returned soldiers came home to unemployment and a dismantled family and community, he explains.

Dr McDonnell has visited film noir archives in recent years at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and USC (University of Southern California) in Los Angeles and the University of Wisconsin to view hundreds of the films – many unavailable commercially. His own personal collection numbers over 500 film noir videos and DVDs.

Commenting on the significance of two Antipodean academics gaining top billing with the publication of a prestigious international book on an essentially American phenomenon, Dr McDonnell suspects their “outsiders’

sharp eye” brings an added dimension to film noir scholarship. After all, it took the French as outsiders to conceive of film noir in the first place.

“Now the antipodes is planting a flag in the midst of this very American genre,” he says.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

New rugby role for Farah Palmer

Sport Management and Coaching senior lecturer and former Black Ferns captain Dr Farah Palmer has been elected as an independent director of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board.

As a player, Dr Palmer made her international debut against Australia in 1996 and played in 35 tests, including 30 as captain, leading New Zealand to three world titles. As well as her lecturing role, she works part-time as a national and regional mentor for Te Puni Kōkiri. Amongst many awards, she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2007 for services to women, rugby and sport.



Māori Rugby Board chairman Paul Quinn says she brings a wealth of experience to the Board. “Farah is a highly-respected Māori woman, Māori leader, academic, rugby player and administrator. She is passionate about the sport and Māori rugby in particular and I am sure that we will benefit from her extensive knowledge and experience in the game,” says Mr Quinn.

Dr Palmer says New Zealand rugby is entering a challenging, yet exciting time. “It is a real honour for me to be in a position to contribute further to the development of the game in this country, not just for Māori people, but the wider rugby community.

“Even though I am not playing anymore, I still have a lot to offer rugby and I feel I can make a meaningful contribution to how we take the game forward,” she says.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Sport and recreation

Agriculture support impacts on income and health

A newly published paper reveals the extent of the impact of agricultural support and protectionist policies – on welfare and health, as well as on economies.

The paper, by Dr Guy Scott from the Department of Applied and International Economics, and Helen Scott, an independent health economist, was recently published in *The International Review of Business Research Papers*.

Dr Scott says their review of available research and data shows that agricultural protectionist policies in developed, policy-initiating states, such as the United States and the European Union, cause a number of unintended health effects.

“More intensive agricultural practices cause pollution, antibiotic resistance and more animal to human disease transfer.

“If fruit and vegetable production is not protected but animal fat and sugar are, there is likely to be over production of animal fat and sugar.

This does not make for a healthy diet and impacts on the nutritional well-being of the population.”

He says most agricultural support policies generate surpluses that are often dumped on world markets and given away as food aid. “So these policies then reduce farm gate prices and farm incomes in producing countries, such as New Zealand, Chile, and many developing countries.

“This, in turn, reduces the capacity of the country to produce agricultural products and generate export earnings. Efficiency falls, there is reduced ability to fund welfare programmes and deliver health services, and there is an increased need for foreign aid to developing countries,” he says.

In summary, Dr Scott says their research found that an “isolationist” approach to agricultural policy development and implementation has resulted in unintended deleterious domestic and international health effects.

On the wider economics, Dr Scott says almost all support and protectionist policies distort the way domestic and world markets operate. “This market distortion imposes costs on countries that implement such policies, on their trading partners and on other agricultural producing countries.”

He says 80 per cent of market distortions are caused by developed economies such as the European Union (38 per cent), the United States (16 per cent), Japan plus Korea (12 per cent), and Canada (2 per cent). The resulting lower economic efficiency results in further reduced ability to fund and access health care and sustain a healthy lifestyle.

“The global welfare gains of eliminating all tariffs and subsidies have been estimated as US\$56 billion or about 0.02 per cent of world GDP. Developed countries would gain US\$35 billion and emerging and developing countries US\$21 billion (EU US\$11 billion and US\$13 billion).

Dr Scott says the conclusion is that effective public policy making requires an integrated or inter-sectoral approach and informed tradeoffs between policy and political objectives.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Wildlife Ward nurses yellow-eyed penguin

A young female yellow-eyed penguin (hoiho) has been nursed back to health at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Wildlife Ward.

The sick penguin was found collapsed at Sumner Beach, Christchurch, last month, emaciated and weak and was flown to Palmerston North by the Department of Conservation.

Bridie White from the Wildlife Ward says the penguin, one of an endangered population of about 5000, had diarrhoea, a secondary yeast infection, enlarged kidneys and weighed just 3.4kg.



“She was given supportive fluid therapy for three days with an intravenous drip along with antibiotics and a prophylactic treatment for respiratory fungal infections,” Ms White says. “On the fourth day she was eating by herself and in fact coming over for the food. Part of her daily care was a swim in the rehab pool that is here and her feet were moisturised to stop cracking.”

The penguin was flown back to Christchurch last week, having fully recovered and gained 1.2kg.

Native to New Zealand, the hoiho (genus *megadyptes*, which means deep diver) is a large penguin for the temperate zone. Of the total population, only about 60 per cent are in breeding pairs. The Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust, sponsored by Mainland cheese, is trying to protect the bird's habitat.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Lecturer advises on darker culture for tattoo film

The Tattooist the latest in a wave of Pacific movies to hit the box office following Sione's Wedding and No 2 – exposes the darker side of traditional Samoan tattooing culture in a blood-and-ink saga of a young American who steals a tattoo tool and unleashes an ancient curse.

To ensure the film hasn't trodden on cultural sensitivities, tattooing protocols in particular, social work lecturer Tafa Mulitalo has been cultural adviser for the New Zealand-Singapore co-production due for release here on 30 August.

He says audiences will discover something of the depth of spiritual beliefs that govern Samoan society, and especially the ancient art of tattoo, or tatau.



As the story goes, nomadic American tattoo artist Jake Sawyer – played by Jason Behr of The Grudge and Roswell fame – discovers the mystical world of Samoan tatau when he attends a tattoo expo in Singapore. He unwittingly unleashes a dangerous curse after stealing and then using a traditional tattooing tool. Mayhem ensues in the lives of those he encounters, including his new love, Sina, played by Mia Blake who starred in the movie No.2.

While the ghosts and spirit forces in this supernatural thriller tagged “evil in ink” may seem the stuff of make-believe to some, they are a very real aspect of life for Samoans, Mr Mulitalo explains.

“Samoans are very spiritual people and their attachment to the notion of spirituality is still very alive and strong. Just because they are in Auckland or Australia or Hawaii or Europe, doesn't mean that they're detached (from their spiritual roots). It's all part and parcel of their world.”

As secretary of the Auckland-based Lagimalofie Society, which represents more than 100 traditional Samoan tattooists, Mr Mulitalo has had first-hand experience dealing with the removal of the 'lama ave'a' curse.

It has been suggested to cause death, disfigurement and illness through poisoned ink, accidents and injuries during the process of tattooing, and is a consequence of unauthorised tattooists practising tatau, or failure of a tattooist to complete a tattoo.

The Langimalofie Society is behind Ministry of Health moves to launch a set of national guidelines for Samoan tattooists to ensure correct safety and hygiene measures are followed.

As well as composing traditional Samoan chants for the film, Mr Mulitalo also appears on screen to lead a celebratory chant as the Chief Orator during a tatau ceremony.

He is currently researching and writing a book on Samoan tatau, to explain the meaning of the intricate designs and share testimonies from men and women who have been tattooed.

Mr Mulitalo is among the 2 per cent of Samoan men who bear a traditional tatau, or pe'a for the full body tattoo of a man. It represents a rite of passage for young men who become chiefs, heads of families or other roles of authority. Being tattooed is a tortuously painful experience because the traditional method doesn't permit the use of pain relief or anesthetics, he says.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika

Benefits of male circumcision should be recognised by public health system

Massey's Director Pasifika wants the Government to consider making circumcision available through the public health system in light of studies suggesting the procedure has health benefits for men and women as well as being considered important to Pacific people.

Professor Sitaleki Finau says studies show male circumcision helps prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including Aids, and there is a proven link between circumcised men and a decrease in cervical cancer caused by the human papilloma virus.

He says New Zealand health authorities should take note of World Health Organisation backing for United States trials in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa confirming male circumcision can cut heterosexual HIV transmission by up to 60 per cent.

In a paper titled *Circumcision of Pacific Boys: Tradition at the Cutting Edge*, presented at a recent Public Health Association Conference in Auckland, Professor Finau provided insights into why most Pacific boys in New Zealand and in the islands continue to be circumcised.

This is despite a dramatic swerve away from the procedure that was almost standard for all army recruits and newborn boys born in New Zealand in the 1940s.

About 95 per cent of newborn boys were circumcised in that decade, but the numbers started to decline about 1950 to the point where circumcision rates in public hospitals last decade were about 0.35 per cent of total male births.

Currently, circumcision on social or religious grounds is unavailable in the New Zealand public health system and although virtually all of the 100,000 Samoan and Tongan males living in New Zealand are circumcised, the procedure must be paid for at private surgeries and health clinics.

Professor Finau thinks the Ministry of Health should review its policy – despite the climate of heightened emotion about human rights and the non-therapeutic removal of foreskin described by some men's groups as genital mutilation.

Evidence that circumcision lowers a boy's chance of suffering urinary tract infections, eliminates the risk of infections under the foreskin, decreases the risk of developing cancer of the penis (although a very rare condition) and reduces the risk for men of contracting sexually transmitted diseases are grounds for making male circumcision, he says.

"It's in the national interest to circumcise men to protect men and women, and save on cervical cancer management. Women would be getting a good deal if more men were circumcised."

Professor Finau says male circumcision among Pacificans is "a solemn ritual" and an important male rite of passage carried out between the ages of seven and 15 years. "Being circumcised is sign of manliness and sexual prowess. Not to be circumcised can bring shame on a man and his partner and family."

He says there is evidence male circumcision was being done in the Pacific before the arrival of Europeans. The use of bone, bamboo and shell tools has been replaced by modern medical methods available in designated clinics such as the Langimalie Clinic, run by the Tongan Health Society in Onehunga, Auckland.

Before joining Massey last year, Professor Finau was Professor of Public Health at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva and has previously held academic appointments at the Universities of Otago and Auckland.

He has a medical degree from the University of Queensland as well as Fellowships from the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, and the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

Remuera gynaecologist John Thomson is also in favour of circumcision becoming available through the public health system as an effective method of preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.



Dr Thomson has performed more than 6000 circumcisions in his private clinic in the past 30 years using a non-surgical device attached to the penis that causes the foreskin to come off in a few days.

The procedure costs from \$170 for very small babies and more for older infants. He recommends babies be circumcised by six weeks of age. Most of the circumcisions he carries out are on Muslim boys.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Pasifika



Professor Stuart Carr with Ishbel McWha.

Better practices for foreign aid

Ishbel McWha was so impressed with the work of organisational psychologist Professor Stuart Carr that she returned from the front line of aid work in Cambodia to work for him and the Poverty Research Group in the University's School of Psychology.

Professor Carr is now six months into an international project that is expected to lead to better practices in the complex world of foreign aid and the thousands who work in this field – from the poorest of local people to highly paid ex-pats. The project is called ADD-UP (Are Development Discrepancies Undermining Performance).

He has played a leading role in bringing together a team of psychologists and sociologists from 10 countries to examine the human dynamics of aid salary discrepancies and the significance of these big differences in income levels, to the outcome of projects in poor countries.

Professor Carr's commitment to applying organisational psychology to the world of aid workers was triggered 15 years ago when he was working in Malawi and watching aid projects unravel, as the side effect of unfortunate human dynamics. Many years on, he says in a world “awash” with aid workers, there is growing acknowledgement that there have to be better practices. For this reason, he says, the research initiative has been widely applauded. A cornerstone of a best practice is that pay should be aligned and harmonised across worker groups.

Professor Carr has been establishing working relationships with groups in Malawi, Uganda, India, China, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Ishbel McWha, fresh off the plane from Cambodia, joined him at his Auckland-based office in July as project manager and research officer.

A postgraduate student at the University's Palmerston North campus, she had developed a strong interest in the social marketing of poverty. In 2003 she headed for Rajasthan, in India, where she worked as the programme officer at a local NGO helping to raise the profile and expand the activity of the organisation.

Later she moved on to a local NGO in Cambodia to help build capacity. She learnt the language, travelled to remote places and embraced a rewarding but challenging time working towards local empowerment.

She blames a rogue mosquito under her desk for the subsequent onset of a very serious case of dengue fever that forced her to evacuate first to Bangkok and then home, to recover.

Determined to continue, she returned to her project in Cambodia. The chance to return to Massey and join the aid project enabled her to apply her education in a way she says she had never imagined.

Now she and Professor Carr have their international networks in place and they are developing the methodology and framework for this groundbreaking project.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Fullbright award for education lecturer

College of Education senior lecturer Dr Graham Hucker has received a Fulbright New Zealand Travel Award to present at a conference in Washington DC in October.

Dr Hucker's paper is on new directions in World War I studies, and he will also present a paper at Georgetown University at the Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies.

Dr Hucker graduated from Massey in May with his PhD in History on the topic: The Rural Home Front. A New Zealand Region and the Great War: 1914-1926.

"I'm very pleased to receive this award," Dr Hucker says.

"It will give me an opportunity to develop my thesis and to visit schools in the Washington DC area to see their history education programmes in action."

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says that Dr Hucker's achievement is particularly significant because few awards of this type are made, and also because of the high level of scholarship involved in his work.

"This award is recognition of that scholarship, and perhaps is even more meritorious because his field of study is seldom in the funding limelight," Professor Chapman says.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education



Professor Ben Jacobsen celebrates with Commerce Department staff at Auckland, flanked by Professor Henk Berkman and Business Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose.

International success for finance researcher

In the international world of finance research, Professor Ben Jacobsen has had a brilliant run recently, scoring the academic equivalent of a gold, silver and a bronze Olympic medal in recent weeks.

The popular Head of Commerce had barely celebrated news of his debut in one of the world's top academic journals when word came that he'd also made the international top ten list of the most downloaded papers and that another of his papers is about to be published in another top journal.

The Auckland based Finance Professor came to Massey University just a couple of years ago from Erasmus University in the Netherlands where he had established an international reputation for his research on predicting stock market returns.

As he joined the University's College of Business, his paper linking oil prices to returns in the equities market, attracted headlines in the business press from New York to London – and New Zealand. Three years later that paper "Striking Oil: Another Puzzle?" has been published in the *Journal of Financial Economics*.

"To me it's like striking gold. To be published in a journal of this stature is what we academic researchers aim for all our lives. This is very exciting for me and for the College of Business," says Professor Jacobsen.

The *Journal of Financial Economics* has an A plus ranking and Professor Jacobsen is believed to be the first Massey based researcher ever to be accepted for publication.

His "silver" will come home to roost soon with the impending publication of another of his groundbreaking papers on predicting the equity markets, "Is it the Weather?" in the A ranked *Journal of Banking and Finance*. This paper linked the summer and winter seasons to investor behaviour and to the movement of prices on the equity markets..

Professor Jacobsen's third big success or "bronze medal" came with the latest reports of downloads from the Social Science Research Network for the period from June to early August. His paper "The Interval of Observation" was amongst the ten most sought after papers. This research was completed with Massey colleagues Dr Ben Marshall and Dr Nuttawat Visaltanachoti.

The paper in the top 10 of the SSRN, once again has attracted the interest of the finance community for its finding that stock market return predictability varies drastically when the timeframes of observation are altered. The researchers found forecasts would vary, for example if they were based on data from three or 11 days trading instead of data taken over a month a week or a day – as is current practice.

Professor Jacobsen's research is actively used by major hedge funds and mutual funds all over the world.

He is pictured celebrating with Commerce Department staff at Albany, flanked by Professor Henk Berkman and the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Walk on water, fly like a bird at Open Days

Fancy a career in aviation but never flown a plane before? Now is your chance. Massey's School of Aviation is offering 25-minute trial flights in its training aircraft for just \$70 at the second of two Open Days on the Palmerston North campus on Wednesday and Saturday (August 1 and 4).

Prospective students interested in flying will be accompanied by a qualified instructor and will be given the opportunity to take the controls and fly the plane. The flights should be booked in advance (follow the web-link below) and are weather-permitting.

Also on display at the school will be its new flight simulator and visitors will be given full details of the courses available.

For those with an interest in the sciences, there will be opportunity to see someone really walk on water, thanks to the amazing properties of cornflour. This will be run by the Institute of Fundamental Sciences on Concourse, on the Saturday only.

The open days will both run from 9am to 2pm. Each day will include: College presentations, halls of residence tours, careers advice, budgeting advice, "Explore Science" sessions, veterinary hospital tours, College of Education and School of Aviation visits, plus entertainment.

There will be shuttle buses linking the campus Turitea and Hokowhitu sites, the Milson Flight System Centre and Ucol, which has coinciding open days.

The university is in full swing so it is also a time when students can immerse themselves in the campus culture, get involved in activities and discover university life.

Open Days will be held at the Auckland campus on 18 August and the Wellington campus on 24 August.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation



Sports academy's second year

Members of this year's Massey Academy of Sport are all proven athletes, including age-grade national champions and competitors at international level.

To help them balance the requirements to achieve academically as well in their chosen sport, the academy provides free access to personal trainers, recreation centre facilities, high-performance laboratory testing, nutritional advice, academic advisors and physiotherapy.

From left, front row: Stephanie Hamblyn (barefoot water skiing, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise), Loren Wadsworth (equestrian, Bachelor of Veterinary Science), Abby-Jean Hull (netball, Bachelor of Applied Science), Megan Laing (equestrian, Bachelor of Science); second row: Samuel Howard (squash and tennis, Bachelor of Applied Economics), Ricky Clark (hockey, Bachelor of Business Studies), Cathryn Finlayson (hockey, Bachelor of Education – Secondary Teaching), Grace Davison (touch rugby, Bachelor of Veterinary Science); third row: Nathan Nelson (hockey, Bachelor of Applied Science), Hanchen le Roux (canoe polo, BSpEx), Emma Hamby (athletics, BSpEx), Sarah Chapman (highland dancing, Bachelor of Science); fourth row: Scott Mullinger (cycling, Bachelor of Engineering), Ben Sutton-Davis (athletics, BBS), Nina De Muth (basketball, BSpEx), Monica McAuley (javelin, hockey, BSpEx), Wendy Hull (hockey, BAppSc); fifth row: Louis Booth (rugby, Bachelor of Technology), Elliot Power (cricket, Bachelor of Applied Science), Struan Webb (rugby, BBS), Amanda Martens (athletics, BVSci), Gemma Mathieson (golf, BBS), Hannah Kelly (netball, BAppSc), Samantha Burkhart (netball, BSpEx); sixth row: Scott Lewis (rugby, BBS), Paul Tietjens (rugby, BSpEx), Anthony Pedersen (motor racing, BBS), Peter Beech (rugby, BBS), Robert Eastham (shooting, BSc), Gareth Pottinger (rugby, Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning).

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation; Uni News

Study aims to increase condom use

As the diagnoses of HIV cases in New Zealand increases, researchers are conducting a study that could increase condom use among gay men who practise anal sex.

The data compiled by the Massey research team will be used by the New Zealand Aids Foundation to develop a campaign encouraging increased use of condoms.

The research is a collaboration between researchers from the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), the Māori health research group Te Rōpu Whāriki and the School of Health Sciences at the Auckland campus.

In the first steps to shaping this social marketing campaign, the researchers are seeking men who have sex with other men, to participate in a qualitative study.

Lead researcher Jeff Adams says the aim is to help find out why some men who have anal sex with men are not using condoms and what may influence them to change their behaviour.

For the survey, 58 men from the Auckland region are sought to take part anonymously in online discussions and individual interviews.

The researchers also want to hear from men who may not identify as gay but who have anal sex with other men.

HIV diagnoses have increased markedly in recent years. In 2000 there were 29 cases, 38 in 2001, 53 in 2002, 71 in 2003, 70 in 2004 and 86 in 2005. The increase in HIV cases is concentrated among gay, Pakeha men in Auckland between the ages of 30 and 39 years.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens meets with Vaasiliifiti Moelagi Jackson, Vice President of the Samoan Association of non-government organisations in Apia.

Pacific neighbours face challenges

Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens says there are serious economic and social challenges facing Pacific Island nations.

Dr Scheyvens, who heads the Development Studies programme in the School of People, Environment and Planning, recently returned from a visit to the Solomon Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Samoa. She was one of four academics in a delegation of 67 led by Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters.

The aim of the trip was to emphasise the importance New Zealand places on its strong links with other Pacific nations and its part in that community. As such the delegation had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of government, private sector and civil society actors in each destination.

Formal meetings, visits to aid projects, and round table discussions raised a number of pressing issues facing countries in the region, notably:

- The role of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) forces in the Solomons: peacekeeping or governance?
- Youth unemployment, with more than 60 per cent of school leavers in both Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands jobless.
- Economic self-determination. About 70 per cent of the Marshall Islands' public spending budget comes from the Compact of Free Association, which allows the United States Army to continue to use Kwajalein atoll as a missile test range.

While Samoa has sustained good rates of economic growth in recent years and is seen as something of a shining light in the Pacific, it too faces challenges.

For example, there are pressures to change the land tenure system to encourage greater foreign investment in sectors such as tourism.

Dr Scheyvens says she agrees with commentators who feel that it is not necessary to attract large, foreign-owned hotel and resort chains to boost growth in Samoa.

“Samoa presently has a tourism sector dominated by small to medium-sized enterprises that are largely locally-owned and controlled.

“This is unique in the Pacific, and it means Samoans can ensure that economic growth in the sector does not compromise social and cultural wellbeing.”

Dr Scheyvens organised meetings with tourism authority staff in both the Marshall Islands and Samoa, sharing findings from her previous research on sustainable tourism in small island states and also asking how they planned to develop this important economic sector.

“I was intrigued to find that the Marshall Islands were using dive tourism to Bikini Atoll – the site of numerous nuclear tests after World War II – as a key drawcard to boost their tourist numbers. They are essentially struggling to find economic options which will free them from dependence on American monies.”

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika



Professor of Religious History Peter Lineham

Radio gig proves popular for religion professor

A regular radio gig discussing religious issues with celebrity host Mike Havoc has made Associate Professor of Religious History Peter Lineham a popular evangelist of godly themes.

In a 15-minute slot on Auckland-based BFM student radio every Wednesday morning titled *That's the Spirit*, Dr Lineham and Havoc tackle topical issues – from the anti-gay stance of the Catholic Church to Brethren behaviour.

Havoc says he contacted Dr Lineham earlier this year for a one-off interview on the Brethren Church and so enjoyed talking to him that he proposed a regular series on religion.

The 9.35am slot – which has been running for the past two months – has proved a hit, says Havoc, who hopes listeners will be better informed about religious matters and have a better understanding of world religions – especially in an era of heightened fundamentalism among some Christian and non-Christian groups.

“It's such a pleasure talking to him,” says Havoc, who says Professor Lineham is gifted at articulating and explaining religious concepts in an entertaining, accessible manner.

So far, they've covered a range of religions and what makes them tick, including Islam, Buddhism, Catholicism and Anglicanism.

Dr Lineham says he too enjoys their spirited chats, and hopes to talk about other world religions as well as various concepts of Heaven and Hell, reincarnation and the afterlife.

“It's always good to be able to communicate ideas in a contemporary vogue,” he says.

Havoc says although he is not connected to a particular religion, he considers himself a spiritual person who is passionately interested in how religion influences society. He says he can't understand how someone from a particular church can see themselves as above others, as superior to everyone else.

Dr Lineham is head of the School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland. His major fields of research are New Zealand religious history, and 18th and 19th century English religious history. His major books include *There We Found Brethren*, *No Ordinary Union*, *Bible and Society* and *Transplanted Christianity*.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhibition/Show



Joanna Lyes before and after her own weight-loss.

PhD student seeks women with weight-loss success stories

Auckland-based PhD student Joanna Lyes is seeking women who have succeeded in losing a lot of weight – and keeping it off for at least five years.

Ms Lyes says that the majority of people who lose a significant amount of weight, put it all back on within five years. For her PhD studies at the University's School of Psychology, Ms Lyes wants to talk to the very small percentage of people who have lost weight and successfully maintained their reduced weight.

“It is the people who keep the weight off for over five years who are the real success stories. They are the true experts and I want to know much more about what has made them successful.” For the project she is seeking just eight to 12 women from the North Shore and Rodney region to take part in four, in-depth interviews.

“I have chosen to confine the research to women who have struggled with obesity and I want to conduct interviews of real depth. I want them to tell me their stories and each woman's story of losing weight and maintaining weight loss could be quite different. For me finding out how each woman sees herself now that she has lost a lot of weight is going to be especially interesting.”

Ms Lyes wants to talk to women who have had a body mass index (BMI) of at least 30, (which would classify them as having been obese), and have lost at least 20kg. In order to be suitable candidates for her study they will need to have maintained their weight loss for at least five years.

“It is a very complex thing. Obviously there is a lot more to successfully losing weight than just managing calorie intake and exercising.”

Ms Lyes, once obese herself, waged her own battle with obesity in 2004, which eventually led her back to Massey and to the PhD she is now embarking on in mid-life.

She completed postgraduate studies in Palmerston North in the early 1980s. A postgraduate Diploma in Audiology from Melbourne University in 1982 was followed by 20 years as a clinical audiologist, 10 of which were spent in private practice on Auckland's North Shore.

A two-year posting in Switzerland with her husband and children gave her the opportunity to re-evaluate her life – and her dangerously obese condition. More than two years on she has kept off most of the 40kg she shed.

“For me, staying slim is a constant battle. I hope my research will help me make sense of something which for so many people seems impossible to achieve – losing weight and successfully maintaining weight loss.”

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Māori women, mental health and maternity

Studying the experiences of mentally ill Māori women and the impact of pregnancy and childbirth on them has produced a groundbreaking Master's thesis for Auckland social worker Wendy Semmons.

Hers is the first qualitative study to date examining the experiences of women whose identities and experiences embrace being Māori alongside diagnosis of mental illness and being pregnant.

Impending motherhood often propelled women closer to their Māori roots, she wrote. But when a woman's Māori identity overlapped with the dual pressures of dealing with pregnancy/childbirth/motherhood and being mentally unwell, she often felt shortchanged in terms of receiving appropriate care, according to her research.

“Lack of Māori midwives, lack of understanding by non-Māori midwives and non-Māori mental health workers caused the women to ask “who is there for me?” Stereotyping Māori, the stigma of mental illness, and the inconsistency of care raised the question “is it too much to care for me?” she wrote.

The Western model of health care dominant in New Zealand meant that a more holistic approach to maternity care favoured by Māori, as well as a desire for traditional values (tikanga Māori), was often overlooked.

She interviewed seven women for her thesis that examined, among other issues, the impact of diagnosing Māori mental health patients with Western models and criteria.

Her study makes a number of recommendations on how health services can better meet the needs of these women, such as better coordination between maternity, mental health and Māori community support services and increasing the number of Māori midwives.

She concludes by saying that “a service that could provide ante-natal, birthing and post-natal care at one location for Māori is not unrealistic”.

“It should be based on a kaupapa Māori paradigm that combines Māori beliefs and values with modern medical interventions and technology, as and when required.”

Ms Semmons worked full-time as a social worker at St Luke's Community Mental Health Centre during the five years she studied part-time for her Master's degree and raised her two teenaged sons.

She says having a supportive employer who offered her one paid study day a week for five years, as well as a Te Rau Puawai scholarship, enabled her to tackle a masters degree.

Ms Semmons continues to work full-time at St Lukes community mental health centre, where she is the only Māori among 70 staff.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Maori

Four of the best for students

The College of Business has offered Year 13 students a taste of higher education in the complex areas of economics and accountancy.

In a new venture, the first of a special Accountancy and Economics seminar series was held this month for students studying economics and accountancy at secondary schools in the Manawatu, Horowhenua and Wanganui regions.

Around 160 students and teachers from eight schools attended the first seminar at the Palmerston North campus on Friday 20 July.

They heard from some of the College's leading academics on a range of topical issues.

Professor Anton Meister and Stuart Birks discussed property rights.

Dr James Obben talked about money market theory and the effect of the official cash rate. Professor Paul Dunmore gave a presentation on the financial analysis of company reports, with specific reference to Contact Energy, and also led a session on international reporting standards and corporate scandals.

Professor Dunmore says the aim of the seminar was to encourage bright senior high school students to pursue further study and a career in accountancy or economics.

He says both are growth areas, offering steady career paths, and both provide opportunities to work in areas that contribute to national and local economies.

The seminar was also designed to fit in with the students' current studies: Contact Energy's financial report, for example, will feature in this year's university scholarship examinations.

The event was organised with the help of the Commerce and Economics Teachers' Association. Secretary Jenny Scott, who teaches accounting and information technology at Palmerston North Girls' High School, says the initiative is novel and valuable.

"It gives our students an opportunity to gain knowledge from leading academics and also exposes them to the real tertiary experience.

"We hope that as a result many will decide to further their education beyond the 7th form. We are sure the day will provide the foundation for further interactions between secondary and tertiary Institutions at this higher level."

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Dr Romuald Rudzki

Oxford quads for International Business lecturer

International Business lecturer Dr Romuald Rudzki has had four papers accepted at two Oxford conferences.

The first, the Oxford Business & Economics Conference, was held at St. Hugh's College from 24-26 June. The Philosophy of Management was held at St. Anne's College from 8-11 July. Dr Rudzki, who has just returned from Oxford, says they attracted delegates from around the world.

The first paper was co-authored with one of his Master's research students, Shaomei Li. It is concerned with why businesses offer 'freebies'. The answer has led to the development of a model that identifies the rationales in strategies used in brand building for new products, customer retention (for example, free product samples in supermarkets or magazines), income generation (such as free newspapers), and information gathering (for example, free software so that personal details can be on-sold).

The second paper was co-authored with Sabina Jaeger, another of Dr Rudzki's PhD students and a former colleague in the College of Business who is now teaching at the Auckland University of Technology. It looked at how small New Zealand companies overcome obstacles to achieve success with their products or services overseas.

"The way large corporates, such as Fonterra and Zespri, achieve success is very different from how cash-strapped small companies export," says Dr Rudzki. "This research found that the latter develop a 'bricolage' approach – making do and using everything that is useful, from a focus on core competences, through industry associations, to use of networks. The remarkable thing is that even a sole trader can successfully export 100 per cent, as in the case of a local honey producer who sends her pure New Zealand honey to Japan."

The final two papers are on different aspects of Dr Rudzki's own ideas for a new political economy known as 'domism' (meaning 'home'), which raises the need to create what he calls an "economics of eternity". He says he is pleased that as a result of his paper, scholars from many countries will offer their perspectives on the principles upon which a new paradigm could be built.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Editor gets sound and fury of baby boomer poets

Raunchy, provocative poetry forged amid the sex, drugs and rock n' roll era will be read and heard in a new collection co-edited by English lecturer and author Dr Jack Ross and poet Jan Kemp.

They anticipate readers will be jolted as well as entertained by verbal antics and stirring images from page one. Take the opening lines of the book's first poem by Peter Olds called Waking Up in Phillip Street as he sets the scene: "This two-layered cake full of puking TV sets/knife cuts & blood on the furniture, and later the drug-bag arsehole in the room below".

Contemporary New Zealand Poets in Performance – published by AUP (Auckland University Press) with two CDs of sound recordings of 27 poets who came to maturity in the 1960s and 70s reflects that "turbulent era of social, sexual, musical and artistic experimentation", say Ms Kemp and Dr Ross in their introduction.

Launched on 27 July at Auckland Public Library to coincide with National Poetry Day, the volume is the second in a trilogy made up of Classic, Contemporary and finally New New Zealand poets, the last to be published next year.

Contemporary Poets trails last year's highly successful Classic New Zealand Poets in Performance which featured the likes of James K Baxter, Janet Frame, Hone Tuwhare, Denis Glover, Fleur Adcock and C K Stead on the page and on two CDs.

It sold several thousand copies and was reprinted seven months after publication – extremely rare for a book of New Zealand poetry.

This second volume showcases well-known poets of the baby boomer generation, including famously gravel-throated, stove pipe trouser-wearing bard Sam Hunt, as well as Bill Manhire, Alan Brunton, Fiona Farrell, Ian Wedde, David Eggleton, Keri Hulme, Bob Orr and Cilla McQueen.

Dr Ross, who teaches English at the Auckland campus and is the author of several books of poetry and prose, says the challenge as an editor for this volume lay in deciding who to leave out, as much as who to include.

He anticipates some controversy and criticism on this score, but says he and Ms Kemp didn't set out to produce an encyclopaedic, all-inclusive anthology.

What they've offered is "some good poems by some good poets, which should be entertaining," he says.

"There's a lot of controversy about what's called the canon (of seminal literary works). This is not supposed to be a canon-building exercise."

The selection was determined largely by the quality of recorded material available through the Waitatia Recordings Archive, collected in 1974 by Ms Kemp, and the Aotearoa New Zealand Poetry Sound Archive, gathered by Ms Kemp and Dr Ross between 2002 and 2004.

"Some poets are better readers than others, and that has a definite bearing on who's put into a sound anthology," says Dr Ross.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Anthony Pedersen.

Student tops scores at motor sport academy

A 19-year-old first-year business student has topped this year's MotorSport Elite Academy after a week of physically and mentally gruelling tasks.

Anthony Pedersen, of Palmerston North, was one of nine young race and rally drivers selected from 23 applicants who attended the academy in Dunedin recently.

Organised by the MotorSport New Zealand Scholarship Trust, the academy is unique in world motor sport.

Participants are tested on their ability to concentrate and perform under stressful and difficult conditions, including temperatures above 40 deg. One of the events involved a team running race up Baldwin Street, said to be the world's steepest street.

Another test of hand-eye co-ordination involved a machine called a wombat, which participants control using two joysticks while reacting to patterns and performing bonus tasks. Mr Pedersen's score on the wombat was the highest achieved since the academy was established four years ago and equivalent to the best scores achieved by pilots.

Trust chairman and MotorSport NZ president Steven Kennedy said the levels of fitness displayed by this year's participants were the highest ever.

Mr Pedersen is one of this year's members of the Massey Academy of Sport on the Palmerston North campus, which provides benefits like gym membership, specialist mentoring and other support.

He says the skills the degree will give him will be valuable if he achieves his aim of becoming a professional driver.

"I have to work really hard to keep up because of the all the racing," he says. "I do miss a bit but I passed all my papers last semester."

He says he inherited the motor racing 'bug' from his father, V8 driver Paul Pedersen, starting with motorcross bikes as a pre-schooler and go-karting from age 14. Last year, while at Rotorua Boys' High, where he was deputy head boy, he won the national schools championship for go-karting.

He competed in the national motor racing circuit over summer, driving a Mini Cooper, and finished fourth overall.

"I belong to an Auckland-based team called International Motorsport, which has produced some of New Zealand best drivers like Scott Dixon, Denny Hulme, Bruce McLaren, Craig Baird. There were four of us racing in the Mini contingent of the New Zealand Motor Racing Championship."

That took him to the race meetings in Pukekohe, Taupo, Feilding, Christchurch, Timaru and Invercargill.

"The team organises the car and everything. We just turn up with our driving gear and helmet."

This summer he will move to driving a Porche 997 GT3 cup car, which has a sequential gearbox and a top speed of 340km/h.



He says the Mini Cooper, with a 1.6 litre supercharged engine, is great fun to drive and surprisingly fast considering its engine's size, achieving top speeds of around 215km/h, but the Porche is in a different league. He says on Pukekohe, New Zealand's fastest track, it will get up to about 260km/h.

His plan is to race Porches for two years and, "all going well, try for a V8 drive in Australia".

For more information: http://www.antpedersen.com/Ant_Pedersen/Home.html

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Awards and appointments; Sport and recreation; Student profiles



Taking science and technology to the small screen

Product development lecturer Chris Chitty has a colourful alter ego who is about to burst back to life on the nation's television screens. He is Dr Robotech, on-screen consultant to some of the nation's most creative kids in the popular TV series Let's Get Inventin.

Filming for a new series of this award winning programme is about to start and Auckland-based Chitty, is already working behind the scenes, with the help of the two product development senior students pictured, Karl Wagstaff and Michael Garnett.

Chitty, who joined the University's Institute of Engineering and Technology at the start of the year, is widely known for his inventive skills and he is the man who developed the robotic sheep for the movie Babe. He was a key member of the on screen and technical team in the last series of Lets Get Inventin which won a Qantas Media Award in 2006 for Best Children/Youth TV show.

The show has invited kids aged from eight to 14 to submit their invention ideas for the next series to be screened later this year. Those selected are partnered in a workshop with leading inventors, including Mr Chitty, and helped to turn their inventions into real working prototypes to be showcased on the television series.

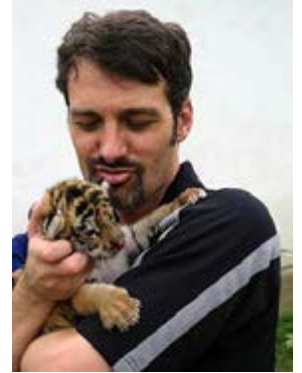
The goal of the programme is to popularise science and technology and foster innovative thinking in the next generation – and to make interesting viewing.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Battling to save the world's endangered tigers



While the population of tigers surviving in the wild continues to fall alarmingly, conservationists the world over are battling for a way to stem the trend.

With the latest count suggesting there are now just 1400 tigers left in the wild, it's time for a dramatic change of conservation strategy, says 'tiger expert' Dr Brendan Moyle.

In July, when conservationists converged on China for the International Workshop on Strategy for Tiger Conservation, Dr Moyle was among them – and out of step with many.

Dr Moyle specialises in wildlife management and wildlife economics, and although he is based in the College of Business in Auckland, he has joint qualifications in zoology and economics. He was at the most recent workshop as a consultant to the Chinese wildlife authorities.

The tiger populations surviving in the world are found in India, and from the frozen stretches of Siberia, down to southern China. They have been hunted for their skin and for the tiger bone widely used in traditional Chinese medicine, mostly as a cure for bone diseases. Although use of the highly sought after bone was banned in 1993, poachers have kept a black market well and truly alive – and have seriously threatened the survival of the tigers.

However, in China there is a large captive population of tigers estimated to number up to 5000 animals. Today, in a bid to stem poaching but meet the ongoing demand for tiger bone, the Chinese authorities have approached Dr Moyle to assist them in the evaluation of a dramatic change of approach – one that has some conservationists outraged.

The Chinese are considering using their captive population of tigers to re-open the trade in tiger bone and skins.

“While I have no enthusiasm for trading in tigers whatsoever, it is time to consider new strategies and the ban is simply not working. You cannot lightly convince people with such a long tradition of using tiger bone in their medicines, that they should stop using it. It is time to move on from the simplistic approach of bans to a more sophisticated packet of strategies if we are to help the tigers,” Dr Moyle says.

In China, Dr Moyle presented a paper Deterrence of Wildlife Poaching: Trade versus Bans. He draws on his experience as a member the Crocodile Specialist Group, and the Sustainable Use Specialist Groups, both worldwide networks of wide ranging expertise in conservation.

The crocodylians are the only endangered group that has seen poaching reduced and wild populations restored to natural levels, he says. A key component of this success was the role of legal trade, which effectively crowded out the poachers. This effect was not exerted by depressing prices, but by offering a superior grade product, Dr Moyle told the strategy workshop in China.

“This success was not predicted by supporters of bans as a means to deter poaching. These relied upon past experience and overly simplistic bio-economic models.

“Bans are widely advocated as effective but contain two basic risks. The first is that prices are likely to rise if demand is not reduced, and this generates a tacit subsidy to poachers to ply their trade. The second is that law enforcement becomes complacent and the expected sanctions facing poachers actually declines.”

With the recent tiger count reportedly down to 1400 – well below estimated numbers, the Chinese authorities are seeking a new approach to managing the tiger scenario.

As a consultant to the Chinese, Dr Moyle points out his mixed background in both wildlife management and economics, makes him, the 'tiger expert', a rare breed himself.

Whatever the views of other conservationists, he says there are three key things needed to destroy poaching – legal trade, credible law enforcement and a good monitoring system.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Massey Pasifika students at a two-day research proposal writing workshop in Auckland organised by Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau (standing back, left).

Pasifika head challenges research methods

Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau is encouraging students to move beyond “aloof, oppressive” conventional academic research methods to ensure Pacific Island groups being studied benefit from knowledge gained through research.

In a recent two-day workshop on research proposal writing for Pasifika students, Professor Finau presented an alternative take on established research conventions of data collecting and analysis that boost one person's academic career but often have no positive spin-off for the subjects of the research.

As a long-standing, passionate researcher and promoter of public health issues and programmes throughout the Pacific region, Professor Finau wants to see more Pasifika students undertaking top-level research for publication. He also hopes to see the fruits of their work improving the lives of people they are studying.

Referring to “data prospectors”, “mosquito scientists” and “parachute consultants” to describe orthodox Western research methods, Professor Finau spoke of the need for “cultural democracy over the primacy of ‘science’”, and “research by Pacificans for Pacificans”.

He says many health and social problems in the Pacific have been thoroughly researched over the years. But the findings of such research were not always accessible to people who participated in the research.

Empowering Pasifika academics and promoting self-determination for Pacific Island communities underpins this collective rather than individualistic approach – particularly when it comes to health, education and development issues, he says.

His views reflect those expressed by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, which states in its Guidelines on Pacific Health Research that “Pacific research requires the active involvement of Pacific peoples (as researchers, advisers and stakeholders), and demonstrates that Pacific people are more than just the subjects of research.”

Tongan fishing terms provided metaphors for alternative research approaches in a paper by Sione Tu'itahi presented at the workshop.

The Massey Pasifika Student Learning Adviser and doctoral student spoke of Tongan concepts such as 'toutai', which means 'to fish'.

“‘Toutai’ has another meaning – to search, to hunt for the benefit of others,” he says in his paper.

“Like research, fishing is searching for an answer/outcome, which is then used for the benefit of society.”

Professor Finau stressed he is not advocating students relinquish established research methods and principles. Rather, he wants them to recognise that Western scientific research imperatives are “culture-bound”, and may be limited when imposed on differing cultural realities of Pacific communities.

The workshop attracted a dozen graduate and postgraduate Pasifika students, some of whom are in the midst of research projects and others who are formulating proposals. It is the first in a series on Pacific research to be offered across all Massey campuses in the coming months.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika

Auckland lecture series gets under way

The annual Chancellor's Lecture Series was opened in Auckland with a lecture by activist and author Nicky Hagar, on his book *The Hollow Men*.

The next speaker is Dr Jack Ross on Wednesday 1 August. Dr Ross teaches academic and creative writing at the Auckland campus. His lecture is titled *New Zealand Poets in Performance*.

On Wednesday 15 August economist Dr Susan St John presents *The Future of Retirement Incomes in New Zealand*. Dr St John, a senior economics lecturer, is co-director of the University of Auckland Retirement Policy Research Centre.

On Wednesday 29 August, Children's Commissioner and former Massey professor Dr Cindy Kiro will speak on *Children, Climate Change and Innovation: The big issues of the future*.

The Deputy Director of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, Prue Taylor, will present the third lecture on 12 September. It is titled *Climate Change: Seriously Missing the Point*. The lectures are held between 12 and 1pm in the Study Centre Staff Lounge at the Auckland campus.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar

Research leaders in flagship lecture series

This year's flagship University lecture series in Wellington features four leaders in research into electronics, small business, sleep disorders and photography.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lecture Series for 2007 starts on Thursday 26 July, with the final lecture to be held in late August. Sponsor Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy says the series provides a showcase for the University's research strengths in Wellington.

"This year we feature four world class scholars, specialising in four very different fields," Professor McIlroy says. "However, those domains have one important factor in common: They each represent an area of research excellence that has flourished at the Wellington campus."

Professor Serge Demidenko, from the Institute of Technology and Engineering, delivered the first lecture last week, titled *Taming the Electronic Beast: New Challenges in the Electronics/Semi-conductor industries*. Professor Demidenko, a world expert in aspects of robotic systems, outlined new challenges and solutions within the two industries and examined their importance globally and in New Zealand.

The second lecture will be delivered on 2 August by Professor Claire Massey, Professor of Enterprise Development, Director of the Small and Medium Enterprise Research Centre and acting Head of the Department of Management. In what will also be an inaugural professorial lecture, she will analyse international approaches to SME development and present a framework for developing New Zealand firms, focusing on the people who own and operate them.

The third lecture, on 16 August, features Professor Philippa Gander, Director of the Sleep/Wake Centre. Her lecture is titled *Fatigue and Work/Life Balance Among Junior Doctors*. Professor Gander's research has involved developing fatigue management strategies for pilots and other transport workers in industries involving shift work.

More recently, she has been involved in helping to make legislators, industry representatives and the wider community aware of the effects of fatigue on quality of work, productivity and on society in general.

Professor Anne Noble has titled her lecture, to be held on 30 August, *Of Landscape and Longing*.

She will reflect on the medium of photography and the questions that inform her long-standing investigation into the imagination and representation of Antarctica. Professor Noble is one of New Zealand's leading photographers. She is Professor of Fine Arts and Director of Research for the College of Creative Arts. This is also her inaugural professorial lecture.

The lectures are open to all University staff and to the public, with invited guests from each sector covered by the lectures. They are held at the Theatre in the Museum Building at the Wellington campus, in Buckle Street, starting at 6pm. Refreshments are provided and parking is available.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Conference/Seminar



Dr Manuhuia Barcham.

Why more and more Māori are jumping the ditch

Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development director Dr Manuhuia Barcham says an increase of 27 per cent in the number of Māori living in Australia is probably due to a mix of family migration, economics and self-identification.

The number of people in Australia who identify as of Māori ancestry rose from just under 73,000 to almost 93,000 over five years, according to recently released 2006 Australian Census results. This compares with 565,000 people who identified as Māori in the New Zealand 2006 census. By some estimates, one in seven Māori now live overseas.

Dr Barcham, who has been studying Māori migration to Australia, says the mining boom in Western Australia has attracted many Māori workers.

“It is a fact that many Māori are employed in low skilled industries. In New Zealand, after the restructuring of the 1980s, there are fewer opportunities in those industries. However Australia still has a lot of heavy industry, much of it crying out for labour. At present Australia's economy is also experiencing something of a boom, compared to ours.”

Dr Barcham says there is also the phenomenon of ‘chain migration’. “This means a family member comes home for Christmas from Perth and says to his brother, ‘come and join me’, and the same thing happens next Christmas, so you have three brothers over there.”

He says there are flow-on effects. “Māori living outside New Zealand want to keep their sense of identity. As a result, some are now trying to establish marae in Australia, consulting with the local tangata whenua over some of the quite complex issues involved.”

In the first phase of a broader project exploring the nature of Māori communities abroad, the centre has been studying communication between those communities and their iwi in New Zealand. “We have consulted more than 50 Māori governance bodies throughout New Zealand to determine if significant links exist,” says researcher Amon Broughton.

“Preliminary results show that there has been a concerted effort within most iwi to maintain contact with their members who live overseas. Our research provides an insight into some of the difficulties iwi face in staying in contact with their overseas members, particularly with regards to iwi voting processes.”

This section of the centre's research project on Māori overseas is being funded by Ngā Pae ō te Māramatanga, the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement.

For more information on the project go to <http://cigad.massey.ac.nz/research.htm#dia>

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Study finds Māori views on immigration hardening

Māori attitudes towards immigrants have hardened in recent years while New Zealanders generally are ambivalent about the impact of immigration, according to a just-published report.

The study saw 750 people questioned last year and 1100 questioned in 2003, on a wide range of issues relating to immigration. It provides an overview of attitude trends, says one of its authors Sociology Professor Paul Spoonley.

Although there was no dramatic change in results between the 2003 and 2006 reports, the most significant shift was a hardening of Māori attitudes regarding immigration over the three-year period.

This reflected Māori perceptions that New Zealand culture was being eroded by the effects of immigration, says Professor Spoonley, Regional Director and Research Director College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey in Auckland.

“Māori are more likely to agree than non-Māori that Chinese, other Asians and Pacific peoples take jobs away from people who were born in New Zealand,” the report says.

Māori attitudes were consistent with their “protection of interests in maintaining a bicultural society, and the assertion of their rights under the Treaty of Waitangi; and their recognition of employment opportunities that might be compromised by ongoing migration”.

Interestingly, Māori were much less likely than non-Māori to agree that Chinese, other Asian or Pacific peoples increase crime rates, the survey found.

But New Zealanders generally were “still quite ambivalent about immigrants”, says Professor Spoonley.

“We like the (diverse) food and we like what they’re doing to our economy by contributing skills and capital.

“But New Zealanders also see immigrants as sticking together rather than integrating, and that is seen as a negative thing.”

Aucklanders, young people and those without tertiary qualifications tended to be less positive towards immigrants, the report also said.

“Attitudes to immigrants and various aspects of immigration are usually (but not always) more negative among Aucklanders than among other New Zealanders, though perhaps less so than might be expected given the greater impact immigration has had on Auckland compared to the rest of the country,” the report says.

The 2006 census showed that Asians were the fastest-growing ethnic group – up 9.2 per cent to 354,552 since the 2001 census. Two-thirds of the Asian population live in Auckland, where almost one in five people identify with one or more Asian ethnic groups, the highest proportion nationally.

More than a third of people living in Auckland were born overseas, compared with Southland, where around one in 13 people were born overseas.

More New Zealanders in 2006 than 2003 saw value in having immigrants fill job shortages, but they also wanted more government consultation with the public on immigration matters, the report says.

The 2003 and 2006 surveys are part of the New Settlers Programme, a multi-disciplinary research programme supported by grants from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to contribute to knowledge and an understanding of the settlement experiences of immigrants and their impact on aspects of New Zealand society.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators; Maori

Food scientist recognised by peers

Professor of Food Technology Ray Winger has received the top award in his field from the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology.

Professor Winger was presented with the J.C Andrews Award in recognition of his contribution to science and technology and to the food industry. The award is in memory of the University's first Chancellor, Dr John Clark, who championed the establishment of a food technology degree at Massey in the 1960s.

Professor Winger is based at the Auckland campus and first joined Massey's staff in Palmerston North in 1973 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Technology. Two years later he completed his Master of Science and then his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

Professor Winger has also had more than a decade of consulting and commercial experience in the food industry on both sides of the Tasman. He is a respected member of the industry's professional societies and has taken an active role in standard setting, planning and reviewing.

He is the driving force behind the Massey University Food Awards, a prestigious event that showcases the latest developments and innovations from the country's leading food producers from the very large to boutique operations.

The annual NZIFST conference also brought success for a number of other Massey people. Dr Marie Wong was presented with a Fellowship of the institute. A PhD student under the supervision of Dr Wong, Eustina Oh, won the award for the best paper presented by a postgraduate student.

Two fourth-year food technology students, Elliot Munn and Jessica Miller, won first and third prizes respectively in the NZIFST undergraduate writing competition.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Visit to Czech Nazi camp inspires Massey author



Should travellers visit death camps? If so, should they then write about them?

These questions plagued senior English lecturer Dr Jack Ross before and during his visit to Terezín – a former Nazi prison camp near Prague.

He'd heard about Terezín, (Theresienstadt in German) before he arrived in Czech Republic to visit Prague-based friends in 2004.

Once there, the efforts of locals to discourage him from going to the village – just 20 kilometres from Prague and where people still live – made him all the more curious and determined to get there.

The result of his journey is a monograph of verse, essay and photographs, titled *To Terezin*. It's the latest to be published in a series by Massey's School of Social and Cultural Studies.

In it, he evokes not just scenes and images of the place itself and of his observations of modern life in Prague, but ponders the ethical dilemma of what it means to attempt to write about atrocities without exploiting others' misery and suffering for art's sake.

"I guess I didn't really respect the idea of writing about prison camps, of pre-empting someone's suffering," Dr Ross says.

"If I can go prattling on about being in a death camp, what's left for the person who was there?"

Czechs he encountered, including some who still live in the "miserable little town" as he describes it, had implied that to visit the prison site was somehow vulgar, bad taste, inappropriate and a waste of time.

"My subject declared itself pretty early on in the inability of (at least some) of my hosts to understand my motives in wanting to visit Theresienstadt. This led me to question why it had become important to me to go there, and (especially) what I hoped to find there to justify the effort. It was so difficult for me to find answers to their questions that I realised I had inadvertently struck a personal nerve."

"My problem was to write 'naturally' and approachably about one of the most unnatural acts of modern times – without a distinct personal axe to grind and with the full awareness of my temerity in doing so," he says in the book.

Terezín was originally an Austrian garrison town built in the late 18th century. When Hitler's Nazis annexed Czechoslovakia in 1938, it became a concentration camp used as a transit point for more than 200,000 Jews who were moved to death camps further east. Of the 15,000 children who entered Terezín, only 132 survived, although thousands of drawings from children incarcerated there were hidden and can be seen at museums on site as well as in Israel and the United States.

"Most terrifying were the children's drawings – a whole room of them. Lots of them died there," he says.

For Dr Ross, who teaches travel writing at Massey in Auckland, Terezín was also the catalyst for reflecting on how people deal with the past, and how they deny the continuance of past horrors. In the case of Eastern Europe, he observed how vehemently the Romany gypsies are still hated and persecuted, with people referring to them as 'thieves' and vigilante groups burning their tents when they come to town.

To Terezin is an entrancing model of how travel writing can encompass a range of genres – essay, verse, images – as well as wider themes of ethics, philosophy, literature, art and history that feed into a personal exploration of ideas sparked by a particular place.

"As a human being, I have no right to sit in judgement on the people who live in or near Terezín or the thousands of other camps lying like unhealed scars on the body of Europe," he says in the book's epilogue.

"As a writer, though, I have to poke in my nose. If one could feel sure that it really was all in the past, that such things could never recur, then it would be easier to leave it alone."

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Features

Politicians-versus-media

Visiting Professor Karen Ross will review the often-veiled relationship between the New Zealand media and politicians, during a ten-week tenure with the University.

The visit by the British political communications expert is sponsored by the Department of Communications and Journalism. She will spend five weeks at the Wellington campus, after a period at Palmerston North where she delivered a lecture titled Researching Politics and Diversity, Media and Identity on 27 June.

Her next lecture, on processes for interviewing "the elite", will be held at the Wellington campus on 23 August.

Until recently, Professor Ross was Professor of Mass Communication at Coventry University. On her return to Britain she will take up a similar position at the University of Liverpool.

After gaining a degree in social policy, she became a youth worker in 1986. She received her PhD in Race and Ethnic Relations from the University of Warwick in 1990. Through her career, her work has focused on aspects of inequality both in terms of media representation and the gendered political economy of media industries.

Projects have included work on equality and diversity in higher education. She was visiting professor in the School of Politics and International Relations, Queens University Belfast from 2001 to 2004.

In New Zealand Professor Ross will study how politicians are portrayed by the media and will interview Members of Parliament about how they see their relationships with local and national media.

She says 63 MPs have accepted her invitation to take part in the research, which is part of a wider, 10-year project on politicians and media.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

New fundamental sciences head brings world-class expertise and equipment to Massey



The Institute of Fundamental Sciences has a new head, world-renowned mass spectrometry expert Professor Peter Derrick.

The Palmerston North campus is also about to become home to the most powerful mass spectrometer in Australasia, the 9.4 T FTICR mass spectrometer, as Professor Derrick relocates his research equipment.

The mass spectrometer uses a strong and homogenous magnetic field, with a Fourier transformation mathematical tool to assess the weight of a molecule. High resolution and high mass-accuracy are possible using the FTICR, which will be housed adjacent to the NMR suite in Science Tower C.

Professor Derrick was one of the first scientists to promote and develop mass spectrometry for the characterisation of proteins. He developed tandem time-of-flight mass spectrometry for macromolecules and pioneered applications of Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FTICR) to peptides and proteins.

Research interests include the development of mass spectrometers, the study of protein interactions and nanoscience. Equipment developed and used by his team while he was chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Warwick are following Professor Derrick, with doctoral students from Warwick due to start arriving in August to use the technology.

It was after leading major change in chemistry at Warwick that Professor Derrick was informed of the need for a new Head of Institute at Massey.

“The drawing together of physics and chemistry, together with mathematics, in a very positive and conscious way caught my eye,” Professor Derrick says, “and the idea of working across two cities (Albany and Palmerston North).”

“It's a friendly Institute and I'm already positively encouraged by the enthusiasm right the way through. There are young people here I'm meeting for the first time who want to do well and flourish by international standards and that's tremendous. And there's older people who are terribly accomplished and experienced and they are equally positive.”

Professor Derrick's research is focused on proteomics, defining the proteins within cells and how they change over time. The driver is molecular medicine. Nanoscience and specifically metal clusters is another focus.

“People used to think that genes were where you fixed the body's ills,” he says, “but it has come to be known that the number of proteins outweighs the number of genes so there is some work going on there.”

Recent work has addressed the effects of antibiotics. “We can see how the antibiotic interacts with the cell by looking at the weak molecular interactions. If it is interacting you see the cell mass increase, that's the first step in the action. If the antibiotic attacks the cell wall and disputes the growth it will eventually die. We need to see how the antibiotic attaches itself, and to see if it doesn't we have to see what the bacteria has done to protect itself from that molecule.”

Deputy Head of Institute and Director of the Centre of Theoretical Chemistry and Physics Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger says that as well as Professor Derrick's expertise in mass spectrometry, he has a wide area of research interest which will significantly benefit the University and strengthen its work in nanoscience.

Professor Derrick had visited New Zealand previously, while working at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and La Trobe University in Melbourne.

He has also spent time at University of California at Berkeley and Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Professor Derrick received all his degrees from King's College in London.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Richards named NZU Sportsperson of the Year

Rugby player Anna Richards, from the Auckland campus, is New Zealand University Sportsperson of the Year. A first five-eighth with the Black Ferns, Anna was a finalist for Sportswoman of the Year at the 2006 Halberg Awards.

She held off a strong challenge from Commonwealth Games swimming gold medallist Moss Burmester to be awarded the title. Burmester, also from Massey's Auckland campus, will captain the New Zealand team at the 2007 World University Games in Bangkok in August.

Richards, a graduate student in sport management, was honoured for her outstanding performance in last year's Women's Rugby World Cup in Canada, which saw her named player of the match in the final against England.

Massey sportswomen and men dominated this year's National University Blues Awards for sporting achievement, scooping 14 of the 65 awards.

Blues winners received their awards at a ceremony held at Massey's Wellington campus on 29 June. They included: Canoe/Kayak – Michael Dawson and Mark Yungnickel (Palmerston North); Canoe Polo – Joanna Wright and Tania Perrett (Palmerston North) and Olivia Spencer-Bower Wellington); Hockey – Emily Naylor (Palmerston North); Ice Hockey – Andrew Hay (Wellington); Karate – Amy Thomason (Wellington); Motorsport – Sara Randall (Palmerston North); Rollersport – Sarah-Jane Jones (Palmerston North); Surf Life Saving – Johanna O'Connor (Auckland); Swimming – Moss Burmester (Auckland); and Yachting – Matt Coutts (Auckland).

Massey and Waikato are celebrating joint top university status with 14 recipients.

Student Sara Randall, rally co-driver to New Zealand champion Richard Mason (also her fiance) received the first ever Blue for motorsport.

The Universities Blues Award is the highest sporting accolade given in the tertiary system. It is part of a tradition dating from 1922 in New Zealand and earlier in England, where the colours of Oxford and Cambridge Universities came to be a symbol for sporting excellence.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Music and campus life; Sport and recreation





Massey students teach and learn in Cook Islands classrooms

Trainee teachers have been getting a taste of classroom life in the Cook Islands so they'll be better prepared to teach Pacific Island students in New Zealand schools.

A group of 19 student teachers recently spent two weeks teaching at three schools in Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands. It was the third consecutive year students enrolled in the postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (Primary) and led by Michael Irwin, senior lecturer at the College of Education, flew to the Cook Islands during term break.

“We wanted to give trainee teachers an experience of teaching students in the Pacific Islands, because most of them will end up teaching Pacific Island children here in New Zealand,” says Mr Irwin.

Without this experience, teachers don't necessarily appreciate the cultural background of New Zealand-based Pacific Island students – a factor that can make a difference in classroom communication and understanding of students' needs, he says.

“One thing they (the trainee teachers) see is that the kids really love learning. We hear so much about the negative statistics and being at the bottom of the heap. But these kids love learning and respond positively when someone takes an interest,” says Mr Irwin.

The teachers also learn to be more resourceful, honing their teaching skills without relying heavily on computers and other technology which is in short supply in most Cook Island schools.

The idea for the teaching trip arose three years ago through links with another Massey staff member, Bobby Hunter, who is also a senior lecturer in education at Massey's Auckland campus and is of Cook Island descent.

The group takes resources of paper, books, stationery, art materials and even soccer balls donated by a local sports company, as schools in the Cook Islands have fewer resources.

“When we arrived, there was no art on the walls of this one school, but by the time we left it was covered with the kids' pictures,” says Mr Irwin, who specialises in art education.

He stresses the trip is mutually beneficial, with the New Zealand teachers and Cook Island students learning from each other, and teachers swapping professional notes with their Cook Island counterparts.

The trip is optional, with participants paying around \$1400 for flights, food and basic hostel accommodation. Many of the students come to teaching after travelling extensively overseas or from years in the workforce in accountancy, business, the arts, computers and science, and are passionate about wanting to teach, often relinquishing hefty salaries to do so.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: Research

Council Report

The July meeting of the University Council began on Thursday, 5 July with a half-day session focused on the Tertiary Education Commission's new planning framework, Investment Plans.

The meeting continued on Friday, beginning with presentations from Professor Robert Anderson, College of Sciences, and Professor Sally Morgan, College of Creative Arts, outlining the strategies for their colleges for the near future.

The agenda for Part one was relatively short with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, having just returned from overseas duties, tabling her Part one report. She noted the success the University had achieved recently in securing funding for a new Centre of Research Excellence, the Riddet Centre, updated the Council of the PBRF results and on other successful funding bids including to the Health Research Council.

She once again recognised the staff who had been awarded national tertiary teaching excellence awards – Dr Bryan Walpert and Dr Tracey Riley, and advised Council that Dr Peter Coolbear had taken up the role as director of Ako Aotearoa – the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

The meeting finished with a verbal report by Professor Nigel Long, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) providing Council with background to the 2006 PBRF round in response to recent media reports that some institutions had taken advantage of loopholes in the PBRF process.

Professor Long said the overall strategy had been to focus on maximising our research performance in a number of subject areas identified as being strategically important to the University. There was also emphasis placed on ensuring that, unlike 2003, the University did not put forward more staff than were eligible for PBRF.

As a result of this strategy. The University submitted a similar proportion of PBRF staff who were PBRF eligible as other universities, and a similar percentage to 2003.

Professor Long said the strategy was successful, and combined with the commitment from staff, resulted in the University increasing its overall quality score and funding allocation and significantly increasing the number of staff with A and B rankings as well as the number of research active staff.

13 subject areas were ranked in the top three and the University attracted an increased share of the PBRF pool.

Date: 24/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; Uni News; University Council

SME research features in new television series

Small business researcher Professor Claire Massey features in the second series of the popular Business is Booming television series on TVNZ.

Professor Massey, who is Director of the New Zealand Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research at Massey Wellington, also worked with production company Wonderful Television, on the concept and content for the programme.

Business is Booming attracted more than a million viewers over the 12 episodes of the first series. The second series starts tomorrow (Saturday 28 July) at 8am on Television One.

Professor Massey says the programme fills an important gap. "Many of New Zealand's 350,000 or so SMEs face difficulty. The Business is Booming series will help them," she says.

"It is a valuable, practical and quality product of its kind, and it will certainly meet the needs that are typical of small businesses faced with the challenges of establishment, sustainability and growth."

The producers of the programme say it delves into the many challenges that affect small business survival and growth, providing practical answers, expert interviews and a wide range of valuable experiences

Professor Massey is Professor of Enterprise Development at Massey and describes her main interest as in strengthening the SME infrastructure. She has led a number of teams that have worked closely with the government agencies involved in enterprise development. Her research on SMEs has included minimising the costs of business compliance, encouraging firms to develop better business practices, and evaluating the effectiveness of government programmes.

For more information on the programme go to www.businessisbooming.co.nz

See also <http://sme-centre.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 27/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



P still easy to obtain but more middle-class saying no thanks

 [Watch the ONE News item.](#)

Methamphetamine remains widely available with no overall change in its level of availability in the past six months and continues to be a serious problem with most users describing it as easy or very easy to obtain, new research has found.

But there are signs of that middle-class drug users may be eschewing P as its reputation worsens, according to an ongoing Massey study of drug trends, known as the Illicit Drug Monitoring System, which provides information on current trends in drug use and the problems experienced by drug users.



Results of the latest study were based on interviews conducted last year. Researchers interviewed 318 frequent drug users in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, including 114 frequent methamphetamine users, 111 frequent ecstasy users and 90 frequent injecting drug users. The aim of the monitoring system is to provide an annual snapshot of drug use and drug-related problems in New Zealand. It is used by several agencies concerned with drug issues, including police and drug treatment services.

Study leader Dr Chris Wilkins, from the University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), says there are some indications of a move away from P by middle-class users as its reputation worsens and it becomes increasingly associated with violence and addiction.

The more middle-class ecstasy users reported increasing use of LSD rather than methamphetamine. These trends may reflect a wider shift in methamphetamine use away from the middle class towards lower socio-economic sections of the community, Dr Wilkins says.

The number of methamphetamine laboratories found by police has climbed to about 200 a year compared with nine in 2000 and 41 in 2001.

The researchers note the imported variety of P, crystal methamphetamine or "ice" is reportedly less available than it was six months ago. They say this may well be as a result of the record seizure of 95kg of ice by police and customs in May last year.

More people are reported to be using ecstasy and the price of this drug is said to be declining. Opiates are easily procured although the price and availability of these drugs are stable. Cannabis remains the staple illegal drug in New Zealand and the easiest to get.

Amongst the frequent drug users interviewed, those taking drugs intravenously had the highest levels of drug dependency, and experienced the greatest number of physical and psychological problems from their drug use. They were also the most likely to have been taken to hospital by ambulance as a result of their drug use in the previous six months. The frequent P users reported a high incidence of serious psychological problems. A third of both these user groups reported having suicidal thoughts in relation to drug use.

Dr Wilkins says interviewing for the 2007 study has just begun and his team of interviewers would like to talk to frequent drug users in the three cities where the data is collected.

“We have interviewers in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch ready to interview people wanting to take part in the study. They can call us on the 0800 numbers below to hear more about the study and how they can participate. All the interviews are strictly confidential and anonymous. The information is only reported in aggregate and no individual's interview can be identified at a later time. Those who participate are given a \$20 food or petrol voucher for their time.”

The main report of the 2006 IDMS and two research briefings summarising the findings can be downloaded at: http://www.shore.ac.nz/projects/idms_study.htm

Date: 27/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Baby orca, found on 5 July, 4km south of Waipapakauri ramp on Ninety-Mile Beach in Northland.

Baby orca mutilated after death, expert says

The latest dead baby Orca found on New Zealand's coastline died soon after being born, a University expert has found.

Veterinary pathologist Wendi Roe says that while she usually saw at least a couple of dead baby marine mammals each year, including two Pilot whale babies already this year, she had never seen one “chopped up” as this male baby killer whale was.

“We do see babies who have died in storms soon after birth but I have never seen one mutilated in this way. We do also see adults with bits chopped off but not babies.”

The baby orca was found on 5 July, 4km south of Waipapakauri ramp on Ninety-Mile Beach in Northland. He was missing his head, tail, dorsal and right pectoral fin, and his right side had been cut open.

“The mutilation of his body was performed after death,” Ms Roe says, “and was done skillfully by a person well-versed in using a knife. Changes in his lungs showed that he had probably drowned, but we have no way of telling whether he died in a storm, or, for example, was caught in a fishing net. The presence of net marks on the head and leading edges of flukes and flippers is common supporting evidence of entanglement as a cause of death, but almost all of these body parts had been cut off.”

While it is not an offence to accidentally kill an orca, both failure to report a death and mutilation after death are offences under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, Department of Conservation marine species manager Simon Banks says.

“It's pretty obvious why that's the case; most of these species like orca are rare, endangered or recovering after being driven close to extinction.”

It is common practice in fisheries to cut fins from sharks caught in nets, so the carcasses sink. Marine mammals such as orca do not sink however, and can be washed up onshore.

Despite being known as a killer whale, the orca is actually the largest member of the dolphin family. Females tend to calve only five times in their lives.



Date: 27/07/2007

Type: Research



Marketing Race Day

When the Levin Racing Club wanted to attract more young people to its race days, it asked a group of Massey University Marketing students to come up with ideas.

The three students, William Sun, Chen Gege and Masters student Monica Xu, prepared a marketing plan for a classic race day held at the Otaki Racecourse last Saturday (28 July), including the final two year old feature race of the New Zealand racing year.

Their suggestions included an “event” at the Palmerston North campus, during which Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear “rode” a mechanical horse, with coaching from experienced jockey Trevor Bau. Professor Kinnear, whose grandfather and two uncles were jockeys, needed no encouragement to accept a \$50 bet from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North), Professor Ian Warrington, that she could do it. The stunt featured on the front page of the Manawatu Standard.

The students also proposed an advertising programme on campus, using posters and student radio. The club turned on a ‘Ryde the Rave’ event with a live band, spot prizes and a raffle, at the meeting.

The verdict on the results of the assignment? Good overall, says Graham Smellie from the Levin Racing Club. The publicity gave the club great exposure for the meeting and increased its revenue. However, he says attracting younger people to race meetings may turn out to be a tough call, especially in winter: the crowd at Saturday’s meeting was not conspicuously younger.

Date: 30/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Music and campus life; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Nigel Long, Judith Kinnear, Rodney Wong (Chairman of Speirs Nutritionals) in the production centre.

Science and business joint venture takes Omega-3 to the world market

Omega 3 fish oil is on its way to international markets for use in products from bread to ice cream, with the opening today of the new Speirs Nutritionals factory in Marton.

A team led by Riddet Centre Professors Paul Moughan and Harjinder Singh developed the micro-encapsulation technology that allows the Omega 3 in fish oil to be incorporated in foods at high levels without the smell and taste of fish. Manawatu-based businesses the Bio Commerce Centre and Speirs Foods joined the Riddet Centre and Massey University in a joint venture to make and sell the Omega-3.



The opening of the resulting factory is a milestone for New Zealand science, Professor Paul Moughan says. “Developments such as this, targeted at high-value knowledge-embedded products, are vitally important in assisting to diversify New Zealand’s economy and to help raise our overall standard of living.”

Professor Moughan paid tribute to the team of scientists and the businesspeople who had helped bring the new product to the market. “Speirs Nutritionals Ltd is a tangible example of science and business working closely together,” he says. “Omega-3s are one of the most understood, researched and accepted nutraceuticals in the world, and the market demand for fish oil for inclusion in foods is high and growing.

“For example, the South east Asian market alone is valued at \$450million and is increasing at a compound annual growth rate of 12 per cent. We clearly occupy a strategic market space.”

Minister of Research, Science and Technology Steve Maharey officially opened the Hair St factory, saying Omega-3 was “the real deal”.

“Many products carry promises of Omega-3 and health benefits already, but you would have to eat so much of those products to get even the slightest benefit. Speirs really have the science to back up the product.”

Mr Maharey noted that while food is a global business, the Omega-3 plant had come about due to regional strengths. “You need vibrant, forward-looking companies to take on this type of project, and Speirs Group clearly has a vision of nutritious, high-value foods.

“Massey University can claim that it is the food technology university. As well as investing in the redevelopment of the food technology department, the Riddet Centre has become the newest Centre of Research Excellence. I think this is recognition that the base of food innovation lies in this part of the country.”

The Riddet Centre was named by the Government as a Centre of Research Excellence in June, securing Government funding for six years and acknowledging its status as a world-class research institution. The Centre was formed in 2003 to bring together talent from Massey University and the universities of Auckland and Otago. The partnership now includes AgResearch and Crop and Food Research, with a hub at the University’s

Palmerston North campus. The Centre is to receive \$4.275 million over five years from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, for the future foods project to investigate the nanostructure of foods post-ingestion with the aim of developing healthier foods.

Date: 30/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Walk on water, fly like a bird at Massey Open Days

Fancy a career in aviation but never flown a plane before? Now is your chance. Massey's School of Aviation is offering 25-minute trial flights in its training aircraft for just \$70 at the second of two Open Days on the Palmerston North campus this Wednesday and Saturday (August 1 and 4).

Prospective students interested in flying will be accompanied by a qualified instructor and will be given the opportunity to take the controls and fly the plane. The flights should be booked in advance (follow the web-link below) and are weather-permitting.

Also on display at the school will be its new flight simulator and visitors will be given full details of the courses available.

For those with an interest in the sciences, there will be opportunity to see someone really walk on water, thanks to the amazing properties of cornflour. This will be run by the Institute of Fundamental Sciences on Concourse, on the Saturday only.

The open days will both run from 9am to 2pm. Each day will include: College presentations, halls of residence tours, careers advice, budgeting advice, "Explore Science" sessions, veterinary hospital tours, College of Education and School of Aviation visits, plus entertainment.

There will be shuttle buses linking the campus Turitea and Hokowhitu sites, the Milson Flight System Centre and Ucol, which has coinciding open days.

The university is in full swing so it is also a time when students can immerse themselves in the campus culture, get involved in activities and discover university life. Come along and check out the new food courts and dining facilities.

And while you are here, fill in an entry form to be in to win the "Ultimate Uni Starter Kits" for students:

First prize is a Toshiba Gigashot R30 video/digital camera, a Fuji Xerox laser printer from Advantage Computers and a National Bank prize pack that includes an MP3 player, a CD holder and a laptop bag.

Second prize is a pre-pay mobile phone from Adamson & Holland and a Massey backpack filled with OfficeMax stationery. Third prize is a six-month membership to Fuel Fitness at the Massey Recreation Centre.

More information can be found at: <https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/campuses/palmerston-north/campus-events/open-day/open-day-home.cfm>

Open Days will be held at the Auckland campus on 18 August and the Wellington campus on 24 August.

Date: 30/07/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Use it or lose it: Maori language in peril

New Zealand has reached a critical stage in preserving the Maori language, University researchers say, warning New Zealand must “use it or lose it”.

A team from the Te Putahi-a-Toi, the School of Maori Studies, is working on the Te Puni Kokiri project He Kainga Korero, to encourage families to use Te Reo in everyday life. Preliminary findings indicate that most whanau have either a limited or average level of Maori language ability, and that only one percent of Maori are confident to always speak in Te Reo.

Researcher Dr Rangi Matamua says use of language in everyday life is particularly critical.

“Maori radio and TV do a fantastic job, but you can have it at schools and you can have it in all those other places and unless you speak it in the home it is just something you do on the side,” Dr Matamua says. “Most researchers agree that if we don't use the language as a natural part of everyday life we are going to go past the tipping point in the next 10 or 20 years. That is, we will reach a point where there is not a critical mass [speaking Maori] and it is just going to die away.”

Professor Black Director of the Te Putahi-a-Toi and Te Puni Kokiri Te Whare Korero whanau project emphasises the need for language planning of reo Maori to be built, promoted and sustained from within the whanau.

“Changing socio-cultural practices regionally, nationally and globally are leading to a weakening of whanau language transmission, including intergenerational transmission from within whanau,” Professor Black says. “Traditional mainstream educative institutions, iwi, hapu and whanau wananga, kapa haka, birthdays, whanau celebrations must up their ante to sustaining intergenerational transmission of te reo. We have to build the reo capability of the whanau to become the platform of te reo Maori to sustain intergenerational transmission.”

Professor Tai Black says there has been a tendency in some language revitalisation to focus exclusively on education, “as if the entire enterprise of language planning for language revitalisation devolves solely on schools.

“But in the coming years let's add a whanau vitality of atmosphere enthusiasm, eagerness, quality reo resource in whanau members, popular engagement, laughter, provocative challenges, high-spirited banter and excellent food to the social, cultural, traditional aspects as a mechanism of enhancing and consolidating whanau reo culture.”

Dr Matamua says that New Zealand is in the third stage of a process on te reo.

“There's the time of status, when we get to a point where people think it is important to use Maori. Then there is acquisition, where people learn. Right now we're at the hardest stage, that's use. It's about getting people to actually use the language and that seems to be the hardest step. It's use it or lose it.”

Findings indicated that 80 per cent of whanau felt they were using more te reo in the home, and only 18 per cent were using less. One-third of whanau were in the process of developing the reo plan, to develop reo in their homes, with 43 per cent still to make plans or seeking information. Children had better te reo than their whanau, Dr Matamua says, largely because there were now strong kura kaupapa or kohanga reo. Most adults used their reo Maori with children (26 per cent). Mothers (37 per cent) and grandparents (32 per cent) were usually the first adults to speak Maori with children.

There was also a need for non-Maori to use the language, however.

“We also need to emphasise that Maori language is for everyone,” Dr Matamua says. “If we say it is just for Maori then I hear the death wattle ringing in my ears. We need to see Maori in a similar way to Spanish or French, common second languages.”

Dr Matamua says he is still optimistic Maori can be preserved as a living language. “There are people who do speak Maori every day – some of us come from communities where people still use Maori for everyday communication but that is becoming a rarity.”

Dr Matamua, who is Tuhoe, graduated with a PhD in May, after completing his thesis on the role of Maori radio in revitalising the language. He found that listenership was much higher than previously thought, with some isolated communities reaching 90 percent listenership to local Maori stations.

Date: 31/07/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

SMEs owners dismissed as second-class citizens

The Government has been accused of treating small business owners as second-class citizens.

Small and medium business researcher Claire Massey says SMEs get very little by way of support and encouragement. "The only exceptions are firms producing high-tech products or who can boast an exceptional export opportunity. For the rest, the Government effectively says, 'We don't want to know you.'"

Professor Massey, Director of the New Zealand Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research at Massey University Wellington, notes that New Zealand has more than 350,000 SMEs, making up more than 99 per cent of the business population and accounting for 60 per cent of all employment.

"We have 1448 private sector firms that employ more than 100 staff – all up, roughly half the total labour force," she says. "We have almost 400000 more firms that employ the rest of the work force. As consumers they supply us with everything from specialist shopping experiences to professional services – these people run our favourite restaurants, and make our favourite wine.

"They also make it possible for large firms to focus on the profitable end of the market – by providing them with services that are only economic if your motivation is more complex than profit.

"But small firms are largely absent from the thinking about economic transformation – or dismissed as unimportant unless they demonstrate more than 20% growth for 5 years or more.

Professor Massey says for the bulk of New Zealand owner-managers, economic transformation is a hard concept to translate. "And while we continue to focus so narrowly on finding the next generation of winners, we will fail to connect with those people that make up the bulk of the economy."

A survey by Professor Massey's centre has shown that many small firms do not use government organisations set up to support them. Only 8.5 per cent had received assistance from the Ministry of Economic Development, and 14.8 per cent from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. Many had little understanding of the government assistance available to them, and believed it could come with strings attached.

She says government agencies need to take a note of such signs, and make greater efforts to reach out to small businesses, if they are serious about helping to transform the economy.

Professor Massey delivers her Inaugural Professorial lecture at the University's Wellington campus tomorrow (Thursday). The lecture is the second in the Wellington Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lecture Series for 2007.

Professor Massey will analyse international approaches to SME development and present a framework for developing New Zealand firms, focusing on the people who own and operate them.

She is Professor of Enterprise Development at Massey and is the first New Zealander to fill a senior role in the International Council of Small Business, as Senior Vice-President (Research). She has been a driving force in the council's strategy to make relevant research on small business more accessible.

Claire Massey also has experience as a small business owner and she is the great-granddaughter of one of New Zealand's earliest entrepreneurs, William Ferguson Massey, former Prime Minister and the University's namesake.

The Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lecture Series is open to the public. Professor Massey's lecture will be held at the Theatre in the Museum Building at the Wellington campus, in Buckle Street, starting at 6pm.

Date: 01/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Winning streaks at the Hokonui Fashion Awards

Massey Wellington Fashion and Design students and alumni continued a run of successes at the Hokonui Fashion Design Awards in Gore at the weekend.

The University's students and graduates have consistently scored top awards at the show, which is regarded as a key event on the national fashion calendar.

The winning students for 2007 were Chris Duncan, who won the sportswear section, and Amy Butler, who won the "Kiwiana" section. Graduate Jess Gibbs won the street wear award. Each received \$1000 cash prize with their award.

Judges included designers Kate Sylvester, Jimmy D and Doris du Pont, along with Rex Turnbull, creative director of Lino magazine in Sydney.

Date: 01/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Massey academics feature in Montana Book Awards

Two Massey academics and an alumna are amongst the winners in this year's Montana Book Awards.

Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors, by Professor Kerry Howe won the History category in the 2007 awards.

The book, edited by Professor Howe who is based at the Auckland campus, was published to accompany the Vaka Moana exhibition, which opened in Auckland last December. He was also curator of the exhibition.

Professor Howe, a leading Pacific historian, drew on years of research and writing to contribute to the book and edit it.

The 368 page book is described as the most comprehensive and complete account yet of the ancient seafarers who developed the world's first ocean-going vessels – and the advanced navigational systems to guide them – and discovered the last habitable lands on earth, the islands of the mighty Pacific Ocean.

The winner of the Lifestyle and Contemporary Culture was Stitch: Contemporary New Zealand Textile Artists. The book was written by Ann Packer (B.A 1968) with cover design by Genevieve Packer (BDes Textiles) who lectures to textile and fashion students at the Wellington campus . She is also one of many Massey alumni featured in the book.

For more on Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors go to http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz/magazine/2007_Apr/stories/12-22-07.html

Date: 01/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; Book



Summer swots

While you dip into the latest thriller, spare a thought for those who've chosen textbooks as their summer reading.

At Massey University alone, thousands of people are using the summer break to start, complete, catch up or get ahead with their study. There are 240 papers on offer at the University's three campuses over the summer, with nearly 7,600 enrolments.

The Director of National Student Relations Dr Pat Sandbrook says around half of those studying in Summer School are doing their work on campus, at Wellington, Palmerston North or Auckland. The rest are staying at home and doing their papers extramurally.

Conversely some regular extramural students have used their holidays to do papers on campus, many of them meeting University staff face-to-face for the first time.

This month the University is also running 31 contact courses for its regular extramural students, including a statistics course in Christchurch,

And Dr Sandbrook says many of the University's around one thousand doctoral students are working on their PhD theses over the summer. We also have 1700 Masters students. Experience tells us that about half of them will also work through the break, many of them on campus.

He says the growth in the popularity of Summer School at Massey has been nothing short of phenomenal. In 2004 enrolments at all campuses topped 1,840. This summer they've reached 7,582.

The typical summer swots are taking one or two papers, usually for professional development or to complete their degree more quickly. Others use the break to try something new.

There's something for everybody, says Dr Sandbrook. The biggies are always the business papers, including maths and statistics. This year we were also well oversubscribed for creative arts courses on offer in Wellington, and were able to provide extra papers such as the life drawing course to meet demand.

Courses range from Venture Capital and Private Equity to Writing for Children. There are offerings in everything from accounting and aviation to occupational safety and health, birthing and early parenting to te reo and te hokinga mai (repatriation), sports business, e-business strategies, and dispute resolution to chemistry.

Massey's summer school runs from November through until mid February.

Date: 01/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Extramural

Sharing fashion research with the industry

Change in the fashion industry – including the increasing number of niche designer labels – will be studied at the industry's annual tertiary education conference, in Wellington this month.

The Fashion Industry New Zealand conference will be held on 9 and 10 August at Massey's Wellington campus, home to the country's leading school of Fashion and Textile Design.

Now in its fourth year, the two-day conference has increased communication and alignment between the fashion education and in industry sectors. It provides a forum for discussion and an opportunity for tutors to attend professional workshops that bring them up to speed with industry practices and processes.

Fashion Design programme leader Deb Cummings says hosting the conference provides opportunities for the Massey school. "It is a great venue to bring together representatives from the apparel industry and national educational providers," she says.

"The theme this year, *The Broader Perspective of Design*, will spark much discussion on the changing roles of design, product development and manufacturing within a changing economic environment," Ms Cummings says.

"There are a number of industry changes, including more niche designer labels, greater design orientation in branding, marketing and merchandising, increased exports and offshore production, to which the Massey Fashion Design programme has responded. In particular, this has impacted on the need for extensive learning across design and creative practice, business and product development."

She says the conference will allow a positive interchange of ideas, which will benefit both industry and education. "It is very important to maintain a strong link between the sectors. Part of this includes the opportunity for recent research to be presented. Janet Webster, one of our senior lecturers, is presenting a paper on apparel sizing, which has national and international interest for manufacturers, retailers and consumers."

Fashion Industry New Zealand was established in 2002 as the voice of New Zealand's fashion sector and wider apparel industry. Its national membership spans the entire industry - supply, design, manufacturing, retail, export and importing – as well as fashion-related education and service providers.

Date: 02/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Conference/Seminar



Massey provides largest contingent for World Games team

Fourteen Massey students are in the team competing in the World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand, this week – the most from any New Zealand university and including national team captain swimmer Moss Burmester, from the Auckland campus.

Six are from the Auckland campus, one from the Wellington campus, five from Palmerston North and two are extramural students: Everard Bartlett (basketball, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise) and Christopher Daniel (basketball, Bachelor of Arts).

Representatives from each campus were recently acknowledged by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, who presented them each with cheques for \$300 to assist with travel costs and Massey backpacks.

“I hope you improve your personal bests and bring home some medals,” said DVC (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington.

He warned the Palmerston North group that for most of them the conditions would be hotter and more humid than they had ever experienced and it was vital they followed advice from trainers and support staff to maintain hydration and health.

Amy Smith, Manawatu's current number one women's golfer and a student at Massey since 2002, agreed. She competed in the world university golf championships in Thailand in 2004 and in Turin, Italy, last year.

Ms Smith said this was the first time that golfers had been part of the overall World University Games, which is one of the world's biggest sporting events.

“We've never been invited to this before, so it's quite exciting.”

Caption 1: Auckland campus: Moss Burmester, (swimming, Bachelor of Design), John Zulch (swimming, BBS), Gary-John Hill (golf, Bachelor of Business Studies), Helen Norfolk (swimming, BA), Robert Voss (swimming, BBS), Corney Swanepoel (swimming, BA) with Professor John Raine, DVC (Auckland).

Caption 2: Palmerston North campus: Gemma Mathieson (golf, BBS), Chelsea Aim (football, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise), Allena Hill, (football, Bachelor of Nursing), Grant Gordon (table tennis, BBS), and Amy Smith (golf, BBS/Bachelor of Science), with Professor Ian Warrington, DVC (Palmerston North).

Caption 3: Wellington campus: Kelly Bentley (swimming, Bachelor of Health Science) with Professor Andrea McIlroy, DVC (Wellington).

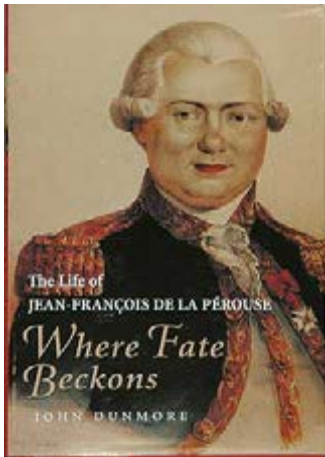
Date: 03/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation; Uni News

Reviews - November 2007

Reviewers: Professor Glynnis Cropp (GC), Professor Jenny Carryer (JC), Makere Edwards, (ME) Jennifer Little (JL), Malcolm Wood (MW)



Pacific History

Where Fate Beckons. The Life of Jean-François de La Pérouse
by John Dunmore, Exisle Publishing, ISBN:0-908988-53-2, NZD \$49.99

Beside his scholarly English editions of the journals of de Surville, Bougainville and La Pérouse, John Dunmore, the pre-eminent historian of French exploration of the Pacific, has written a biography of each of these navigators. In his words, he wanted 'to put a human face' on the explorer, to envisage him in the social and cultural context in order to understand motivation and assess achievement. *Where Fate Beckons* is in all respects an excellent companion volume to *Storms and Dreams. Louis de Bougainville: Soldier, Explorer, Statesman* (2005). To present the whole life of these explorers, Professor Dunmore has encompassed much more than Pacific history. The backdrop is 18th century France, the Age of Enlightenment, when the philosophes debate the notion of the 'noble savage', noble birth ensures the right to privileges, scientific knowledge is growing, and efforts are being made to reduce the unknown parts of the world.

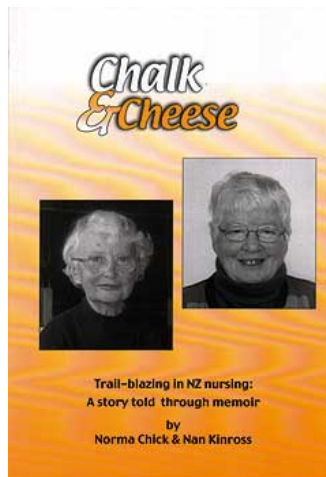
La Pérouse's life from birth in 1741 to his mysterious disappearance off Vanikoro Island in the Pacific in 1788 is narrated on the basis of documents, and with a small measure of authorial imagination, to give a full, judiciously balanced account. Of noble family background, he left Albi in the south-west of France in 1756 to undertake naval training in Brest, where his advancement owed something to Albi connections. He served during the Seven Years War with Britain and on a mission to the West Indies; based at Isle de France (Mauritius), he served in the Indian ocean (1772-77), where he first commanded a ship and also heard much about exploration of the Pacific; then he took part in the American Campaign (1778-82), and undertook a secret mission to north Canada. La Pérouse thus had nearly 30 years of naval experience and wartime action before he sailed for the Pacific. Zealous and ambitious, he had gained promotion and the confidence of his superiors. However, his father's jealous protection of the family's noble status was an obstacle to La Pérouse's marriage to Eléonore Broudou, with whom he fell in love in Isle de France. Eventually they married in 1783, when his rank and standing, his independence of mind, as well as his love, made him courteously inform his family and the navy of his marriage plans, without seeking their approval.

One third of the book is devoted to the Pacific voyage (1785-88), which was under discussion by the navy, the Minister of marine, and scientists, when La Pérouse returned from America. Louis XVI approved and supported this major scientific expedition to survey new areas. La Pérouse was appointed commander, with the immediate task of selecting officers and scientists for the two ships, the *Boussole* and the *Astrolabe*. The route was around Cape Horn to Easter Island, then north to Alaska in order to explore the American coast down to Monterey, California; from there, the expedition sailed westwards to the unknown seas north of Japan, then south to Botany Bay, Australia. Reports and correspondence were dispatched to France from ports along the way. The consignment entrusted at Botany Bay to Captain Phillip's fleet includes the planned itinerary for the last stages: north to the Santa Cruz and Solomon Islands, then westwards along the west coast of New Holland as far as Diemen's Land, then northwards to reach Isle de France in December 1788. But the last sighting by Europeans was as the ships sailed from Botany Bay on 10 March 1788. When news reached France that the expedition was overdue, the country was in Revolutionary turmoil. Nevertheless, in April 1791, the King authorised a

rescue expedition, which spent about ten months in 1792-93 searching around New Caledonia and the Santa Cruz group, even sighting from a distance and recording on map the island which was Vanikoro, where La Pérouse's ships had been wrecked. Fate determined that La Pérouse's Pacific expedition was unfinished, his goal unattained. Fate also determined that the mystery persist. For since Peter Dillon's efforts in 1827 (which the Prologue evokes in a lively scenario) until today, when diving equipment and DNA analysis can be used, the Vanikoro site continues to be explored, with small but significant findings of traces of the ships and their men.

There are vivid scenes, such as of Port-Louis, Isle de France, well documented descriptions, such as of Hudson's Bay, and moving accounts of two tragedies on the Pacific voyage, which deeply affected La Pérouse. A careful navigator, with special interest in hydrography, he commanded with authority and diplomacy, showing courage, humanity and compassion. His name and life resound still, for the circumstances of his final overwhelming struggle with the forces of nature cannot be known.

This is a book not only for readers of Pacific history, but also for those interested in eighteenth-century Europe and history of warfare. —GC



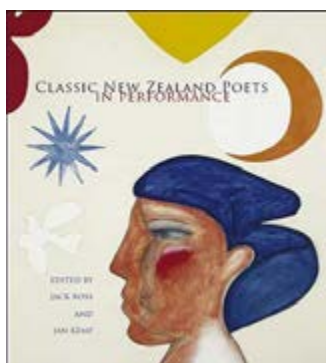
Chalk and Cheese

By Emeritus Professors Nan Kinross and Norma Chick, Central Publishing Bureau, \$29.00

This book is a wonderful insight into Massey's history of nursing education, the people who have contributed to that history and the particular contribution of two notable and leading nurse academics.

The book is constructed through woven narratives. This works well, allowing the individual personalities and different lives of these two leaders to shine through. The establishment of the Bachelor of Nursing for registered nurses in 1973 and the subsequent growth and strength of a masters and doctoral program is a credit to two strong and visionary nurses. It is clear through the pages of this book that both of them have made separate but vital contributions to the development of nursing and nursing scholarship in New Zealand. It is interesting to observe the extent to which some individuals can make such major contributions and create such difference. It was also sobering to reflect what a long hard journey it has been and still is to establish what should be the taken-for-granted parameters of a major health discipline.

The book is a credit to Professor Nan Kinross and Professor Norma Chick and all of those who assisted in bringing it together. That they were and are chalk and cheese is beautifully illustrated in the book. What is also obvious is that we need such differences; nursing is so vast and so complex that it most certainly needs many types of leaders working in many different ways to continue the journey that women such as these have carried so strongly. - JC



Classic New Zealand Poets in Performance

Edited by Jack Ross, selected by Jack Ross and Jan Kemp, Auckland University Press, paperback with flaps, 2 audio CDs, ISBN-10:1869403673, ISBN-13:9781869403676, NZD\$45.00

Jack Ross has spent much of the past two years hearing voices.

Haunting voices. The voices of Janet Frame, of James K Baxter, of Rex Fairburn, of Denis Glover, of Hone Tuwhare, of Fleur Adcock and many other poets.

Now New Zealanders listen in. Classic New Zealand Poets in Performance includes two CDs of recordings.

The Auckland-based Massey University creative writing teacher, English lecturer and author has been listening to archives both recent and from 1974 as part of the sifting, selecting process for publication.

Ross, who co-edited the book with poet Jan Kemp, says the recordings go beyond the text in showing how the poet intended words and phrases to be emphasised and inflected.

Poems performed by their authors expand meaning further, enhancing the rightness of cadences and the exactness of language, the book's editors say.

The book includes Denis Glover reading his famed poem The Magpies with its immortal onomatopoeia Quardle oodle ardle wardle doodle .

The book brings together material from the Waiata Recordings Archive collected in 1974, as well as from the Aotearoa New Zealand Poetry Sound Archive, completed in 2004.

The cover design features Pat Hanley's 1983 painting Wonder Full. —JL



Stick Insects

By Steve Trewick and Mary Morgan-Richards, Reed, ISBN: 186948570X, NZD\$14.99

For children and for adults too the stick insect is one of the insect world's novelties: a piece of vegetation come to life, often only spotted when it moves from the tree on which it is feeding to an adjacent fence or house wall. Yet stick insects are all around us, in our bush and in our gardens. New Zealand has 21 formally named species and there may, according to Trewick and Morgan-Richards, be others as yet uncollected and studied.

What else might you like to add to your collection of fascinating facts about stick insects? Well, they lack ears, are exclusively herbivorous, and, in the case of a Malaysian stick insect, have been known to reach a length, legs included, of 56cm. Three of New Zealand's more common species have now settled southwest England.

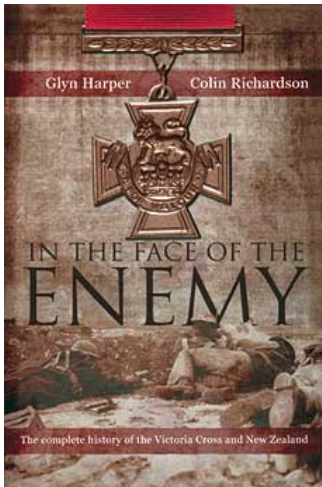
Then there's the matter of sex. That the male of the species is often much smaller than the female, isn't that unusual (sexual dimorphism is common among insects). More curious is that some species of stick insect have dispensed with males altogether, reproducing by parthenogenesis (from the Greek parthenos or virgin, and genesis or birth).

In natural history appeal, insects are a hard sell. Our species has a predilection for animals of the large warm-blooded, furry or feathery variety. If they are in their dewy-eyed cuddly infancy, all the better.

But that's not to say that the way we look at our insect and invertebrate life can't be changed. Take the weta, emblem of our lauded special effects studio. The weta is never going to supplant the kiwi or kakapo in our national affections, but it is a creature in which we now take some perverse pride.

Books like this one enlarge our sympathies and understanding. If you have a bright and curious child with an interest in the natural environment, and in insects particularly, this would be a good purchase.

Stick Insects is the most recent in Reed's series of New Zealand Wild children's books. —MW



In the Face of the Enemy: The Victoria Cross and New Zealand

By Glyn Harper and Colin Richardson, HarperCollins New Zealand, paperback ISBN:1869505220, NZD\$35.99

Best and Bravest: Kiwis awarded the Victoria Cross

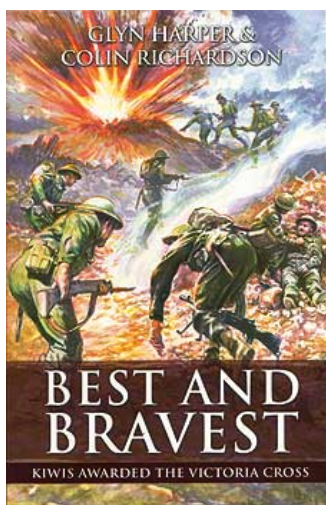
By Glyn Harper and Colin Richardson, HarperCollins New Zealand, paperback ISBN:1869505239, NZD\$19.99

In the Face of the Enemy, the latest book by military historian Associate Professor Glyn Harper, has launched to a barrage of international media interest.

Co-written by Dr Harper and Colonel Colin Richardson, In the Face of the Enemy, examines the events, politics and philosophies of the highest Commonwealth military decoration for gallantry. It features the controversial stories of the New Zealand servicemen who were recommended for the Victoria Cross but who did not receive it.

The book has been profiled in feature articles in The Daily Telegraph (UK) and The Canberra Times (Australia) and Dr Harper has been interviewed by the BBC.

In a speech delivered at the book launch, Minister of Defence Phil Goff described the bronze Victoria Cross as a symbol of extraordinary courage, in the face of an enemy. He said the men awarded the Cross would likely endorse the view expressed by Dr Harper and Colonel Richardson that the award of gallantry decorations can be something of a lottery.



This is because extreme courage can go unrecognised, or not be fully recognised... the analysis of the way various factors featured in the chain of decisions that lay behind the award of each Victoria Cross is one of the areas in which *In the Face of the Enemy* breaks new ground.

Of the servicemen who were recommended for the VC but who did not receive one, the story of Ma-ori Battalion Lance-Sergeant Haane Manahi is pertinent amid current lobbying by the Manahi VC Committee. Mr Goff said Sgt Manahi displayed outstanding courage and leadership, leading three men 500 feet up a near-sheer face of a mountain. He was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

His citation for the VC was signed by those who witnessed his exploits and supported by the entire chain of command including generals Alexander, Montgomery, Freyberg and Kippenberger.

The Ministry for Defence is working with the committee to see if the case can be reconsidered, acknowledging, however, that the consistent position of the Palace since the late 1940s has been to not revisit such decisions.

Mr Goff praised the book and the fact that Glyn Harper and Colonel Richardson have again ensured that the feats of Haane Manahi and others like him who deserved but did not get the VC will not be forgotten .

In the Face of the Enemy is nicely complemented by *Best and Bravest*, where the stories from *In the Face of the Enemy* are recounted for younger readers. In fact, with its stirring tales of gallantry and courage the book is ideally suited to boys who may otherwise be reluctant readers.

Dr Harper heads the Centre for Defence Studies at the Palmerston North campus and is the author of several military histories. He joined the Australian Army in 1988, transferring to the New Zealand Army where he held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel until leaving in 2001.

Colin Richardson currently serves at the headquarters of the New Zealand Defence Force and has taught military history and strategy at the Australian Army Command and Staff College. He has a long interest in the history of the Victoria Cross.

Both authors started their military careers as Territorial Force soldiers in the 2nd Canterbury Nelson Marlborough West Coast Battalion in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, a unit that claims five Victoria Crosses as part of its heritage. - JG



Professional Thesis Presentation: A step-by-step guide to preparing your thesis in Microsoft Word

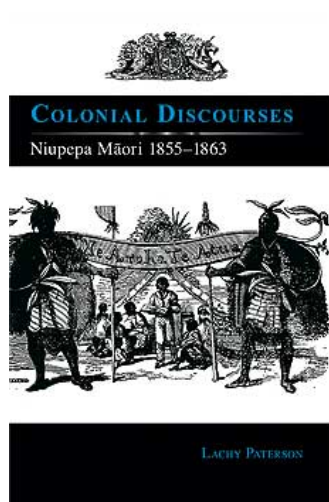
By Ken Benn and Cheryl Benn: Pearson Education New Zealand ISBN:1877371475 NZD\$29.95

Full disclosure: this reviewer is no great fan of Microsoft Word. I find it inelegant and non-intuitive, and when I can use other programmes I will, but Word is the world's default word processing programme, so it is best to come to grips with it.

This is never more important than when setting out to produce a thesis. If you put a little time in to learning the ways of Word before you begin to write you will save yourself a great deal of time and grief and be able to make the best use of Word's many powerful features.

Ken and Cheryl Benn's Professional Thesis Presentation is the ideal place to start: jargon-free, clearly structured, and, at under 100 pages, a manageable read.

Cheryl Benn is an Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences. Ken Benn is a writer and runs his own business. — MW



Colonial Discourses: Niupepa Maori 1855 1863

By Dr Lachy Paterson, Otago University Press, ISBN:101877372269, NZD\$39.95

A new book by Ma-ori history lecturer Dr Lachy Paterson shows how the government and churches used Maori newspapers to promote their policies, values and Christianity and discourage traditional Ma-ori spiritual and social practices.

Colonial Discourses: Niupepa Ma-ori 1855 1863 looks at how nine bilingual newspapers provided a platform for propaganda and also how they were used as a forum by Ma-ori and Pa-keha- to debate issues of the day.

Dr Paterson says the government and the churches published most of these papers in both languages as a way of colonising and assimilating Ma-ori into Pa-keha- society. They also used the papers to promote the sale of land, legislation and the advantages of the Pa-keha- way of living.

He says Ma-ori also realised the power of the press and the benefits of using newspapers to spread their own messages. Two Waikato chiefs, He-mara Rerehau and Wiremu Toetoe learnt how to use a printing press when they were invited to visit Vienna. The Emperor of Austro-Vienna gifted a press to the chiefs, and on their return home they started up the Kingitanga newspaper called Te Hokioi o Niu Tireni, which was also used to influence thinking and promote the Kingitanga movement.

Dr Paterson says Ma-ori also contributed to the debates by writing in response. The viewpoints varied, with some opposing the views presented and others supporting them. Ma-ori also saw an opportunity to allow a wider audience to hear what had been said at hui, so whaiko-rero and waiata at significant events were also published.

The book will be of particular interest to all those concerned with New Zealand's social, political and religious history. Dr Patersen believes that the Ma-ori newspapers have been under valued as an historical record of Ma-ori-Pa-keha- relations and provide a window into Ma-ori society in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The book is based on an eight-year span of the newspapers from January 1855 to September 1863, covering a vital period in Ma-ori-Pa-keha- relations, leading into the wars of the 1860s, when many of the papers ceased printing temporarily. - ME

Date: 05/08/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Book; Massey Magazine

Banking experts back monetary policy, suggest new way to privatise SOEs and boost savings

New Zealand's monetary policy is efficient and effective and should remain largely unchanged, say banking experts Dr David Tripe and Claire Matthews in a submission to Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee today.

Dr Tripe and Mrs Matthews, from the University's Centre for Banking Studies, told the committee inquiry into the future monetary policy framework that because monetary policy operates through the banking system, any study of its effectiveness cannot be undertaken without regard to the structure of the banking system.

They say it is appropriate for the Reserve Bank to be focused on inflation, rather than have multiple considerations such as employment and the exchange rate in addition.

"The Reserve Bank should focus on inflation. Although short-term increases in the inflation rate above the band may appear to be harmless enough, they can quickly become entrenched, allowing people to expect higher inflation, with the economic distortions that arise in consequence.

"Higher inflation distorts economic decisions away from investing for income into investing for capital gain, and consequently provides an advantage to those who are already holding assets. Inflation is thus likely to cause a transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich, while the consequent focus on investing for non taxable capital gains, rather than in income generating assets is likely to have negative outcomes for productivity."

Dr Tripe and Mrs Matthews say New Zealanders' savings would be enhanced if there were a greater variety of investment channels, including a more vibrant stock exchange with a greater number of listings.

They say the Government's state-owned enterprises are an obvious source of new listings but caution against the 1980s privatisation model of selling to the highest bidder.

Instead the Government should seek to "democratise" share ownership amongst the wider New Zealand population. "The returns from such an approach would be likely to be less (although not by a great deal) than from a single trade sale to the highest bidder, but the benefits in terms of getting New Zealanders interested in investing in financial assets would be likely to outweigh these effects."

They say current economic conditions are not sustainable and a decline in house prices and the exchange rate is inevitable. At some stage the focus of economic discussion will turn to all the people who are going to lose jobs and homes as a result of economic downturn.

For a copy of the submission:

http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz/2007/Press_Releases/Finance-Committee-submission.pdf

Date: 05/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators



Michael Archer (left) and Jenny Weston in surgery with cow Number 168.

Boom makes surgery viable for dairy cattle

 [Watch the ASB Breakfast items](#)

The bone chip in dairy cow Number 168's front leg should have been a death sentence, but the skill of equine surgeon Michael Archer means the two-year-old lives to milk another season.

Mr Archer and veterinary lecturer Jenny Weston, who assessed the cow for the University's farm veterinary service last week, operated on Number 168 yesterday, removing a six-centimetre fragment of bone from her front right leg.



"She had the bone fracture about a month ago," Ms Weston says, "when she became caught in the backing gate in the milking shed. It wasn't obvious how bad the leg was and she was not very lame. What we discovered on X-ray yesterday was that a large chip of bone had broken off - the body has reacted to it like a foreign body and the leg has become infected and swollen. Without surgery there was no chance of recovery."

Most surgery performed on cows is done on-farm with the cow standing and using local anaesthetic, but the more complex bone fracture work required a full general anaesthetic. Cows have not routinely received this level of treatment due to the cost, but with the dairy payout topping \$6.40/kg of milksolids for the 2007/08 season and prices reaching up to \$2500 per head, the cow's owner Noel Johnston opted for the surgery.

"She is worth considerably more than she was 12 months ago," says Mr Johnston, who farms two properties in the Manawatu. "It is perceived they [dairy cows] are hard to come by but people might be over-reacting, although we have seen a scarcity of dairy cattle in the past."

Although bone chips are routinely repaired on horses, it is rare for a cow to be treated surgically in the vet hospital, so Ms Weston called on colleague Michael Archer to perform the surgery. Ms Weston says it was necessary to chisel out the new bone growth around the fracture, but the operation went well.

"She should recover well - we'll keep her here for at least a week and will milk her while she's here. It could have been a death sentence so she's a very lucky cow."

Date: 06/08/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science



Study confirms New Zealand's high rates of violence against children

A survey of more than 2000 children confirms New Zealand's high rates of violence against children, and indicates that for every 10 children aged under 13, one has been sexually abused, six have experienced physical abuse, and eight have experienced some form of emotional abuse.

The Massey University study has examined violence from the viewpoint of children, allowing them to report their experiences of violence directly, and in their own words. In the study, 2,077 children, aged 9 to 13 years, from 28 schools of various sizes, geographic areas and socio-economic neighbourhoods were surveyed. They reported the nature, extent, and impact of violence experienced or witnessed by them at home, school or in the community.

College of Education lecturer Dr Janis Carroll-Lind conducted the survey at the end of 1998 as part of her Phd thesis and says the results, which show high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence, are just as relevant, if not more so, today. Sixty-three per cent of those surveyed had experienced direct physical violence, 11 per cent experienced sexual violence, and 80 per cent had experienced some form of emotional violence.

"Often the number of children involved in family violence is masked, as it is seldom recorded statistically and if it does get reported, it is usually recorded only in terms of broader family incidences," Dr Carroll-Lind says. "This study is important because it provides statistics on children's experiences as recipients and witnesses of violence that more accurately identify prevalence and incidence rates involving children and the impact it has on them."

One girl said she attempted suicide twice because of her mother, while a boy reported being punched in the face by his father on Christmas Day: "It hurt me bad and I can't forget it," he said. "It is still in my head every night and I can't help it."

Another told that she was forced to watch as a man made her friend drop her pants then smashed a bottle in the other girl's face.

Dr. Carroll-Lind says that although the study found that sexual violence was less prevalent than physical and emotional violence, this form of violence was rated by most of the children who had experienced it, as having the most profound impact. The incidence rates suggest that for some children the sexual abuse was continuing and was perpetrated by people they knew.

All types of violence involving adults were rated higher than violence involving children. Witnessing violence involving adults also had more impact on children than violence directed at them. This finding highlights, in particular, the adverse effect of family violence on children.

"Except for physical violence, where some children thought they might have contributed to getting hit, punched or beaten, children reported that they were not to blame or that they could not have prevented the violence from happening. How the event is dealt with can affect how children cope. In particular children who reported experiences of sexual violence also reported that people who knew about the incident did not help them to cope afterwards."

The definitions for the three types of violence were deliberately written using children's language and in the questionnaire physical violence was defined as "being punched, kicked, beaten or hit, or getting into a physical

fight (punch up)," sexual violence was defined as "having unwanted sexual touching or being asked to do unwanted sexual things," and emotional violence was defined as "being threatened, called names, ganged up on, left out, not spoken to, 'narked' on, gossiped about, and having tales told about me".

Results also showed that the younger the child, the greater the likelihood that he or she would highly rate the impact of their experiences of physical and emotional violence, however, age made no difference to the impact of sexual violence. Gender also predicted prevalence and impact for some forms of violence; for example boys reported more physical violence. More occurrences of physical and emotional violence increased its impact, but this was not a factor for sexual violence. The study also shows that no relationship was found between children's exposure to violence and the socio-economic status of their school.

The study employed a passive consent procedure, which meant that parents had to opt out of the study rather than opt in to it. In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the view was held that protecting the rights of children was more important than parental rights to privacy regarding abuse in the home.

"Parents were kept informed about the study," Dr Carroll-Lind says, "Most were very supportive. It has allowed us to record incidences of violence and their impact that current systems for reporting may have failed to acknowledge. There have been few studies that have examined violence from the viewpoint of children, and the results can certainly teach us a great deal."

She says this research shows that children are more than capable of expressing their views and should be consulted in decision-making matters that affect them.

"The study incorporates both the right of children to speak about their experiences as well as the need for adults to listen to what children say. By trying to understand children's own views of their experiences as victims and witnesses and at the same time identifying accurate rates of prevalence and incidence of violence, we can confront the problem of violence in a way that is meaningful and acceptable to them, and in so doing create safer environments for children."

Date: 07/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators

International sleep researcher features in Wellington lecture

NASA award winning sleep researcher Philippa Gander is the next speaker in Massey University's Wellington lecture series for 2007.

Professor Gander, New Zealand's leading researcher on sleep, is director of the University's Wellington-based Sleep/Wake Research Centre. Her studies have focused on the impact of sleep patterns and disorders on occupational groups, including drivers, pilots and doctors, and their productivity.

In her lecture, titled *Fatigue and Work/Life Balance Among Junior Doctors*, she will discuss recent research on why we need sleep. She will also talk about the context of recruitment and retention of junior doctors in New Zealand, following up on the report of a Ministerial Advisory Committee on this topic in 2006.

Her research into the sleep patterns of junior doctors has included the development of a "fatigue risk index" which combines 10 different aspects of work patterns and sleep. She also studied the relationships between work patterns and sleepiness (in general and while driving) and the reporting of fatigue-related clinical errors.

The research revealed that one in four junior doctors said they had fallen asleep at the wheel of their car while driving home from work.

Professor Gander received her PhD in Chronobiology from the University of Auckland in 1980. From 1980-82 she was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Harvard Medical School, working on the neurophysiology of the circadian system in primates, and on mathematical modelling of the human sleep/wake cycle. In 1983 she joined the Fatigue Countermeasures Programme at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where she worked primarily on the physiological and safety impact of shift work in aviation.

In 1996, she was awarded a Repatriation Fellowship by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, and returned to establish the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. The centre has a broad programme of work in fatigue and shift work management (in healthcare and all transport modes); sleep health (epidemiology and health services), and basic research in sleep and circadian physiology.

Professor Gander's awards for her applied research include a NASA Group Achievement Award and a BP International Chairman's Award for Safety Performance. She serves on the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee and was recently appointed to the Fatigue Risk Management Subgroup of the Operations Panel of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the United Nations organisation responsible for developing the regulatory framework for international aviation.

Professor Gander's is the third in the Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lecture Series for 2007. The lecture will be held at 6pm on Thursday 16 August, at the Theatre in the Museum Building in Buckle Street. Refreshments are provided and parking is available.

Date: 08/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Research

Contribution to mathematics honoured

Professor Robert McLachlan has been named the recipient of the prestigious Dahlquist Prize, the first time the award has gone to a mathematician from the Southern Hemisphere.

The award by the Society for Industrial and Applied Maths is for original contribution to the fields associated with Germund Dahlquist, especially the numerical solution of differential equations and numerical methods for scientific computing. Professor McLachlan's citation notes his outstanding contribution to geometric integration and composition methods, and that his work has found application in many areas including physics.

Professor received the award in St Malo, France, at the Society's conference, after a three-month term as Visiting Fellow at the Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge University.

A Professor of Applied Mathematics in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, he received an individual research medal from the University in 2005. He has worked at Massey since 1994 and was awarded his personal chair in Applied Mathematics in 2002.

In 2004 he won the prestigious Maclaurin Fellowship from the New Zealand Institute for Mathematics and its Applications and, a year earlier, he was awarded a research medal by the Association of Scientists.

Date: 08/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Horace on-the-bus collects international award

What started as a way of passing time on the free bus to campus has led to international recognition for Dr Colin Anderson, who was named runner-up in the John Dryden translation competition for his work on Odes by Horace.

Dr Anderson, a senior lecturer at the School of Language Studies in Palmerston North, teaches French and Spanish. His decision to translate the Odes from Latin to English is part of his ongoing fascination with “how language works”.

“I did it for amusement really and as a challenge to see if I could render the poetry into a modern English form. The approach I took though was distinctive, to maintain the meters from the original poems.”

Dr Anderson, who says he has been learning Latin from age 13, not only aimed to echo the meters but to maintain the number of syllables in each line.

“The idea was that if you could achieve the same or similar you would give an idea of the original musicality of the poem. The original would have been written to be recited or declaimed aloud.”

This led to almost a year of journeys creating the translation of some 26 odes.

“I would write the words down then play around with them and then even read them aloud to try and find the rhythms ... Because I did the translation on the bus I thought we might call it Horace On-the-bus rather than A Horace Omnibus.”

Dr Anderson says The Odes, written between 33 and 25 BC, were in part adaptations of earlier Greek works.

“The original poems were, at least on the surface, quite light and about everyday things, love and drinking, and that kind of thing. Horace was not an epic poet writing about mythology or graphic battles.”

As well as taking a prize of £200, presented at the British Comparative Literature Association conference in London, Dr Anderson was invited as a guest to the Horatian Society dinner. Enthusiasts for attempting translations of Horace's poetry have included poets Milton and Dryden, doctors, lawyers, classics professors and even former British Prime Minister William Gladstone.

Translation of the classics is particularly important because, despite continued interest in classical studies, most students no longer had Latin language skills. Dr Anderson aims to publish his translated Odes as a resource for students.

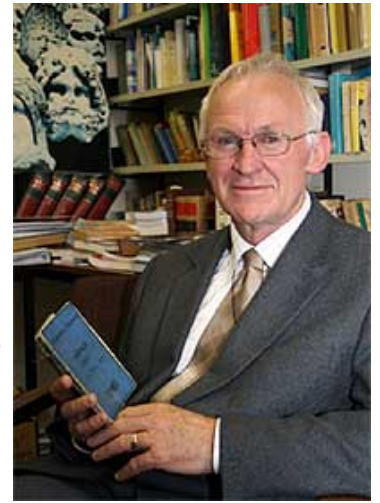
“The standard way is to use the translation on the facing page to the Latin but I don't think that's accessible to the vast majority who don't have the Latin anyway,” he says. “My aim was that the poems would stand alone except for a few notes explaining some of the more obscure references I allowed myself the liberty of changing.”

* Horace's best-known work is probably Ode I-XI, which contains the phrase “carpe diem”, now popularly translated as “seize the day”, but more correctly translated as harvesting or gathering the day in the manner of gathering crops or fruit. Quintus Horatius Flaccus, known in English as Horace, was the son of a former slave. As a young man he studied philosophy in Athens, and later enlisted in the army of Brutus, fighting at Philippi. His first book was published in 35BC. Horace died in 8BC, having become famous after being commissioned by the Emperor Augustus to write his fourth volume of Odes.

Date: 08/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Noted historian donates Te Kooti paintings to University collection

Emeritus Professor Bill Oliver (pictured, right) has donated three paintings by the late Frank Davis to the University Art Collection.

The gift will be acknowledged tomorrow (Thursday, 9 August) at the inaugural WH Oliver lecture in the Old Main Building auditorium, Palmerston North campus, at 5.30pm.

Mr Davis worked as a lecturer in the former Palmerston North Teachers' College (now Massey College of Education) art department from 1963 and headed the department from 1968 until his death in 1983.



His work was said to be outside the mainstream, often challenging contemporary ideas about New Zealand society. He had a close interest in things Māori.

The works donated by Professor Oliver are concerned with the life of Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki, the resistance leader and founder of the Ringatu religion of Rongowhakaata iwi in Poverty Bay, and were painted in the 1960s. Two of the paintings were given to him by Mr Davis and one (he says he cannot remember which) was purchased from Bob McMurray's bookshop in Palmerston North in the 1970s.

He presented them with the agreement of Mr Davis's widow, Waana Davis.

The paintings are pictured above. The one on the left depicts Te Kooti preaching, the next is called Te Porere and, the third, The Murder of Biggs: Poverty Bay Massacre 1868.

Professor Oliver, from Wellington, a historian, poet and former editor of the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, worked at Massey from 1964 to 1983. He was a founding Professor of History, founding Dean of Humanities and a member of the University Council.

The University Art Collection contains two other Davis works – New Zealand Landscape Transformed (c.1970), a series of six monumental panels located on level three of the Geography Building, and Untitled, a work presented to the University by the late Professor Keith Thomson a decade ago to mark the opening of Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi, the School of Māori Studies. It will be displayed along with the three newly-donated paintings in the Old Main Building's staff common room.

Although his own studies, at Victoria (MA) and Oxford (DPhil), were of British history, Professor Oliver says there was not much choice when he went to university in the 1940s, because there was very little written New Zealand history to study. He is credited as one of the key people responsible for changing that with his subsequent research and writing.

The lecture will be by Professor Margaret Tennant, a historian, who is Dean of the Graduate Research School.

Date: 08/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Agricultural supports impact on income and health

A new review reveals the extent of the impact of agricultural support and protectionist policies on welfare and health, as well as economies.

The paper, by Dr Guy Scott from the Department of Applied and International Economics, and Helen Scott, an independent health economist, was recently published in *The International Review of Business Research Papers*.

Dr Scott says their review of available research and data shows that agricultural protectionist policies in developed, policy initiating states, such as the United States and the European Union, cause a number unintended health effects.

“More intensive agricultural practices cause pollution, antibiotic resistance and more animal to human disease transfer,” he says. “If fruit and vegetable production is not protected but animal fat and sugar are, there is likely to be over production of animal fat and sugar. This does not make for a healthy diet and impacts on the nutritional well-being of the population.”

He says most agricultural support policies generate surpluses that are often dumped on world markets and given away as food aid. “So these policies then reduce farm gate prices and farm incomes in producing countries, such as New Zealand, Chile, and many developing countries. “This, in turn, reduces the capacity of the country to produce agricultural products and generate export earnings. Efficiency falls, there is reduced ability to fund welfare programmes and deliver health services, and there is an increased need for foreign aid to developing countries,” he says.

In summary, Dr Scott says their research found that an “isolationist” approach to agricultural policy development and implementation has resulted in unintended deleterious domestic and international health effects.

On the wider economics, Dr Scott says almost all support and protectionist policies distort the way domestic and world markets operate. “This market distortion imposes costs on countries that implement such policies, on their trading partners and on other agricultural producing countries.”

He says 80 per cent of market distortions are caused by developed economies such as the European Union (38 per cent), the United States (16 per cent), Japan and Korea (12 per cent), and Canada (2 per cent). The resulting lower economic efficiency results in further reduced ability to fund and access health care and sustain a healthy lifestyle.

“The global welfare gains of eliminating all tariffs and subsidies have been estimated as \$US56 billion or about 0.02 per cent of world GDP. Developed countries would gain \$US35 billion and emerging and developing countries \$US21 billion.

Dr Scott says the conclusion is that effective public policy making requires an integrated or inter-sectoral approach and informed tradeoffs between policy and political objectives.

Date: 09/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Massey renews agreement with EIT for secondary teaching in Hawkes Bay

Massey University and The Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) have renewed an agreement for EIT to teach Massey's Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) programme on the Taradale campus in Napier.

The Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) is a one-year programme for those who have a Bachelors degree from a New Zealand tertiary provider or an approved equivalent qualification. For seven years a cooperative agreement with EIT has seen this qualification offered in Napier. It is also offered in Palmerston North and extramurally.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman, welcomes the renewal of this important contract.

"The contract affirms the strong relationship that exists between Massey University and EIT. This continued partnership in providing excellence in teaching, further strengthens Massey's commitment to the Hawke's Bay region and is a good example of the sort of collaboration that is sensible and desirable in a small country like New Zealand," he says. "It is also very much in keeping with the Government's direction embodied in the new funding proposals."

EIT Hawke's Bay Chief Executive Chris Collins says the agreement works well for both parties.

"It means graduates can stay in Hawke's Bay and become a trained secondary teacher," he says. "It's another example of the two institutions collaborating."

Last year Massey shifted its Ruawhoro operations onto the Taradale campus.

Students from the secondary teaching course are highly regarded by Hawke's Bay secondary schools with approximately 70 per cent of graduates finding work locally.

Date: 09/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Teaching

World rankings place Massey in top three New Zealand universities

Massey University has substantially increased its rankings in the annual Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranking of the world's top 500 universities.

Five New Zealand universities have made it into the latest rankings. Auckland University is highest ranked, with Massey and the University of Otago second equal, followed by Canterbury and Victoria.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long says it is pleasing that five New Zealand research-led universities have been ranked among the world's top 500, in a respected measure such as the Shanghai Jiao Tong.

"I congratulate all Massey researchers for contributing to such a great result."

Massey recorded the biggest gain of the New Zealand universities, moving from a ranking of between 401 and 500 last year to between 305 and 401 this year. Of the universities in the Asia-Pacific region, it is ranked between 43 and 64, compared with 64-92 last year.

Auckland is ranked between 203 and 304 in the world and 25-42 in the region; Canterbury and Victoria are in the 402-508 world rank range and 65-99 in the region.

American universities, again headed by Harvard, comprise eight of the top ten universities internationally, with Cambridge slipping from third place to fourth and Oxford maintaining its tenth position. Japanese universities occupy six of the top nine places in the Asia-Pacific region, with the Australian National University ranked third after Tokyo and Kyoto Universities.

The Shanghai Jiao Tong ranking measures universities by several indicators of academic or research performance, including articles published in journals such as Nature and Science, staff and alumni winning Nobel or other prestige prizes, and academic performance with respect to the size of the institution.

The full report and tables can be found at: <http://ed.sjtu.edu.cn/rank/2007/ranking2007.htm>

Date: 09/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Awards and appointments



The March 2008 shot, taken near Masterton. Photo by Erica van Reenen. Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.

Naked Vets put out new calendar

Getting your kit off is becoming an annual event for Massey third-year veterinary science students.

For the second year, students have stripped for charity to produce a 2007-2008 calendar called Barely There – Take II.

Well, “charity” might be stretching it a little. The calendars, which feature naked students posed in a series of mostly agricultural and educational settings – wool sheds, hay barns, paddocks, lecture theatres and lying on the floor playing with a cat – are largely to raise funds for the traditional halfway day function.

Ten per cent of the proceeds of the sales of the calendar are going to the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, which treats ill and injured native birds, reptiles and mammals.

The day marks the mid-point of the five-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree and usually involves a class trip and social function.

Like the vet students, the calendars are extremely popular, selling like hotcakes at just \$10. Most of the 3000 calendars printed have already gone. But the resourceful students have made the project more lucrative by getting businesses to sponsor the pages and cover the production costs.

The photographs, apart from one, are by Erica van Reenen, a masters student and research assistant in the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences. Hale Photography of Palmerston North produced the image for May 2008.

For further information or to order a calendar: www.vetcalendar.co.nz

Date: 09/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Music School students perform Caribbean comic opera this week

The New Zealand School of Music is transporting audiences back to a time of pirates, slave traders and convicts with a rare performance of ballad opera Polly.

The school, jointly operated by Massey and Victoria Universities as a centre of musical excellence, performs Polly this Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7.30pm and at 3pm on Sunday, at the Victoria campus in Wellington.

Polly, by Samuel Arnold with a libretto by George Coleman, after John Gay, is a sequel to The Beggars Opera by Johann Christoph Pepusch. The story is a comic romp that follows heroine Polly Peachum to the Caribbean in search of her renegade husband, the infamous Macheath (also known as Mack the Knife). Polly outwits convicts, pimps, slave traders and cutthroat pirates to find that true love is not as she expected.



The work has been edited by Associate Professor Robert Hoskins who says this version of the work was last performed at the Haymarket in London in 1777 at Haymarket. The edited work has been published by Massey's Centre for Eighteenth-Century Music in association with Artaria Editions.

Director Sara Brodie says that while the opera is great fun, "it's spiced with John Gay's jibes and observations, which resonate poignantly in today's world".

The title role is shared by third-year Bachelor of Music student Jessica Segal and postgraduate student in vocal performance Jessica Graham.

School Director Elizabeth Hudson says it is a thrill for the school to be staging the modern premiere of Polly. "Not only is it great fun to be putting on a production like this, but it also showcases so many of the things we are involved in at the School. The teamwork involved in getting a project like this to a professional level is a vital part of musical training, and one of the most important understanding students will take with them when they leave."

Tickets are from \$15-\$30 from Ticketek.

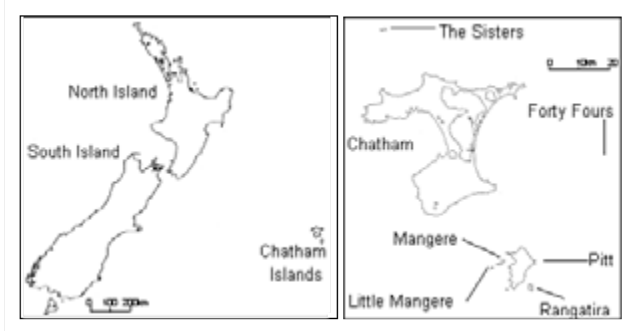
All performances will take place in the Adam Concert Room, at the New Zealand School of Music on Victoria University's Kelburn Campus in Wellington.

The NZSM website is www.nzsm.ac.nz.

Date: 13/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Wellington



Chathams research challenges theory on New Zealand prehistory

A combination of geological and biological findings are lending weight to the possibility that the Chatham Islands were under water until three million years ago, and that New Zealand's flora and fauna may have evolved in another large island near New Zealand.

Traditional thinking is that the islands of New Zealand split from the ancient super-continent Gondwanaland about 85 million years ago, and stayed above the oceans since then. This is challenged by the findings of the multidisciplinary project that has been researching the Chathams, named the Chatham Islands Emergent Ark Survey. The team of biologists and geologists includes Dr Steve Trewick, Senior Lecturer at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution. Dr Trewick was part of a team who visited the islands in 2004.

Findings include identification of remnants of deepwater limestone from about three million years ago, overlaid by beach deposits of sand, indicating that the Chathams may be much younger than previously thought. A further significant discovery was the previously unmapped formation in the southwest corner of the Chathams, volcanic rocks of a type that erupted and accumulated on the seashore. By using fossils from within the rocks and radiometric ageing, researchers found the formation was deposited between 2.5 million and 4.5 million years ago. The rocks were originally on the seabed, but now form the highest point on the Chathams, indicating that the entire land area was under the sea until uplift about two million years ago raised it to above the water level.

Biological findings now coming to hand are compatible with the geological findings, indicating that Chatham Islands birds and plants have been separated from their New Zealand relatives for up to three million years.

The final report on the Marsden-funded project is due next year. Participants include staff from Otago, Lincoln and Massey universities and GNS Science.

Date: 14/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Professor Ralph Sims in the woolshed where hydrogen is converted to usable power supply.

Energy project powers rural community

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ASB Business item](#)

Massey's Centre for Energy Research is backing a combined hydro, solar and wind energy project that aims to supply the power needs of a small rural community in the Totara Valley, Tararua District.

It consists of a mini-hydro turbine, wind turbine, solar panels and biodiesel generator, providing power for five households and several woolsheds and workshops and enabling them to sell power into the national grid when they have too much or buy it when the wind, sun and water flows cannot meet demand.

Energy specialist Professor Ralph Sims, from the Institute of Technology and Engineering, says small, renewable power generation close to users is the way of the future as opposition grows to large fossil fuel-burning thermal power stations and the large pylons required to carry the output to customers.

“Today, big central power generators are what we depend on. In the future, they will be supplemented by thousands of small, distributed generation plants that will become more dominant.”

He says communities are more likely to accept the environmental impacts of tapping part of a local waterway or putting a wind turbine on a hill if they directly benefit from the output and reduce their dependence on distant power generators.

The project has found innovative ways to get around some of the costs and visual problems associate with transmission. For example, the wind turbine, 2km up a hill from the homes, could have meant spending \$26,000 to install copper lines to carry the electricity down. Instead, the wind energy is used to convert water to hydrogen, which is piped to a fuel cell in a woolshed and there converted into electricity.

The \$6000 alkathene gas pipe also provides the advantage of being able to store up to six hours worth of energy, an alternative to battery storage, which would have added to the capital cost.

The Crown research institute Industrial Research is also involved in the project, providing technical expertise, meters and other equipment, while lines companies Scanpower, of nearby Dannevirke, and MainPower, of Rangiora, are also sponsors.

Date: 14/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues

Kurt Cobain suicide inspires new exhibition

The suicide of Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain in 1994 is one inspiration behind the latest exhibition by students and associates of the University's School of Fine Arts.

The exhibition, titled Territorial Pissings and showing at The Engine Room on the Wellington campus until 25 August, is curated by Fine Arts graduate and tutor, Caroline Johnston.

Ms Johnston sees Cobain's suicide as the last death of a rock star. "It was textbook: he was aged 27, sensitive, depressive, a heroin addict and deeply conflicted artistically.

"Apart from his precarious mental and physical health, [Cobain] was said to have been unhappy with popularity and fame, feeling he was a dissenting voice. And when dissent was no doubt the formative mode that made the adolescent Cobain feel powerful and part of a community, it would have been confusing to have such an enormous fan base and effectively become a successful capitalist entity."

Ms Johnston describes Territorial Pissings is a "multi-media group show in which artists were invited to reflect upon their own countercultural loyalties and oppositional position to wider society, and how this facilitates and or compromises cultural production.

"Works manipulate the iconography and mythology of music subculture and adolescence to critique the conventions bohemian artists and musicians hold.

"The exhibition explores how these indiscriminate loyalties to counterculture have evolved into the uneasy and prolonged adolescence of a generation who have lost faith in the adult milestones of the past."

Amongst the 25 artists with work on show in the exhibition are Massey Fine Arts staff, students and alumni Sarah Jane Parton, Bryce Galloway, Caroline Johnston, Richard Reddaway, Marnie Slater, Greg Sharp, Johanna Sanders, John Lake, Bronwyn Smith, and Mike Heynes.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturdays from noon to 4pm. There will be an artists' talk on 23 August at 5.30pm.

Venue: The Engine Room, eastern end of Block 1, Massey Wellington.

Date: 14/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Wellington



What boys want from schools and teachers

Boys say having friends at school and having a lot of physical activity are very important for their happiness and success.

These were priorities for most of the more than 350 secondary schoolboys interviewed by University researcher Michael Irwin in a study of what boys believe enhances and inhibits academic success.

Auckland-based Mr Irwin, from the College of Education, initiated New Zealand's first national conferences on the under-achievement of boys three years ago and has been at the forefront of research exploring the reasons why boys lag behind girls at school and feature in many of the negative statistics relating to accidents, learning difficulties, and educational achievement.

Asking boys themselves what makes school a good place for them to be is, he says, an important part of providing successful education for them.

He found that having a group of friends, supporting them socially and assisting and motivating them educationally, was a huge factor in boys' lives.

“Almost without exception the boys I interviewed said being with their mates at school was very important to them. I have found that throughout their schooling these close groups of, say three to five boys, are very important to each boy individually in significant ways. They develop their own identity through these groupings, they share ideas, they will often discuss learning issues in these groups and it is often these ties that have a very positive influence in keeping them at school.”

Physical exercise was also a high priority and Mr Irwin says schools need to look seriously at how they meet this need.

“Schools need to provide much more opportunity than they currently do for boys to be physically active. We know from existing research that physical activity and sport brings many benefits from bonding to stress release, mental stimulation and providing an outlet for competitive spirits.”

He also found boys wanted learning to be challenging and for school to be fun.

“They don't want learning to be too hard or too easy. They want to be challenged and they feel the best way of meeting those challenges is to work together in groups with a problem-solving, hands-on approach.

“Most showed a high dislike of what they felt to be too much copying and writing things down at school.

“Almost all wanted to have fun, to have a laugh and for their environment to be one that they enjoy. This is the same thing that motivation researchers are also telling us.

“Schools need to take note of what matters most for boys at school – the importance of mates, the need for physical activity and for challenge in learning and the desire for school to be fun.”

Mr Irwin's research highlighted some common attributes boys expected of their teachers. They wanted their teachers to focus on learning not content, to use humour, to collaborate and listen, to explain, to set clear expectations, to help them individually, to give specific feedback, to use activity based learning and co-operative learning, to be fair in managing behaviour.

Mr Irwin will present his research, Boys' perceptions of what enhances and inhibits their academic success, in London next month to the British Education Research Association.

Date: 15/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education



Big Girl under anaesthetic in the ward's surgery.

Kiwi encounter for Conservation Minister

Conservation Minister Chris Carter got a hands-on lesson in caring for kiwi this afternoon, assisting while a kiwi had its wounds dressed at the University's Wildlife Ward in Palmerston North.

Mr Carter assisted veterinarian Kerri Morgan and technician Bridey White to change dressings on the injured female North Island brown kiwi. Ms White says the kiwi, known as Big Girl, has a very good chance of making it back to the wild.

"She looks really good compared to when she was brought in. The [infected] hole was quite round and quite deep and now it's almost completely closed."

The kiwi stepped into a possum trap in Northland, Ms Morgan says.

"She developed a severe infection and necrosis of the foot and has had two toes amputated. We are trying to ensure the infection does not spread further up her leg and save the remaining toe. If we can do this she will be released back to the wild. If she loses the toe she will need to be put into a captive placement and join the breeding programme."

The ward treats up to 300 wild animals each year, including endangered species such as kakapo, takahe, yellow-eyed penguins, black stilts, the New Zealand falcon, short tailed bats, tuatara, blue duck, brown teal, shore plover and Grand and Otago skinks.

North Island brown kiwi are regularly cared for, and the team has also treated both Greater and Little Spotted Kiwi.

Mr Carter showed his interest in New Zealand's wildlife, discussing care of penguins and native birds with staff, and hearing first hand from Mt Bruce and Palmerston North Department of Conservation staff on the role the wildlife ward plays as a source of expert advice and treatment. He noted the importance of the wildlife ward given the number of threatened species in New Zealand, and the additional contribution made by the associated research and teaching facilities.

The ward was set up with Maritime NZ money as cleaning facility animals for caught in oil spills, but has treated native wildlife since 2003. Senior lecturer Dr Brett Gartrell says the ward is part of the national Wildlife Health Centre, which also manages the national wildlife pathology service for the Conservation Department, runs the oiled wildlife response for Maritime NZ, carries out marine mammal by-catch pathology for the Fisheries Ministry, and researches wildlife health.



“The ward treats only native animals – no ferals or exotics,” Dr Gartrell says. “We are fortunate to have the support of Massey and some limited sponsorship from Shell because while these animals consume thousands of dollars worth of very specialised care, no one expects a native kiwi to pay its bill.”

The ward is part of the University's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences. As well as being the only specialist wildlife facility in the country, the health centre plays a key role in training both undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary and veterinary nursing students.



Date: 16/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science



Crossing the Line takes the Del Mar Mile: Photo - Benoit & Associates

Crossing the Line takes Del Mar Mile

[▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE News item](#)

Just one year out from lifesaving colic surgery, Crossing the Line has romped home to a near-record Del Mar Mile. The \$US 400,000 win puts the five-year-old gelding in contention for the prestigious \$US 2 million Breeders' Cup Mile in October, the biggest horse race in the United States.

Equine veterinary surgeon Frederik Pauwels says he is delighted to see Crossing the Line do so well, after he treated him for colic at the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital last June.

"Crossing The Line was referred to us as an emergency. His signs indicated that exploratory surgery was needed. He was very painful during the colic examination and repeated doses of pain medication didn't settle him," Mr Pauwels says.

"During surgery we found that his large bowel was displaced and some small bowel was twisted around its base but fortunately because the horse was referred so quickly the bowel was not dead. It was possible to just untwist it and leave it in place. He then recovered really well and left a few days later."

Had Crossing the Line not been operated upon, most likely he would have suffered a painful death, Mr Pauwels says. He performs similar surgery regularly, and is delighted to see how well Crossing the Line has recovered.

"What's particularly nice is that while some people believe that horses cannot recover this well after colic surgery, it is clearly very possible that horses do recover well. Crossing the Line won two out of the three races he ran here in New Zealand after surgery and has won all three in the US, leaving him in the running for one of the biggest races in the world."

Crossing the Line was bred by Mary Wilson. United States media reports commented that he showed a finishing kick that would make even the best American-turfer envious, blowing by five rivals in the stretch to steal the victory in near record-breaking fashion.

Trained by John Sadler, Crossing The Line completed the mile in 1:32.59, just one-fifth of a second off the track record.

Date: 20/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Arts in Flanders fields

Artist Kingsley Baird will reveal the background to an extraordinary artwork now on show at the Flanders Fields Museum in Belgium, in a public lecture in Wellington this Thursday.

Baird made the work as artist in residence at the museum from May to July this year. It is unlikely ever to be seen in New Zealand, because of its fragility and consequent difficulties in transporting it.

Baird is a senior lecturer in Massey University's new School of Visual and Material Culture.

The new work explores memory and memorial forms and relationships between New Zealand soldiers in World War I and their loved ones at home. Its components include squares of knitting, made by women in New Zealand, and samples of lace, made by women in Belgium. These appear as clay tiles on a 10m long wall, painted with pigs' blood.

Major examples of Baird's work are the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (2004) in Wellington, and the international Nagasaki Peace Park sculpture Te Korowai Rangimarie, The Cloak of Peace (2006).

In his public lecture he will discuss his artwork in both Nagasaki and Flanders and his belief that memorials are necessarily expressions of ambivalence as well as memory.

The lecture is on Thursday 23 August at 4pm in 10A108 (the Boardroom) of the Museum Building on Massey University's Wellington campus.

Date: 21/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Health checks don't go far enough, say literacy researchers

Massey University literacy researchers have welcomed the government's B4 School programme of health checks for four and five-year olds, but say it does not go far enough to address New Zealand's endemic low literacy problems.

Poor health is the number one issue identified in Massey's three-year study of adult literacy and employment, which will end later this year. The study investigated literacy and workforce issues, in the light of statistics indicating that more than 40 per cent of New Zealand workers have a level of functional literacy thought insufficient for modern workplace environments.

Massey's Department of Communication and Journalism conducted the study in partnership with community groups in Wanganui, Head of department Associate Professor Frank Sligo says more than two thirds of the adult literacy learners interviewed said poor health, often during childhood but also as adults, had disrupted their learning of important literacy skills.

"Health was the single most frequently mentioned issue, and greatly outweighed the next issue, family environment. Health was also an issue about which people were often still feeling very angry and frustrated," he says.

"Things like not being able to see the blackboard, not being able to hear the teacher properly, having an undiagnosed behavioural condition, or coping with a break from school due to a health issue, topped the list of 30 common factors that people in adult literacy training told us had held them back.

"Many adults felt they had been put in the too-hard basket when at school, and it was not until later in life they found out that a health issue was the likely cause of much of their difficulty coping in the classroom. Often, their self-esteem had been enormously damaged by thinking they were 'not smart', when it turned out that actually they just needed glasses."

Dr Sligo said the B4 School checks have the potential to raise New Zealand's overall literacy levels down the track by catching many hearing, vision, and behavioural conditions early, but more checks and better follow-up systems are needed at a range of ages, not just before school.

Time off school after a major illness or accident was also raised repeatedly as a disruption to learning. "For example, one person told us that they were an A student until they had three months off school with a broken leg. After that, they were never able to catch up to the same levels again, and became discouraged. This was a typical scenario told to us in different forms by different people over and over again."

A link was also identified between bullying in schools and health problems, with many people indicating they took repeated "sickies" as students, to avoid abuse from peers.

"Better support systems are needed to ensure that any time off school, even a short break, does not upset a student's learning patterns. Health screening is needed at regular intervals throughout schooling, as many of the health issues raised in our study, including mental illness which was another very common factor, might not be evident at age five."

"We also suggest that creating positive, inclusive schoolyard cultures needs to be a government priority. There are privately funded anti-bullying programmes, but the high prevalence of bullying experienced by the people in our study suggests these are inadequate."

Health Minister Pete Hodgson has announced on Monday that the B4 School health checks will roll out from February next year. They will be piloted with up to 1000 four year olds in Wanganui and South Auckland.

Date: 22/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Explore - HEALTH

New Zealanders need to learn about finance

There is an urgent need to lift financial literacy in New Zealand – for the good of both individual citizens and the whole economy, says the head of Massey University's College of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose.

He applauded the announcement that the New Zealand Shareholders Association is planning to provide basic education in finance across the country, with the backing of some of the country's wealthiest businessmen. Professor Rose says the University's College of Business plans to be part of this initiative to help New Zealanders learn about finance.

Recent research highlights the low level of financial literacy among New Zealanders and the need for wide understanding of the importance of financial literacy. The introduction of KiwiSaver and dramatic news from the financial markets including the collapse of finance companies, has underscored the public need for financial information to be delivered in plain language.

“Having the ability to make decisions about finance not only has a significant impact on the lives of individuals and their quality of life, it ultimately has implications for the growth and stability of the whole economy.”

“New Zealanders need to be much better equipped with the skills to make informed decisions about how they manage and invest their money. The most basic elements of understanding about finance include having the ability to calculate rates of return on investments and the interest rate on debt; an understanding of the risks or benefits of their financial decisions,.

“People need to understand the main features of different types of investments and about the trade off between risk and return. They also need to know when to seek professional advice.”

“It's time for many New Zealanders to come back to school and learn about finance and we will be there to help provide that education.”

“Massey University's has the top ranked finance programme in the country, the largest College of Business and campuses in Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington.

Date: 22/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Left to right, Jenny Weston, Tania Smith and Meredith Love with the newly arrived triplets, watched by mum Number 26.

Organic cow delivers the trifecta

[▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE News item](#)

It's a one-in-two-million chance. Organic herd cow number 26 delivered three live male calves last night. Veterinary lecturer Jenny Weston, who delivered the calves with fifth-year student Meredith Love, says triplets are about a one-in-500,000 occurrence in New Zealand dairy herds, and only one in four sets of triplets are delivered all alive.



Number 26 started calving about 5.30pm, with herd manager Tania Smith monitoring her until it was time to call in the veterinary team about 9.30pm, Ms Weston says.

"I could tell there were at least two heads and some front legs in the uterus, certainly one was coming first. I repelled the second calf and at that point Meredith took over and put chains on both front feet and a head rope and the first was delivered by traction – the strength of one woman!"

"While we were pulling it was a little way out and the cow started to sag so we were a bit concerned but we pulled him out. We knew there was a second calf, with the cow happily mothering the first calf we then followed the same procedure to deliver the second calf and noted he was a boy.

"At that point I joked to Meredith you'd better check for a third. I thought she was having me on when she said there was another head," Ms Weston says.

"I couldn't believe myself there was another head in there and then it bit me" says Ms Love. "So we pulled that one out as well with chains on its feet but no head rope."

The third calf was the smallest of the three. All the calves are small, about 20kg, but each is doing fine. Today they are in the paddock with their mother, but the calves will soon be separated from Number 26 to ensure each is feeding properly.

Ms Smith believes that the organic care of the herd has been a key factor in the remarkable condition Number 26 has retained. "She was one of the best producers already, so she's done extremely well to have done that with triplets on the way. I just think the condition she is in is amazing – I don't know of any cow that could be better."

Ms Smith noticed in June that there was something unusual about the cow, which had a large abdomen but a relatively small frame. Senior veterinary lecturer Alan Thatcher was called in, and he thought Number 26 was probably having twins. To encourage her to gain condition, feed was increased, with staff from the University's Farm Services clinic maintaining a watchful eye.

"She ate a magnificent amount but failed to put on any condition," Ms Weston says. The three-year-old is a Friesian/Jersey cross, mostly Jersey, which was bred to a Jersey artificial insemination sire.

Throughout the delivery, Ms Smith treated Number 26 with homeopathic remedies. Ms Smith says she used caulophyllum to assist the labour and arnica-bellus, the arnica to assist with pain and bruising and the bellus to stimulate the uterus.

“Because the cow was organic I was wanting to avoid using drugs, Ms Weston says, “although of course if the cow needed it from a welfare perspective we would provide it. But it was not necessary. We were a bit concerned about her energy levels so we gave her a feed of molasses and she was into it.

“Due to good monitoring of the cow and Tania realising that it needed assistance, we were able to get the live calves and ensure a good outcome.”

Date: 23/08/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Video Multimedia

Fellowship in for Pacific health researcher

Riz Firestone has been awarded a Pacific Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship to undertake research at the University's Centre for Public Health Research.

The three-year funding from the Health Research Council will support her work on life-course epidemiology , particularly with regards to the health of Pacific populations.

This will involve working with the centre's Associate Professor Jeroen Douwes on epidemiological studies into the causes of respiratory disease.

Ms Firestone will also develop New Zealand's first internet-based birth cohort study to examine early life risk factors for chronic disease.

In addition, she will work with Dr Mona Jeffreys on a study of breast cancer among Pacific women in New Zealand and continue work she conducted as part of her PhD with Professor Philippa Gander.

After working as a speech language therapist, Ms Firestone completed a postgraduate Diploma of Public Health in 2000, followed by a Masters of Public Health at Otago University's Wellington School of Medicine.

Three years ago she worked as a junior research fellow with Massey's Sleep/Wake Research Centre, co-managing the data collection and analysis for a study that investigated the relationship between inadequate sleep and postpartum mood disorders.

Her doctoral study, submitted this year, examined the risk of obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome among taxi drivers, as well as investigating the factors that inhibit access for the assessment and treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea.

She says she likes the broader potential for good outcomes that public health offers.

Your work can have a greater outreach in improving the knowledge of issues surrounding a public health problem, whereas working as an individual clinician, you get to treat health issues only at an individual level.

Ms Firestone says her interest in epidemiology was re-ignited after attending a three-week residential course in Florence last year.

Seeing the effects of poor health among Pacific people is also a motivation.

Created: 30 June, 2006

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Carbon tax back-down nothing for business to celebrate

Climate change will not go away just because the proposed carbon charge has been abandoned says Massey University energy specialist Professor Ralph Sims.

Any business celebrating the Government's announcement not to continue with it should understand that sooner or later we will all have to pay for the greenhouse gas emissions entering the atmosphere and causing unusual weather patterns, more extreme floods, hurricanes and droughts, and threats to biodiversity world wide.

Climate science is growing in the confidence that climate change has already begun. This will become very evident in the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change currently out for expert review.

Professor Sims, lead author for the review's chapter on Energy Supply, says the granting of a resource consent for Meridian Energy's 210MW West Wind farm outside of Wellington is a positive step to help combat climate change.

We will need all the renewable energy we can develop, including biofuels for transport, solar water heaters, geothermal heat and in the future marine energy. Professor Sims says.

The world can no longer continue to rely on fossil fuels unless the carbon dioxide produced can be captured and permanently stored a technology in its infancy. So building more wind farms and bioenergy plants instead of coal-fired plants such as that proposed for Marsden B near Whangarei may not always be enthusiastically supported by the local community, but from the national point of view, and to meet our international commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, it is the only way forward.

So when at the seaside bach or sitting on the beach this summer, members of the business community would do well to consider how their favourite resort will look in only one generation's time as the sea level inevitably rises further as a result of global warming.

If we don't have a carbon charge in place at a high enough cost level to discourage the wasteful use of fossil fuels in our cars, homes and factories, with consequent greenhouse gas emissions, then what will we have?

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues; Government Policy commentators

Latest findings on illicit drug trends

[Click here to view the research briefings](#)

Latest news from Massey researchers on illicit drug trends indicates methamphetamine is well established in the New Zealand illicit drug scene.

The frequent drug users interviewed for the study reported that methamphetamine is 'very easy' or 'easy' to obtain. They also reported a range of marketing techniques are being used by drug dealers to encourage the use of methamphetamine including cutting the price of a 'point' of the drug from \$100 to \$80 and selling in more affordable quantities for \$50.

The new findings on trends come from an ongoing study lead by Dr Chris Wilkins from Massey University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE). The data informs what is known as the Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS) which is used to monitor drug trends and drug related harms. The study is to be repeated annually to inform policy and agency responses.

Ecstasy may be the drug 'most on the move' according to the 2005 findings, with evidence of strong demand and falling prices, LSD may be experiencing something of a decline, according to the research.

The research is gathered from in depth interviews with people who regularly use illicit drugs as well as individuals with particular expertise or insight into drug related trends. The results of these interviews are compared with other indicators of drug use, such as seizure patterns, hospital data and information from drug treatment services.

Being able to recruit participants from within the drug market and the services who connect with users, has been critical to the success of the study, says Dr Wilkins. The participants are given anonymity.

The study also reports that the market for heroin and other opiate-based drugs appears to remain fairly low level and stable as does the market for cocaine. Cannabis continues to be widely available with stable prices and fairly consistent levels of use. The on going research is Government funded. Results are shared with senior officials from relevant government departments and other non government agencies, such as drug treatment services. The study findings will also shortly be considered by the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

International investment researcher appointed to key Massey job

Professor Ben Jacobsen has been appointed as Professor and Head of the Department of Commerce at Massey University.

Professor Jacobsen has a distinguished academic career and international recognition for his research on investments. His academic work has been discussed in major international magazines and newspapers including The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times and The New York Times. His most recently published research, on how factors like the change of seasons or the outbreak of war impact on the stock market, was also featured in the high profile Dow Jones business newsletter, MarketWatch.

Professor Jacobsen has worked as a consultant for a large number of financial institutions and as a stock market expert and adviser to the media. He has written several books on investments and has been a columnist for Dutch magazines and newspapers.

He ranks in the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN) top 100 of most downloaded Business authors worldwide, with almost 15,000 downloads of his papers.

Professor Jacobsen has been visiting the Department of Commerce at Massey's Auckland campus over the past two years. He was previously with the University of Amsterdam and Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

New appointment advances Pacific cancer research

Cancer and asthma are major public health problems for Pacific peoples, but health research takes a significant step forward with a new research appointment.

Dr Sunia Foliaki has been appointed as a Pacific Health Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

His three-year fellowship, worth \$360,000, is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. He will be based at the Centre for Public Health Research at Massey University's Wellington campus, says Centre Director, Professor Neil Pearce.

Dr Foliaki is in the final stages of completing a PhD on asthma in the Pacific, and will focus on cancer in Pacific populations for his Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Professor Pearce says non-communicable diseases including cancer and asthma are major public health problems for Pacific peoples residing both in the Pacific and in New Zealand.

Cancer accounts for more than 70 per cent of health referral budgets from Pacific Islands to New Zealand. The principal donor to some of these referral budgets is the New Zealand government. As there have been few studies on cancer it is essential that basic cancer epidemiological research be conducted if we are to implement appropriate strategies for control of cancer and other non-communicable diseases in both the Pacific and New Zealand.

Dr Foliaki says cancer is a significant and growing problem in the Pacific but relatively little is known about the magnitude of the problem, the risk factors or the potential for prevention.

Over the past 25 years a great deal of research on non-communicable diseases has been conducted throughout the South Pacific, but there have been few studies of cancer, says Dr Foliaki.

He has established a cancer registry within Tonga's health ministry, and assisted in establishing and upgrading cancer registries in the Cook Islands, Niue and Fiji. He will establish registries in further countries, as well as produce the first analysis of cancer incidence in these countries. The incidence rates will be compared to those in Pacific people in New Zealand. In addition, Dr Foliaki will be conducting case-control studies of the causes of breast cancer and gastric cancer in the Pacific, and factors that affect cancer survival.

Dr Foliaki says systems for data collection in most Pacific countries including Tonga are often non-standardised, making comparisons between countries difficult. Nevertheless the available data clearly identifies cancer as a leading cause of morbidity and an increasing health burden. There is data indicating that cancer has been the second leading cause of mortality in most Pacific islands countries for the past 5 to 10 years.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika

Teachers must rebuild trust in themselves says veteran educator

Teachers must learn to trust in each other and co-operate professionally to regain the respect of the wider community, according to Emeritus Professor John Codd.

In a speech to Massey University College of Education graduates in Palmerston North today, Professor Codd, a veteran education specialist and former University Council member, told the graduates, most of whom are now teaching, that they had taken on a task essential to human survival itself .

But he described as a grim paradox the contradiction between the importance and value of education to society and the extent to which the community and its political leaders actually valued the education profession.

He cited the Massey University research report released by the Education Ministry and Teachers' Council last week that found New Zealand teachers felt overworked, undervalued, underpaid and insufficiently supported.

The same report also found many teachers had low opinions of the ability and performance of some of their colleagues.

Professor Codd said it was urgent that society found ways to value educational professionals more highly and that there were ways teachers themselves could help to achieve this. One was through professional co-operation. Collective action is more effective in achieving goals than isolated individual effort, he said.

Another was to learn to trust each other in a society preoccupied by risk and risk management. Risk breeds fear and fear engenders mistrust. Teachers, along with other professionals, appear to be trusted less and less. They are not even trusted to comfort children physically because of the fear of child abuse.

To counter this, teachers needed to build a professional community bound by an ethical code. Professional educators must have the confidence and trust in themselves to make those judgements and to be prepared to justify them to those who are so affected.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Education; Graduation (Palmerston North)

What connects people in communities?

Families come first among social networks, as indicated by a new study of three communities in the Manawatu region.

After family connections, sports-club and group activities were the next most important social networks identified in the two-year study of communities in the high socio-economic area of Hokowhitu, the lower socio-economic area of Highbury and the rural area of Shannon.

The part neighbours play in social networks did not figure as highly as involvement in church groups and parenting groups. Participation in voluntary projects is another way in which people form and maintain social networks.

The People in our Lives study was conducted by Dr Christine Stephens and Charlotte Paddison from the School of Psychology with Annemarie Gillies from the Department of Management Systems. It develops the theory of social capital a concept that suggests that groups of people who have strong connections with each other, and with other groups, also have better well-being.

Dr Stephens says the understanding of social capital has been influential in recent social and health policy. It is one theory applied by social scientists to explain the differences in health and well-being among people who have lower incomes and live in more deprived areas, and those with higher incomes who tend to live together in wealthier parts of town.

The people interviewed in the three communities were asked about the different ways in which they connected socially, the effects of economic resources, and the material circumstances on their connections. 48 people participated in the initial interviews and, of these people, 18 took photographs and were interviewed about their photos.

On exhibition from next week, the photographs offer visual insights to the ways in which the communities view their social capital. Charlotte Paddison, a psychology PhD student, says the photographs are a way of accessing people's knowledge. They will first be displayed privately for viewing by participants of the study, and later by the public.

So what did the participants have to say about their social networks?

- The most important connection for the majority of participants is their family - including marae-based connections, and family outside of New Zealand. For young families, children and schooling are a focus for connecting with others.
- The things that people do together like sport, or clubs or hobbies or work are the next most important connections. Church membership is important to many people.
- Volunteering is alive and well. People help through service organisations, marae, charities, and support groups, or give a hand to schools, neighbours and friends often.
- Palmerston North and Shannon have a wealth of services for help and support. One of the main problems may be encouraging people to use the services available.
- People appreciate friendly neighbours, but they are not as important sources of social connection as others.
- People in Highbury are proud of their neighbourhood, their houses and facilities, and the strong community organisations and services available in the area. They are aware that the actions of a few have given them a bad press and that they have to defend their part of town.
- Everybody in Palmerston North has to defend their city against accusations of bad weather.
- People in the two city suburbs reported very similar important areas of connection, but there were some differences in the ways people connect between town and country. Photographs and text from participants of the Highbury and Hokowhitu groups will be on display from Friday March 24 at the Square Edge Creative Centre. Those from the Shannon group will be on display at the Shannon Library from March 28.

Created: 22 March, 2006

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

CAA says School of Aviation free to resume operations after fatal crash

Full flying operations have resumed this week at the School of Aviation following the funerals of two students killed in the mid-air collision on February 9.

Operations were suspended immediately after the crash in which Brandon James Gedge, 20, and Dae Jin Hwang, 27, died.

Last week more than 50 staff and students attended the funerals of the two young men, in Tauranga and Auckland.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which is investigating the crash, expressed confidence in the School's training procedures and made it clear it was up to School management when to resume flying.

School general manager Captain Ashok Poduval says the staff and students formed guards of honour outside both funerals.

Created: 20 February, 2006

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation



From left: Associate Professor Trevor Kitson, Dr Juliana Mansvelt, and Dr Mark Brown. Pictured below is Dr Chris Scogings who was unavailable for the photo.

Teaching excellence recognised

Returning to work part-time after parental leave proved no barrier to geographer Dr Juliana Mansvelt's continued teaching or the recognition of her performance as one of the University's best.

Dr Mansvelt and Dr Mark Brown will represent the University in the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence awards after being selected as winners of the Massey Vice-Chancellor's awards.

Dr Mansvelt, a senior lecturer in geography, was absolutely thrilled at her selection as the award winner for sustained excellence in teaching.

She put her application forward about a month ago after taking parental leave in September to have her third child.

Educationalist Dr Brown, from the College of Education's School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, was awarded the Darrylin O'Dea Award for electronic learning.

Two other winners of the Vice-Chancellor's awards were Associate Professor Trevor Kitson, from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, and Dr Chris Scogings, from the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at Auckland, both for excellence in first-year teaching.

All four award winners receive \$10,000, which may be used for teaching-related research or training.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, says teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels is one of the core activities of a university and complements its research training role.

The awards are one tangible way in which Massey's outstanding teachers are honoured annually and I am delighted to acknowledge the 2006 awardees, two of whom will go forward to the national teaching excellence awards.

Since their introduction, our local awards have developed from generic awards to more focused awards that now recognise teaching excellence in domains including sustained excellence, first-year teaching and creative use of IT in teaching.

Professor Janet Hoek, who chaired the selection committee, says committee members, who represent each of the University colleges, were very impressed by the applicants. We were thrilled to see such a commitment to research-informed teaching.

The committee said it was impressed with Dr Kitson's portfolio and story of chemistry. The portfolio provided clear evidence of sustained commitment to teaching excellence. The innovative activities you use to develop interest in chemistry and to sustain this within the classroom are a striking feature of your approach.

Your portfolio has a wonderful sense of enthusiasm and passion and clearly highlights your emphasis on high standards. Your extensive involvement with students and your approachability and accessibility were also



clearly evident, the committee said.

Dr Scogings was also praised for his commitment and enthusiasm for teaching students, particularly first-years. He uses a variety of techniques and his effectiveness is widely recognised by his colleagues.

We were particularly impressed by the way you addressed the diverse needs of your group, especially the large number of students for whom English is not the first language.

Dr Brown was praised for his innovative use of technology, high level of interaction with students and creative approach to assessment.

Your portfolio reflected your deep knowledge of the research literature underpinning teaching, and the links between your teaching and research were made explicit. We noted that you made strong efforts to discover or extract material to advance the relevance of key issues and criteria.

Dr Mansvelt's application was described as extremely impressive , containing wonderful student comments.

You are clearly a skilful, accessible, well-liked and highly respected teacher. The panel was also impressed with the evidence of the way you linked your publications to teaching, your very innovative resource materials, and your responsive assessment processes.

Gordon Suddaby, Director of the University's Training and Development Unit, says this year's award applicants and winners continued the high standards of previous years.

Massey has had considerable success in the national awards since their inception four years ago.

In 2002 Dr Tony Wright was a recipient, followed by Dr Terry Stewart in 2003 and Dr Richard Shaw in 2004. Last year Massey had two winners, Associate Professor Alex Davies and Dr Regina Scheyvens.

The national awards this year offer nine awards of \$20,000 each and the Prime Minister's Award of \$30,000

Created: 24 April, 2006

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Teaching



Individual Researcher award

Professor Robert McLachlan, of Applied Mathematics in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, will receive a \$20,000 research grant.

Professor McLachlan has worked at the University since 1994 and was awarded his personal chair in Applied Mathematics in 2002.

He has been awarded research grants totalling more than \$1.7 million, had 55 publications in international refereed journals and book chapters, with another nine either due to be published, submitted for publication or in preparation.

Born in Christchurch, he completed a BSc with First Class Honours at the University of Canterbury in 1984 and a PhD in Applied Mathematics at the California Institute of Technology in 1990. He was a teaching assistant at the Institute for five years and then worked, from 1990 to 1993, at the University of Colorado as an Instructor in Applied Mathematics.

In 2004 he won the prestigious Maclaurin Fellowship from the New Zealand Institute for Mathematics and its Applications and, a year earlier, he was awarded a research medal by the Association of Scientists.

His supporting statement was written by the inaugural winner of the University Research Medal, Professor David Parry, head of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences.

At this relatively early stage of his career, Professor Parry says. Robert has already gained an outstanding international reputation for his research and may be put in the same eminent bracket with New Zealanders such as Professor Roy Kerr (an applied mathematician of 'black holes' fame) and Professor Alexander Aitken (a world-renowned algebraist of the early 1900s).

He is acknowledged by leading figures in the field as simply brilliant and there can be no question about the high regard that he is held in by his peers.

Professor McLachlan founded and organises the Wellington-Manawatu Applied Mathematics Day, held biennially at the University, and has been Editor of the Newsletter of the New Zealand Mathematical Society since 2000.

Created: 12 September, 2005

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

2005 Postdoctoral Fellowships

A project led by Associate Professor Eric Ainscough and Professor Andrew Brodie will synthesise and characterise novel phosphazene molecules.

These molecules can be used as the 'backbone' onto which 'hooks' are placed that bind to several metal atoms in close proximity, creating what is referred to as a multimodal ligand. These ligands are then used to construct supramolecular assemblies, collections of molecules bound to several metal atoms.

This project offers us a unique opportunity to explore a virgin research area since no other research has been carried out using linear phosphazenes as a backbone for multimodal ligands. The potential of the new compounds to lead to the discovery of exciting new materials is very high, say the researchers.

After being almost wiped out by introduced predators, many native birds are now being reintroduced to mainland areas or managed to recover an existing low-density population.

Dr Doug Armstrong's project will use data from existing bird populations, such as those on offshore islands, to develop models of how these new populations can be expected to grow.

These models will be continually updated using a Bayesian approach as actual data from the new populations is collected. Given the overwhelming impact of introduced mammalian predators, the proposed research will provide models that New Zealand conservation managers can apply to maintenance of endangered populations under predator control, he says.

Dr Russell Death's research is designed to help manage New Zealand's river ecosystems.

It will provide resource managers with an easy to use computer tool that will allow them to rapidly and accurately predict the current state of ecosystem integrity in rivers and streams, identify potential causes of those patterns, and examine the outcome of differing management scenarios on river biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

The advantage of such a system is that Regional Council staff and even the general public will have ready access to information on the ecosystem integrity of any river or stream they are interested in, as an easily interpreted map. Regional Council staff will also be able to play out particular activities and easily interpret the effects of those activities via the decision support system. The project will involve collecting information from current databases on how the biological measures relate to an established environmental hierarchy and then modelling of the relationships between ecosystem integrity and the environment.

Associate Professor Mike McManus will investigate the regulation of an enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of a key plant hormone.

His research group has already obtained preliminary evidence that the enzyme's activity is controlled by the addition and removal of phosphate groups. The postdoctoral fellow will work to provide conclusive evidence of this method of regulation and investigate the physiological factors that influence it. If confirmed this will be the first demonstration of such a control mechanism in this group of plant enzymes and will influence both fundamental questions and biotechnological applications.

Natural products derived from fungi are a rich source of new compounds for treating infectious diseases, cancer and a range of other human disorders. A team led by Professor Barry Scott has been investigating the chemical, biochemical, and genetic basis for the diversity of structures seen in one particular class of fungal natural products, the indole-diterpenes.

The team has so far identified a small set of genes, common to several species of fungi, that is required for the synthesis of a core indole-diterpene skeleton.

This new project will investigate the genes and enzymes that modify this core skeleton to create the diversity of structures seen in filamentous fungi. These experiments will allow us to predict the enzyme biosynthetic pathways for indole-diterpenes, as well as designing platforms for the synthesis in vivo of new biologically active derivatives.

Dr Christine Stephens will employ a postdoctoral fellow to study the importance of the family to older people as they adjust to retirement or lifestyle changes. This will complement work to be undertaken as part of a Health Research Council funded project studying the health of older adults in the transition from work to retirement.⁵²²

The postdoctoral research will focus on the importance of families to social identity, well being and independence of aging people. It will include an analysis of current literature and popular media representations of older people and their families, as well as data from interviews with people aged from 60 to 75. The results will inform understandings of the function and importance of family relationships for older people, how those relationships are shaped, and the ways in which they differ from traditional expectations.

Associate Professor Peter Xu leads a multidisciplinary team constructing a robotic jaw, the first of its kind in the world. The postdoctoral fellow's research will aim to enable the robotic jaw to adaptively mimic human chewing behaviour. One challenge, among many others in this research, concerns how the robot learns variations in food properties and adapts its chewing behaviours accordingly. The robotic jaw brings together expertise in biorobotics, food sciences and biomedical engineering. It is likely to have applications in food science, to analytically characterise food dynamics, and in dentistry, to quantitatively assess masticatory efficiency of the restored dentition.

Electronic devices on semiconductor chips are reaching such a small size that quantum-physical effects start to dominate charge transport. As it is impossible to circumvent quantum physics, current research in nanoelectronics is focusing on exploiting such effects for a possible new electronics paradigm.

One such research area is spin electronics (known as spintronics), which investigates the effect of the tiny intrinsic magnetic moment (due to the spin) of electrons on their motion.

Dr Ulrich Zuelicke is already established as a leading researcher in the field of spintronics and with the help of a postdoctoral researcher he will progress a number of important projects. I am building up a new research group, focusing on the theoretical studies of the interplay between the magnetic moment of charge carriers and electric transport through small circuits.

Created: 12 September, 2005

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



LEFT - Excellent teachers: Back (left to right): Richard Buchanan, Richard Shaw, Bill Anderson. Front: Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear, Marion Orme and Mary Simpson. RIGHT - Research medallists: Back (left to right): Mike Hendy, Jeroen Douwes, David Parry, David Penny. Front: Ulrich Zuelicke, David Lambert, Kerry Chamberlain and Peter Lockhart.

Gala dinner celebrates research and teaching excellence

About 160 people gathered at the Palmerston North Convention Centre last week to celebrate excellence in teaching and research at the University.

Many of Massey's top research staff and academics attended the inaugural event at which the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Awards and the Massey University Research Medals were presented.

The audience was welcomed by Professor Nigel Long, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research), who was instrumental in the introduction of the Massey University Research Medals earlier this year. The medals are awarded to the University's top researchers who have made outstanding contributions in their disciplines and are the highest award the University can bestow on researchers. Professor Long says it is anticipated that the gala dinner will become an annual event much looked forward to by staff as an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievement of colleagues.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear was the guest speaker. She spoke of the breadth and wide interests of researchers at Massey along with the achievements of researchers the world over who have toiled through the years with often outstanding results. A transcript of her speech is included as an insert in this issue of Massey News.

Chancellor Nigel Gould closed the evening by commenting on how it is not often he attends a function at which so many internationally and nationally recognised researchers and leaders in their fields are present.

The winners of the 2004 Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Awards are Dr Richard Shaw, School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Dr Doug Stirling, Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, Dr Richard Buchanan, Department of Marketing, and a group award went to Dr Bill Anderson, Dr Mary Simpson and Marion Orme from the College of Education.

The Massey University Research Medal for an Outstanding Individual Researcher was awarded to Professor David Parry, Head of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences. The Research Medal for a Supervisor went to Associate Professor Kerry Chamberlain from the School of Psychology at Albany. Dr Jeroen Douwes, Centre for Public Health Research and Dr Ulrich Zuelicke, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, were awarded Research Medals for Early Career researchers, while the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution won the Team Research Medal.

Created: 8 October, 2004

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Inspired wool researcher Euan Roberts (1928-2007)

Story submitted by David Isaacs:

FEW modern researchers have done more in their lives to advance the Australian sheep industry than Professor Euan Roberts, who died at his home in Sydney last month. Best known for his 50-year involvement with the University of NSW, Professor Roberts combined an academic background with a "hands-on" approach to research and a flair for mobilising industry co-operation.

He never lost sight of the need for research to have practical application and commercial relevance. The Merino Central Test Sire Evaluation scheme he pioneered now underpins genetic evaluation schemes throughout Australia, while his development of the White Suffolk terminal sire breed had a profound and lasting impact on prime lamb production.

Professor Roberts was born and raised in New Zealand, where he completed his Masters degree in Agricultural Science at Massey College. In 1951 he toured Australia with the university's rugby team and shortly afterwards took up a temporary position as a research officer with the University of NSW's newly-formed School of Wool Technology.

After gaining his PhD, he was appointed a lecturer at the school in the late 1950s, and later Associate Professor, the title he held until his retirement in 1989.

Among his many achievements at UNSW, Professor Roberts was responsible for establishing the first wool testing laboratory specifically for use in sheep selection and breeding. His early research in ram semen preservation and artificial insemination in sheep, led to a licensed facility being set up at the university's Hay Field Station for the export of ram semen.

His major achievement of White Suffolk breed development was undertaken at Hay with the aid of funds obtained from the (former) Australian Meat Research Committee (now absorbed within Meat and Livestock Australia). The flock he bred up - mostly from the crossing of Suffolk and Poll Dorset lines - was sold to a group of 40 commercial lamb breeders who later formed Prime Lamb Genetics (PLG) and went on to develop the breed to its present prominent role.

Genetic evaluation within the Merino sector was a cause that occupied much of Professor Roberts' working life, beginning with his involvement in early group breeding schemes at Coona and Cootamundra. He also ran a Merino ewe competition in the Riverina, where reproductive performance was evaluated along with wool production traits.

From these initial forays into genetic evaluation, Professor Roberts went on to establish Merino Central Test Sire Evaluation, first at Hay and Deniliquin field stations, later extended to the New England for fine wool rams. His interest in using new genetics to lift prime lamb production resulted in importations to Australia of Finnish Landrace, Karakul and North American Suffolks for crossbreeding.

Although he officially retired in 1989, he maintained his association with both the university and the industry as a designated "visiting professor". He also remained director of the university's field stations, and as recently as last year, he was still presiding over a project at the Fowler's Gap Research Station comparing the performance of new Merino meat strains with local bloodlines.

Professor John Kennedy, the last head of the school (now retired) and a long-time colleague of Professor Roberts, describes his late colleague as a "mover and shaker" who had a capacity to make things happen. At the same time, he was a lifelong individualist who liked to do things his own way.

Graham Wells of One Oak Merino stud, Jerilderie, who worked closely with Professor ' Roberts in his Riverina sire evaluation projects, paid tribute to his enthusiasm and positive outlook. "He had the ability to inspire people to follow him," Mr Wells said. "A lot of his research was controversial - there were always people who disagreed with him -but he had the strength of his convictions and wasn't afraid to stick his neck out."

Professor Roberts was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993 for his lifetime's service to the wool industry and education. He is survived by wife, Jennifer, sons, David and Simon, and daughters, Toni and Mandy, and their children.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments



NARI names new multipurpose hall after Quartermain

***By Seniorl Anzu
Post Courier Wednesday, May 16, 2007***

Professor Alan Quartermain is fairly known in the agriculture circles of PNG, the Pacific and the globe. He is a teacher, a researcher, a scientist, a mentor, and an administrator. The New Zealander, who spent most of his time in the Morobe and East New Britain provinces, first came to the country in 1974 and has contributed a lot to agricultural research, education and development in PNG in various capacities for over 20 years.

Many of his students and colleagues, at various times, remember his interest in PNG and the love of developing the human resources and the country as a whole. These efforts in most instances go unnoticed, however, the Government of Morobe and its people took the courtesy to recognize this contribution in a small way last week. A new multi-purpose hall at Bubia outside Lae City, funded by the Morobe Provincial Government, was officially opened and named after him. Governor General, Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane did the launching. This was a highlight of NARI's 10th Anniversary celebrations.

When making the announcement during NARI's Open Day in 2005, Morobe Governor Luther Wenge said the commitment was also a show of people's and his government's appreciation of NARI's big establishment in the province and its contribution to agricultural development.

During the announcement, Governor Wenge said Prof Quartermain was in PNG when he (Wenge) was only a young boy, and he was glad to see him still serving the country. Prof Quartermain, who is now the inaugural Dean of the School of Natural Resources at Vudal University in East New Britain, was then NARI's Chief Scientist.

NARI Director-General Dr Raghunath Ghodake said the Institute was grateful to the Morobe Provincial Government, under the leadership of Governor Wenge, for providing funding contribution for the facility in recognition of the valuable contribution that Prof Quartermain has made to agricultural research, education and development in PNG.

Dr Ghodake said the Government also recognized the need NARI has for a facility to promote information exchange and community linkages and interactions. He said the Alan Quartermain Hall is a well developed facility specially designed to provide a comfortable and practical forum for information exchange, knowledge-sharing, training, conferences, and exhibitions (both indoor and outdoor).

The building has a conference hall capable of accommodating up to 200 people, a stage area suitable for up to 16 people, an open hall accommodating 1000 people and an exhibition ground taking up to 40 stalls and 30,000 people, with all the essential basic amenities provided.

The hall will be a crucial facility for hosting the annual Agricultural Innovations Show mooted by NARI, and other future events and gatherings. Other interested individuals and organizations involved in PNG development have been invited to make use of this prime facility.

Prof Quartermain was at Bubia last Wednesday to witness the launching of the building.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Design by Dana Finnigan.

Graduate joins design elite in Scotland

Design graduate Dana Finnigan is the New Zealand recipient of the Scottish International Scholarship for 2007.

The award will see the 26-year-old study for a Masters in Design Practice at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art, alongside an elite group of young international designers.

The global scholarship scheme is part of an initiative by the Scottish Executive – or government - to attract high-calibre entrepreneurial postgraduates to Scotland. Ms Finnigan has just completed a Bachelor of Design, with Honours, at the Wellington campus.



Sandy Heffenan, Head of the Textile Department in the College of Creative Arts, believes the award will be immensely valuable.

“We’re so isolated down here, even with the web, and there’s no substitute for direct experience rather than observing from afar,” says Ms Heffenan.

“Many schools here in New Zealand are trying to mimic what the Glasgow School of Arts is doing in postgraduate studies.

It’s very ahead of its time in terms of working with leading designers, using the latest technology, and building a wide appreciation of design in many forms. She will have access to amazing libraries and databases for her research.”

While many of her design school peers live in the computer labs, Ms Finnigan is proud that she is “not one of those digital kids”. She likes to get her hands dirty with real cutting, pasting and printing – not just keyboard shortcuts.

She says she is attracted to the flaws and errors of textiles: “The mistakes are what makes it great. Fabric by nature is not perfect - with printing and weaving one metre will never be the same as the next, and it’s those imperfections that catch the eye”.

She says this craft-based approach is strong in Scotland, where the textiles sector has survived in the face of competition from India and China by focusing on high-end quality rather than mass-market production.

“The textile industry is a great model of international co-production and collaboration – we get fabric woven in Scotland, printed in England and then cut and sewn in New Zealand.

“This award will mean I get exposed to new trends and techniques in Britain, and when I come back home I’ll have the skills and contacts to head up my own studio. I’d also like to tutor, so I can share the knowledge I’ve gained.”

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Taking nature's cue for cheaper solar power

Solar cell technology developed by the University's Nanomaterials Research Centre will enable New Zealanders to generate electricity from sunlight at a tenth of the cost of current silicon-based photo-electric solar cells.

Dr Wayne Campbell and researchers in the centre have developed a range of coloured dyes for use in dye-sensitised solar cells.

The synthetic dyes are made from simple organic compounds closely related to those found in nature. The green dye Dr Campbell (pictured) is holding is synthetic chlorophyll derived from the light-harvesting pigment plants use for photosynthesis.



Other dyes being tested in the cells are based on haemoglobin, the compound that give blood its colour.

Dr Campbell says that unlike the silicon-based solar cells currently on the market, the 10x10cm green demonstration cells generate enough electricity to run a small fan in low-light conditions – making them ideal for cloudy weather. The dyes can also be incorporated into tinted windows that trap to generate electricity.

He says the green solar cells are more environmentally friendly than silicon-based cells as they are made from titanium dioxide – a plentiful, renewable and non-toxic white mineral obtained from New Zealand's black sand. Titanium dioxide is already used in consumer products such as toothpaste, white paints and cosmetics.

“The refining of pure silicon, although a very abundant mineral, is energy-hungry and very expensive. And whereas silicon cells need direct sunlight to operate efficiently, these cells will work efficiently in low diffuse light conditions,” Dr Campbell says.

“The expected cost is one tenth of the price of a silicon-based solar panel, making them more attractive and accessible to home-owners.”

The Centre's new director, Professor Ashton Partridge, says they now have the most efficient porphyrin dye in the world and aim to optimise and improve the cell construction and performance before developing the cells commercially.

“The next step is to take these dyes and incorporate them into roofing materials or wall panels. We have had many expressions of interest from New Zealand companies,” Professor Partridge says.

He says the ultimate aim of using nanotechnology to develop a better solar cell is to convert as much sunlight to electricity as possible.

“The energy that reaches earth from sunlight in one hour is more than that used by all human activities in one year”.

The solar cells are the product of more than 10 years research funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Code-cracking adventures for kura kaupapa kids

Children returned to Kura Kaupapa Māori schools last month to the final book in a trilogy of space-adventure, code-busting chapter-books written in Te Reo Māori.

Darryn Joseph, a lecturer in Te Pūtahi a Toi (School of Māori Studies) at the University's Palmerston North campus, says the third book in the *RT3* series stands alone, but also builds on the stories and characters developed in the first two.

In the third book, *Ki Tua o Tāwauwau*, Mr Joseph (who writes under the pseudonym Tākuta Hōhepa) includes a second point of view – that of Hinewai. He says Hinewai's gutsy character, and the fact that she piloted a spaceship in the first two books, proved popular with young readers, girls particularly.

“A second point of view makes for a more challenging read, which is the intention of this series – to extend kids' reading skills,” he says.

The books contain themes children can identify with. The little hero, Rangi Tautoru, is brought up by his eccentric grandfather and goes on a space adventure with Hinewai, his best friend.

All three books feature the illustrations of award-winning illustrator Ali Teo and a major theme in the series is code language. The first book featured rhyming riddles, the second used illustrated riddles and the third features a code-wheel designed by Mr Joseph using a combination of numerical code, alien code, morse code and code made from traditional Māori motifs.

“The codes are like a secret language that readers can engage with and add a fun challenge to the stories.”

Mr Joseph has also included kiwaha (idiomatic expressions) to engage readers, and he invented a new genre of numerical rhyming karakia (like a cross between a sports chant and a karakia).

The books are written for 10-12 year olds, and kohanga reo teachers have been reading them aloud to their younger pupils.

The educational arm of Huia Publishing, Te Manu Tuku Korero, asked Mr Joseph to come up with a plot and characters for a chapter-book for children in December 2002.

The publishers knew he had the right blend of literary skill and imagination. Mr Joseph was a finalist in the 1999 and 2001 Huia short story competition and in 2003 won the 2003 Huia short story competition with *Tama Tāhae*, *Tama Ora*.

He will finish his doctoral thesis on Māori literature this year, under the supervision of Professor Tai Black. He learnt Te Reo Māori as an undergraduate student and has fine-tuned his fluency through an honours year at Massey.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Maori



Extending science with the synchrotron

Massey University has been awarded \$500,000 by the Tertiary Education Commission to host a New Zealand Synchrotron Support Programme.

Professor of Structural Chemistry and Biology Geoff Jameson says the successful application will facilitate New Zealand scientists' access to the A\$220 million Australian Synchrotron facility, to be launched this year in Melbourne. Massey will act on behalf of Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago universities.

A synchrotron is a large machine (about the size of a football field) that creates beams of extremely intense light (a million times brighter than the sun or conventional lab equipment) that are channelled into workstations and which can be used simultaneously.

Professor Jameson says the synchrotron will feature 10 world-class beams that will benefit many areas of research across the University, including structural biology, nanomaterials research, soil science, and medical imaging in the veterinary school. He says it is very complementary to Massey's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance suite and X-ray crystallography facilities.

"It's a truly multi-use piece of equipment. It will transform basic science and applied science as well. It can be used not just for blue skies research but also in fields like engineering and technology. With any process which needs light, the Synchrotron will do it better – from hard X-ray light through to infrared."

In 2004, Massey committed \$450,000 as part of more than \$10 million contributed by a consortium of New Zealand universities and several Crown Research Institutes, in partnership with the Ministry of Research Science and Technology.

Professor Jameson says the Synchrotron Support Programme will provide networking to help scientists access the facility, to negotiate research time at the facility, and to ensure that universities and institutes make the most of their investment in the facility. The programme will also provide seed money to projects that will use the Synchrotron and funding for scientists to travel to Melbourne.

The application to the Tertiary Education Commission (for the Innovation and Development Fund) by Massey's Research Management Services, under the direction of Michael Peters, is the first collective funding application made by universities and crown research institutes.

The project is one of three Massey projects awarded funding in the Commission's latest round. The other two are:

1. The establishment of an inter-university Māori academic network to be led by Professor Mason Durie.
2. The co-ordination and implementation of e-learning guidelines across the tertiary sector led by Gordon Suddaby.

More information about the project can be found at: <http://www.synchrotron.vic.gov.au>

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Massey lecturer wins UK award

Massey researcher Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya is the inaugural New Zealand recipient of a Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP) award from British Council.

The award is designed to develop research links Britain and other countries.

Dr Bhattacharya is a senior lecturer at the College of Education at the University's Palmerston North campus. The funding will allow her to collaborate with Dr Jon Dron at Brighton University, England. Their research looks at online learning environments for multicultural audiences.

The globalisation of education cannot be achieved without adapting resources to different cultural values and ways of thinking, Dr Bhattacharya says.

The UK and New Zealand are similar in their multicultural make-up, which is why this collaboration has come about.

This research area is particularly important for Massey, which has the most extramural students in New Zealand. The area is also a priority research topic for the Tertiary Education Commission and its British equivalent, the Higher Education Funding Council.

British Council is the British government's agency for cultural relations. It has awarded 70 grants to international researchers under the RXP awards scheme. New Zealand researchers will be eligible to apply for the next funding round in the middle of the year.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education

More than \$5 million in scholarships available

Applications are open for more than \$5 million worth of scholarships awarded by the University annually, including the greatest number offered for undergraduate students at a New Zealand university.

The University contributes \$4.5 million of scholarship funding, to which hundreds of externally funded scholarships and bequests are added. Scholarship officer Shirley Morris says Massey offers the most undergraduate scholarships to a wide range of students, including top achievers and those who face hardship.

This year the first recipients of the High Achievers Scholarships will kick-start their tertiary educations in the first semester, beginning February 26. Worth \$3000, these scholarships are available in the areas of academic, sporting, and cultural or artistic achievement.

At the postgraduate level, the University funds the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships, worth \$27,000 per annum for three years, and administers the Lovell and Beryl Clark Scholarships, worth \$15,000 for one year.

Many scholarships are subject-related, in areas such as horticulture and the applied sciences, and Mrs Morris says it is common for some students to get through their undergraduate degrees entirely on scholarship funding. She says there has been an increase in applications in the past four years, as more students are made aware of what is available by student liaison advisors in schools and by those employed by the University.

Prospective scholars should first check what is available and what they are eligible for at:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/awards>

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Awards and appointments; Scholarships

Home affordability now down to 1989 levels

Housing is now less affordable than in early 1989 when mortgage interest rates were as high as 15.5 per cent.

Professor Bob Hargreaves, director of Massey University's Property Foundation, says home affordability declined by 5.1 per cent over the quarter ending November 2006, reaching its lowest level since 1989.

He says the decline was due to a rebound in the national median house price (up by 6.4 per cent) outstripping increases in the average weekly wage (1.5 per cent). Mortgage interest rates were also up slightly, by 0.03 per cent.

Professor Hargreaves says national home affordability has been in decline for each quarter over the past four and a half years. In the quarter ending November, Central Otago Lakes was the only area to show improved affordability, of 14.7 per cent, but is still the least affordable region.

The largest declines in affordability were in Otago (10.9 per cent), Wellington (9.4 per cent) and Taranaki (8.9 per cent).

On an annual basis, home affordability declined by 7.3 per cent, with increases in house prices of 10 per cent well ahead of a 6 per cent increase in the average weekly wage, and increases in the weighted average interest rates on home loans of 3.4 per cent.

Central Otago Lakes showed a 4.3 per cent annual improvement in affordability but all other regions recorded annual declines.

The largest was in Taranaki, down 24.3 per cent, followed by Nelson-Marlborough, down 21.4 per cent, and Southland, down 18.1 per cent. The smallest decline was

for Hawke's Bay (0.2 per cent) followed by Canterbury/Westland (2.8 per cent) and Otago (6.2 per cent).

Southland is clearly the most affordable region, with the index at 51.4 per cent of the national average of 100 per cent. Manawatu-Wanganui at 70.3 per cent remains in second place followed by Otago on 78.4 per cent.

The least affordable region, the Central Lakes Otago area, has an index of 131.1 per cent of the national average. The Auckland region takes second place on 121.8 per cent, followed by Nelson-Marlborough on 111.4 per cent.

The Massey survey has been reporting on home affordability since 1989, using the variables of house prices, wage rates and mortgage interest rates, The December quarterly survey is available at: http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/fileadmin/research_outputs/HomeAffordabilityReportDec_06.pdf

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Professor takes up prestigious role

Professor Janina Mazierska has been elected to a two-year term as Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for the Asia Pacific Region.

Professor Mazierska, head of the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology at the University's Palmerston North campus, is the first woman to lead more than 66,000 IEEE members in the Asia Pacific region.

The IEEE is a non-profit, professional association of more than 353,000 members in 150 countries, with a budget of US\$500,000,000 governed by 31 directors. Through its members, the IEEE is an authority in computer engineering, biomedical technology and telecommunications, electric power, aerospace and consumer electronics among other areas. It produces 30 per cent of the world's literature in electrical engineering, computers and control technology, holds more than 300 major conferences annually and has more than 860 active standards with 700 under development.

She completed her PhD at the Warsaw University of Technology in Poland, and before joining Massey University she held various roles at James Cook University for more than sixteen years. She was also a Stanford University Visiting Scholar (Ginzton Laboratory) in 1991 and 1996.

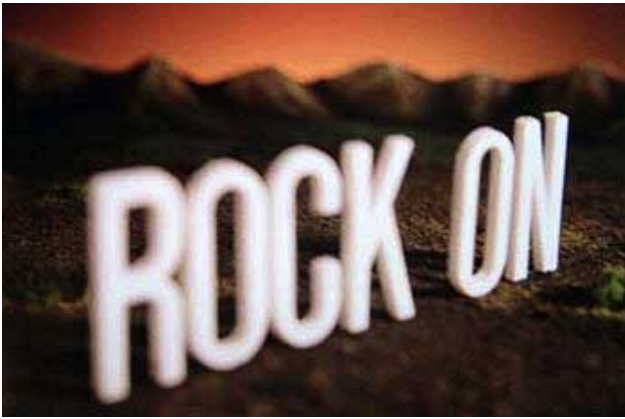
Professor Mazierska is well known for her research into precise microwave characterisation of low loss materials (especially High Temperature Superconductors for which she has been elected an IEEE Fellow Class 2005, and for her service to the engineering profession worldwide.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences





New art works at Wellington

New additions to the Wellington campus art collection are now on display. The works were purchased in December.

In the eastern foyer of the Museum Building, near the Theatrette, are three ornithological images from a series taken by Laurence Aberhart, as the National Art Gallery and Museum were relocating. They are titled Mounted Albatross (1996); Albatross (shown) and Penguin (1995).

Black and White TV by Reuben Paterson is in the corridor leading to Tussock cafe, and his other work, Naturist, is in the reception area in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington), in Block 5.

A Lonnie Hutchinson suite of prints, titled Sista I, Sista II and Sista III, is in the corridor leading to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences reception area in Block 7, Level C. Eye Ball and Rock On by former Massey Artist-in-Residence Ronnie van Hout are to the left of the main entrance to the Library.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Wellington





Holiday breaks sees more than 1000 computers updated

Information Technology Services replaced 1200 computers in 50 student computer laboratories and 86 lecture theatres on all three campuses during the recent break between semesters.

The lease on the previous computers came to an end in July and the University now has a new fleet of student and lecture theatre computers on a three-year lease. Project manager Leonard Smit from ITS says it was huge, logistically-challenging task in a timeframe designed to minimise any disruption.

Mr Smit drew on a project team from regional IT teams and Advantage Computers.

Equipment came from Hewlett Packard, Desktop Technology Services Ltd and Advantage. The new personal computers have 20-inch widescreen monitors, which have already proved popular with students.

Computers in student labs used for computer aided design in Auckland and Wellington have been provided with professional quality graphics cards and monitors to support the high-end software in use.

Allied to the equipment changeover, ITS had to provide a revised software image to suit the new hardware.

Teaching services manager Sue Tait and the software image development team worked against the clock to incorporate new software requests from lecturers into the revised image and ensure that all the new computers could run the necessary software.

ITS installs more than 200 software applications on the student PCs and more than 75 on the students' Macs, so a change of hardware brings plenty of challenges.

A further 300 computers, situated in the newer labs and the Information Commons, will reach the end of their leases and be replaced over the next year.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Kiwi Saver brings new options for staff

University staff have a range of retirement savings options as a result of the Government's new Kiwi Saver scheme.

Human resources staff have been dealing with hundreds of inquiries about superannuation following a series of seminars conducted by trustees of the NZ Universities' Superannuation Scheme (NZUSS) on the three campuses.



Most staff want to know what their options are and, although the take-up of Kiwi Saver has been relatively low, growing numbers of staff are signing up for the Universities' Superannuation Scheme, says Human Resources deputy-director Alan Wheeler.

The NZUSS, which has about 900 Massey members, has been modified to make it compliant with Kiwi Saver and allow those who join, or who are already members, to choose to receive some of the benefits available under Kiwi Saver, such as a tax credit of up to \$20 a week to match the member's contributions and up to 4 per cent of an employer contribution being exempt from tax.

To qualify, members must agree to lock-in a minimum of 4 per cent of salary until age 65.

“The question of affordability is the most obvious factor affecting savings decisions,” says Mr Wheeler, “but even if staff are unable to currently commit to a savings plan they should at least be aware of what workplace schemes are in place and look to take advantage of them when they can.”

He says this is because the current NZ Superannuation benefit, currently payable to all NZ citizens and permanent residents at age 65, will not on its own meet the financial needs for the majority of staff intending to retire.

The NZUSS is the workplace scheme that has been specifically designed to meet the needs of most university staff. The recent changes to make it KiwiSaver compliant have effectively presented Massey staff with three workplace schemes to select from to assist them with their retirement savings. Those schemes are the NZUSS, which has both a “locked-in” and “unlocked” section, and KiwiSaver.

The NZUSS is open to all University staff but only those with permanent employment or a fixed-term employment agreement which has two years to run before its expiry date (and provided any associated project budget can meet the cost) can receive an employer subsidy.

Subsidised members pay a minimum of 4 per cent of their salary and the University subsidises that by 1.35 times up to a maximum of 6.75 per cent of base salary. A 5 per cent contribution attracts the maximum employer subsidy. The staff member's contribution is calculated on gross base salary and the employer subsidy is taxed at 33 per cent before funds are paid into the scheme.

A recent change to NZUSS is that the employer contributions are vested with the staff member at the rate of 20 per cent per year of scheme membership, which means that after five years' membership a staff member leaving employment before retirement would receive 100 per cent of both the accumulated balances of their own contributions plus the employer contributions.

The NZUSS also has a Complying Fund Accumulation (CFA) section, which has been established along similar lines to Kiwi Saver and is open to subsidised members of NZUSS. A minimum employee contribution of 4 per cent is required for the CFA and the University pays a fixed 4 per cent employer subsidy. Funds are locked-in until the age of eligibility for NZ Superannuation (currently 65). Membership of the CFA results in the staff member's personal contributions attracting a tax credit from the Government of up to \$1042.86 per annum (around \$20 per week) and, in addition, the 4 per cent employer subsidy is exempt from the deduction of a 33 per cent withholding tax. CFA members do not receive the \$1000 kick-start payment nor the scheme fees subsidy of up to \$40 a year that the Government is offering to Kiwi Saver members.

According to Mr Wheeler, most NZUSS members contributing at 5 per cent who decide to join the locked-in CFA plan are doing so with a minimum 4 per cent contribution, as that is all that is normally required to maximise the tax benefits, and then their remaining 1 per cent, plus the remaining 2.75 per cent of the employer subsidy, is paid into the standard NZUSS plan where funds and benefits are not subjected to the “lock-in” rules.

Under the Kiwi Saver Scheme the University is an “exempt employer”, which means it is not required to automatically enrol new employees. It does not have a preferred Kiwi Saver provider so staff enrolling in Kiwi Saver must select and sign up directly with one of the approved providers.

The University does not currently subsidise Kiwi Saver but Government has said it will introduce legislation this year to require a compulsory employer subsidy of 1 percent from April next year, increasing annually to 4 per cent by April 2011. The compulsory employer subsidy will not be payable to staff already receiving a subsidy in any other workplace scheme, such as NZUSS.

About 300 Massey staff are contributing to the old Government Superannuation Fund (GSF), which closed to new members more than a decade ago. That fund is unchanged, which means that none of the tax benefits available to Kiwi Saver and NZUSS-CFA members apply to GSF members. However, if a GSF member joins a Kiwi Saver scheme in addition to GSF then they will receive the tax credits on personal contributions as well as the \$1000 payment and the fee subsidy of up to \$40 per annum.

Staff who require specific advice on their personal situation are encouraged to seek independent financial advice as the HR Section is only able to provide factual information about schemes and options. The web site www.sorted.org.nz also has useful information and calculators to guide financial decision-making.

To request copies of relevant information and application forms for either NZUSS or KiwiSaver call the HR Section on ext 5299.

Further information about the various schemes can be found at:

NZUSS: www.nzvcc.ac.nz/default.aspx?l=2&p=8

KiwiSaver: www.kiwisaver.govt.nz

GSF: www.gsfa.govt.nz

Date: 24/08/2007

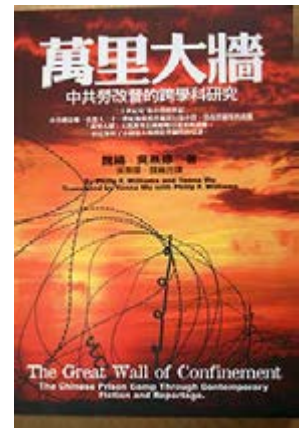
Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

Realities of Chinese prison life comes to light in new book

Overcrowding, administrative detention, forced confessions, beatings, and other harsh realities of life in prisons and labour camps in the People's Republic of China (PRC) have been brought to light in a comprehensive Chinese-language monograph co-written by a Massey professor.

A Thousand Miles of Prison Walls: an Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Contemporary Chinese Labour Camp, by Professors Philip Williams, Head of the School of Language Studies at the Palmerston North campus and Professor Yenna Wu from the University of California at Riverside, has been published in 2007 by Li Ming Cultural Publishing in Taiwan.



It traces the dual origins of Maoist and post-Mao Chinese prison camps: an ancient indigenous tradition of state-mandated forced labour and internal penal exile along with imported Western ideas from Lenin and others promoting social engineering.

'Re-education through labour' camps, for example, amount to administrative detention, as no legal proceedings whatsoever are required for multi-year sentences to such camps, he explains.

The book combines a wide range of empirical detail with a theoretical analysis of historical, cultural, and systemic roots of the labour camp system, Professor Williams says.

Although some copies have found their way into China through informal channels, the book is otherwise available in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Many of the most poignant entries in the book are first-hand accounts written or dictated by present or former inmates.

Some of these accounts were smuggled out of China for publication in Hong Kong or overseas, rather like the recently published unofficial memoirs of the deposed Reformist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, who died in 2005 after a decade-and-a-half under house arrest.

Fictionalised portrayals of prison life also reveal insights into a system that critics say routinely violates basic human rights, Professor Williams says.

Although the PRC government finally passed a law officially outlawing the beating of prisoners in 1993, and has in recent years spent more money on improving prison conditions to some degree, he says Chinese authorities have still refused to allow International Red Cross delegates to inspect Chinese prisons and interview prisoners in private with Red Cross interpreters.

Professor Williams is the author of several benchmark publications on Chinese prisons, including the English-language

The Great Wall of Confinement: The Chinese Prison Camp through Contemporary Fiction and Reportage (2004), which his latest book has expanded upon.

Remolding and Resistance among Writers of the Chinese Prison Camp, published in 2006 by Routledge in London, was co-edited by Professor Williams and Professor Wu, director of the University of California at Riverside's Asian Languages and Civilisations programme.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Stockings benefit exercise

Wearing compression stockings to exercise could benefit everyone from top level runners to casual walkers, say Massey researchers.

Dr Ajmol Ali, a sport and exercise scientist at the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, plans to study how compression stockings benefit the performance of runners.

Dr Ali says previous studies have found some benefits, notably some reduction in post exercise soreness, but there was more for science to discover about the effects and benefits of wearing the stockings during exercise.

The benefits of the stockings for vascular problems and for post operative recovery are well established, he says, but otherwise research on their impact on performance has to date been haphazard.

“We would like to know more about these stockings helping to prevent the soreness that runners feel after exercising.

“If the stockings do reduce the period of soreness, for example, it could be possible for athletes to return to training much more quickly and therefore to enhance their performance levels”.

“If wearing the stockings does reduce muscular soreness we will want to know how this is achieved. We will also want to find out what level of compression, or tightness, gives the most benefit.”

Wearing compression stockings may have implications not just for athletes but also for people who may be afraid of doing regular exercise because they fear from past experience that they will be in pain afterwards.

Further down the track researchers could investigate whether the stockings could also benefit other groups including older athletes and people who are not trained, high performers.

Dr Ali will soon be recruiting elite athletes to take part in the study.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Sport and recreation





The main excavations (the old city itself). Vesuvius in the background.

Living in the shadow of a slumbering giant...

Volcanologist Dr Jérôme Lecointre recently participated, with four of his colleagues from the INR-based Volcanic Risk Solutions team, in the XXIV General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), held in Perugia, central Italy.



After delivering an oral presentation on hazards of New Zealand volcanoes and attending a special session on 18 March Ruapehu lahar, Dr Lecointre reached the Bay of Naples, the largest urbanised coastal area in Europe, where people live and work under the constant threat of telluric unrest from the surrounding volcanoes.

High on the programme was a visit to Pozzuoli (geothermal area of the Solfatara, Phlegrean Fields), where earthquakes and ground deformation (called bradyseisms) which led to the partial evacuation of the local population in the mid-1980s, are constantly monitored. Further south, the world-famous Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, tragically buried during the devastating AD 79 Plinian eruption of Mt Vesuvius, were the prime targets for a detailed exploration.

These unique archaeological sites, re-discovered during the 18th century, form the most extraordinary evidence of violent interactions between humans and volcanoes in ancient times. New excavations continue to unravel aspects of the daily life of Roman people, brutally interrupted as people were desperately trying to escape the hot and toxic clouds of ashes, lapilli and pumices from the eruption.

Tpday, tourists walk the abandoned streets and marvel at villas finely decorated with frescoes and mosaics. This fascinating urban landscape can be virtually reconstructed through the use of 3D modelling software.

For the geologist however, reading the ancient stones provides essential clues on the succession of volcanic events that led to the devastation of the region. The towering Mt Vesuvius has been quiet since its last eruption in 1944.

Dealing with a population of more than three million inhabitants, the local civil defence authorities are facing a major challenge with the implementation of a controversial emergency plan designed in the late 1990s (and regularly updated) for the Napolitano region.

Studies of past eruptions at Vesuvius have indicated that moderate to very large scale explosive eruptions (VEI 3 to 5) dominated the evolution of the volcano for at least 10,000 years. What eruptive scenario should be selected then to draw a valid emergency plan for the region?

This is a topic still actively debated between scientists and public authorities who have, at the end, to take responsibility for the solutions envisaged in case of a severe volcanic crisis in the area.

In such a vulnerable socio-economic environment, what hazard mitigation policy and risk reduction measures are currently considered before and during a major eruption that could affect durably people in their livelihood, with the potential destruction of key lifelines and infrastructure?

What lessons can be learnt for New Zealand? These are some of the questions that Dr Lecointre will reflect on at a departmental seminar in Palmerston North on Wednesday 29 August 2007 at 1pm, in AH3. All interested

people are welcome to attend.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Sport lecture series

Two leading academics in the College of Business Sport Management and Coaching programme will deliver the final two presentations in the Winter Lecture Series in Sport in Palmerston North.

Dr Farah Palmer will speak on A Reflection of the Black Ferns' World Cup Campaign from A Player's Perspective, on Wednesday 12 September at 7pm at the Lockwood and McMillan Lounge, on the 4th floor of the FMG Stadium.

Dr Palmer captained the Black Ferns to three successive World Rugby Cup crowns. She was recently elected as an independent director of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board. As well as her lecturing role, she works part-time as a national and regional mentor for Te Puni Kōkiri.

Dr Sarah Leberman will provide A Reflection of the 2007 Australian Youth Olympic Festival from a Manager's Perspective, in her lecture on Wednesday 12 September at 7pm at the same venue.

Dr Leberman is Manager of the 2007 Junior Black Sticks. She has been involved in the sport and recreation industry for the past 18 years as an academic, practitioner, consultant, administrator and participant.

Her research interests are in the area of women in sport leadership positions, particularly mothers and leadership in high performance sport.

Previous speakers in the series included Dave Rennie, on his experiences in his first year as coach of the Manawatu Turbos rugby team, and Dr Gary Hermansson, on the Black Caps, one-day World Cup campaign from a sport psychologist's perspective.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar; Sport and recreation

Turnover up for small businesses

The first snapshot of the health and potential wealth of New Zealand small firms shows more than half have recently increased their turnover and most want to grow their businesses.

The BusinessSMEasure is the first longitudinal study of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), conducted by the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises, led by Centre Director Professor Claire Massey. The second stage of the project will make six-monthly surveys of a panel of 600 firms.

The first pilot survey of 150 firms shows:

About the firms:

The largest group (41 per cent) are micro-enterprises employing up to five full-time equivalent staff (FTEs). Twenty per cent are small enterprises employing six to nine FTEs and 30 per cent are medium enterprises employing 10 to 50 FTEs.

The firms varied in age from two years to 117 years with an average age of 21 years. Annual turnover ranged from \$40,000 per annum to \$700 million, with an average of \$10 million.

Forty-four per cent are described as family businesses, with 25 per cent involving more than one generation.

Seventy-nine per cent of the firms do not currently export. Of the remaining 21 per cent that export, the majority export up to 10 per cent of the firm's sales.

About the owners and managers:

Twenty-three per cent of the respondents are female owners and managers. Almost half of the managers became self-employed in their early 20s, a third in their 30s and a fifth in their 40s.

Today, almost half of the owners are aged between 50 and 59 and they work, on average, 47 hours a week.

More than half (59 per cent) started the firm they currently own and about a third (31 per cent) bought it as a going concern.

About growth and its challenges:

Over the past three years fewer than half (42 per cent) of the owners and managers experienced moderate growth that is par for their industry.

A quarter experienced a high or very high rate of growth. Future expectations are definitely higher for moderate growth, but respondents are less confident about high growth rates in the future.

Half of the firms had a higher turnover and profit last year than in 2005, and a third increased staff numbers. Less than a fifth reported a lower performance.

Looking into the future, 90 per cent of the owners or managers believe there are opportunities to grow the firm and three quarter want to significantly increase the firm's turnover.

However, Professor Massey notes that there are issues that distract the owners and managers of SMEs. Of the four issues that are rated highest, three are to do with stress, pressure and work-life balance.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Learning languages prize launched for 2008

Starting next year, students who successfully complete one of two papers in second language teaching will be eligible for a "learning languages" prize of up to \$500.

By 2008, all schools will be required to offer second languages to students from years 7-10. Senior lecturer in Languages Teacher Education at the College of Education, Adele Scott, says that the curriculum changes bring challenges that both schools and their communities will need to work through.

"This prize is being offered to encourage participation and success from those who choose to prepare for the new learning area. For those participants already in a school there is also the opportunity to have advisory services funded by the Ministry of Education working alongside them in the classroom," Ms Scott says.

All applicants for the prize will be required to make a ten minute presentation on their language learning and teaching aspirations at a block course in March 2008.

The \$500 prize will be paid in two instalments from the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, the first after the recipient has been identified, and the second on the successful completion of the paper.

The prize will be awarded to one student who successfully completes one of the following papers for the 2008 academic year:

- 206.426 Principles of Second Language Teaching
- 207.377 Teaching and Learning Languages up to Year 10

Expressions of interest should be sent to learninglanguages@massey.ac.nz with the Subject line: 'Learning Languages Prize'

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education

Performing and publishing Polly

The recent New Zealand School of Music production of the ballad opera Polly has left a legacy in the form of a newly published script.

The school staged four performances of the opera in Wellington earlier this month, in what was effectively a world premiere.

The work was edited for the performance by Associate Professor Robert Hoskins, who says it was last performed at the Little Theatre in the Haymarket in London in 1777. The edited work has been published by the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Music, now part of NZSM, in association with Artaria Editions.

Polly, by Samuel Arnold with a libretto by George Coleman, after John Gay, is a sequel to The Beggars Opera by Johann Christoph Pepusch.

The story is a comic romp that follows heroine Polly Peachum to the Caribbean in search of her renegade husband, the infamous MacHeath (also known as Mack the Knife). Polly outwits convicts, pimps, slave traders and cut-throat pirates to find that true love is not as she expected.

The title role was shared by third-year Bachelor of Music student Jessica Segal and postgraduate student in vocal performance Jessica Graham.

School Director Elizabeth Hudson says staging the modern premiere of Polly was not only great fun “but also showcased so many of the things we are involved in at the School”.

“The teamwork involved in getting a project like this to a professional level is a vital part of musical training, and one of the most important understandings students will take with them when they leave,” Dr Hudson says.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhibition/Show

Report urges change for health and safety systems

The director of the Centre for Public Health Research Professor Neil Pearce says a new report on health and safety systems in New Zealand highlights a critical lack of resources and expertise.

The report also calls for a single lead agency, more and better occupational health and safety (OSH) specialists and improvements to existing programmes.

It was commissioned by the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee and prepared by a group of five researchers, including committee chair Professor Pearce and Professor Philippa Gander, director of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre.

Professor Pearce says the report takes a close look at current systems as well as influencing factors, such as the substantial growth in the economy and, in particular, increases in the number of workplaces and workers, and changes in the workplace environment.

“It reveals that demand for service delivery has increased dramatically in the past two decades, yet overall funding for OSH services has declined. Many of the government agencies responsible are now seriously under-resourced to meet the challenges of growth and more diverse workplaces and workforces.”

The report also covers concerns expressed by key stakeholders – including OSH practitioners and representatives of government agencies, employer organisations, employee representative groups, safety organisations and other industry groups.

“Their comments are insightful and deeply worrying,” says Professor Pearce. “They clearly demonstrate that the agencies currently responsible for OSH often appear to operate in ‘silos’, with a resulting inability to work effectively together in the crucial areas of research, data systems, policy development and prevention programmes. As a result, employers and workplaces are often unsure how and where to get advice to prevent diseases and injuries in the workplace.”

The report's many recommendations include establishing a clear lead occupational health and safety agency, adequately resourced to provide leadership and co-ordination and be accountable for the overall state of OSH in New Zealand.

Professor Pearce says it is likely that New Zealand already has all the elements of an effective OSH system. “We just need work together to develop, evaluate and implement them effectively,” he says.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Battle for better consumer awareness of organics

Organic food producers are battling to gain consumer awareness of labels and the official marks of certification that differentiate their products from others. The high price of organic food is also still a barrier to shoppers in New Zealand.

Despite the recent rapid increase in demand for organic food, Massey researchers have found confusion among consumers about organic goods and a lack of market intelligence about consumer knowledge and attitudes to organic food.

There are three well-established logos used in New Zealand to show organic food has been produced according to internationally recognised standards. Certification labels from BioGro, AgriQuality and Demeter can be found on New Zealand-produced food, along with labels from dozens of international certifiers on imported organic food. These labels represent certification standards that differ in what is required, permitted and prohibited in organic food production, preparation and sale.

The all round muddy picture of the organics market is of concern for producers and the certifiers, says commerce lecturer Dr Andrew Murphy who surveyed 100 consumers on the subject.

“We know little of consumer awareness of organic food properties that may differentiate the organic from the conventional, such as the absence of pesticides, fertilizers and preservatives,” says Dr Murphy.

“The current knowledge base of consumers is a significant limiter on the size of the domestic market. Awareness of different labels is vital if organic products are to continue to attract market premiums.”

Dr Murphy interviewed food shoppers at supermarkets and Auckland's weekend markets where organic produce is typically available. His study is ongoing but he says the initial results confirm market research is lagging far behind the growth of the industry.

Dr Murphy found consumers had little knowledge of certification systems and labels and only 21 per cent named a certifying organisation. However, once prompted with a range of seven labels, the respondents showed high recognition of New Zealand's largest organic certifiers.

Consumers gave top priority to personal benefits in their reasons for eating organic food, including perceived direct health benefits, taste and quality, and avoiding genetically modified foods. Much lower on their list of motivations were the well being of workers, farmers and the environment.

Ninety-four per cent cited high prices as a barrier to purchase, for 30 per cent seasonal availability was a deterrent, while 23 per cent indicated perceptions of poor quality due to the appearance of some organic produce.

The Massey study shows a pressing need for much more research on the organic market and consumer perceptions.

Dr Murphy says interest in and demand for organic food in New Zealand has doubled in the past three years to an estimated \$260 million, with a further \$120 million in exports. Globally, sales of organic food were valued at \$60 billion in 2006, with many key markets growing by more than 20 per cent per year.

He says for more farmers to be encouraged to convert to organics and capture greater margins, consumers must perceive they can distinguish organic foods and value them more highly than non-organic foods.

Interest in the organics industry is booming in New Zealand, demonstrated by the inaugural Organics Aotearoa New Zealand conference held at Lincoln from 17-19 August.

The conference brought together producers, retailers, exporters, government officials and academics to discuss New Zealand's organic future

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Explore - HEALTH



Students get hands on with science in Palmerston North.

Open days pull thousands of visitors to campus

Successful open days have been held on all three campuses this month, with thousands of prospective students checking out the displays and lectures associated with Massey courses.

The most recent was at Wellington last week, which sported several new features, including limited-edition carry bags in heavy blue cotton, presented to every visitor.

For the first time at Wellington, prospective students were able to register their interest in attending the University, via four computer stations where they could record their details.

Events Manager Natalie Hind says student station Munt FM also came to the party by giving students an opportunity to go live on air, when they visited the station.

Mr Rousseau reported particularly strong interest in nursing and business and fashion programmes.

Auckland campus drew the largest numbers to its open day on Saturday 18 August, with an estimated 3000 checking out facilities, courses and chatting to staff.

Most of the visitors were from secondary schools in Greater Auckland but many also came from Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki.

Palmerston North campus held two open days, on Wednesday and Saturday 1 and 4 August, attracting about 1500 prospective students, some with families. Wednesday's event had a good response from secondary schools from throughout the southern North Island, from East Coast to Taranaki and Wellington.

Saturday's had visitors from even further afield, including Timaru, Whangarei and Melbourne.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Negative media effects on Māori

The effects of negative media coverage on Māori and the way in which media cover Maori issues will be scrutinised by social researchers.

Funded by the Health Research Council, this latest study is the initiative of the Massey based Māori health research group, Whāriki. They will focus their study on a recent three week sampling of print , radio and television news and current affairs stories, focus groups and action research studies.

“Mass media strongly shape our personal and collective social realities,” says lead researcher Dr Tim McCreanor.

While there have been studies of media coverage and Māori, the media environment has changed with more Māori media and more Māori journalists today bringing some new perspective to media coverage says Dr McCreanor.

The Whāriki project, Media, health and wellbeing in Aotearoa aims to make findings that will contribute to enhancing wellbeing by examining the impacts of persistent negative depictions of Māori in media.

The researchers say the links between racial and ethnic bias and the health and wellbeing of individuals are increasingly recognised in international literature based on academic research around the world.

“Racism produces direct harms from violence, poverty, low status work, poor quality housing and built environments. The marginalisation entailed in racism reduces opportunities and maintains stress levels which over the lifespan result in multifaceted ethnic disparities in a wide range of social settings.

“The mainstream media as a key institution of representation, currently play a critical role in the marginalization of Māori through persistent negative representation and non-representation.”

The Massey researchers also plan to develop and test a model of media accountability for representations of Māori/Pākehā relations and to engage media in renewed efforts to tackle discriminatory or marginalising media coverage.

Such a model could be applied in other situations of conflict between indigenous and colonising populations.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

Doctors of Philosophy at Wellington

Ridvan Tua Tupai-Firestone – PhD in Public Health

Dr Firestone researched Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome (OSAS), a sleep disorder characterised by repetitive pauses of breathing caused by collapse of the airways, resulting in lack of oxygen to the brain. OSAS causes sleep disruption, daytime sleepiness, and an increased risk of vehicle accidents.

Her research aimed to estimate the prevalence of OSAS symptoms and risk factors, and to identify barriers to accessing health services. Results showed a high proportion of taxi drivers had a moderate to high risk of OSAS.

Focus group analyses revealed drivers were deterred from seeking care due to limited knowledge of OSAS, confusion about responsibility for health and safety, high medical costs, and fear of finding out about other health conditions.

General practitioners also demonstrated little knowledge about sleep health. Dr Firestone concluded a need for concurrent measures to address systemic issues in both the taxi industry and health care system.

Tiong Thye Goh – PhD in Information Systems

Dr Goh's thesis investigates emerging multiplatform e-learning systems that deliver content to devices such as PCs, PDAs and mobile phones. His thesis focuses on the formulation, competency and constitution of the multiplatform e-learning systems framework and its implementation.

It addresses factors that influence learner satisfaction with a multiplatform e-learning system. It compared a traditional e-learning system with a multiplatform e-learning system from a learner's perspective.

Dr Goh's research will help e-learning systems designers to develop and improve the adaptation process and to enhance the level of learner satisfaction and adoption in multiplatform e-learning systems.

Selwyn Katene – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies

Dr Katene's research was designed to describe and further understand the dynamics of the diaspora of an iwi and its re-emergence while being buffeted by multiple opposing forces. He focused on the experiences of Ngati Tama and its relationship with the Crown and other iwi/Māori groups in Wellington, from 1997–2004.

It provides an insider's insight into an iwi seeking to secure political and iwi recognition by resisting attempts to assimilate into a broader coalition of iwi/Māori interests, preferring instead to develop and maintain its own distinctive identity.

The thesis pointed to effective iwi leadership in a changing environment being about negotiating relationships in good faith, and seeking pathways that advance mutual interests.

Janice Eve Wenn (née Workman) – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies

Dr Wenn's research focused on the views of kaumātua in defining the concept of "kaupapa hauora Māori": optimal health and wellbeing for Māori.

Using in-depth interviews with kaumātua from Taranaki and the Wairarapa, and using respondents to refine her analysis, Dr Wenn produced a framework that can be used in the design and quality assessment of health services.

This framework has been applied in the critical analysis of popular models of Māori health, in order to gauge the concordance of these models with the views of conservative, older Māori.

This research will improve the quality assessment and quality improvement processes for health providers as they address the priority of Māori health.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Graduation

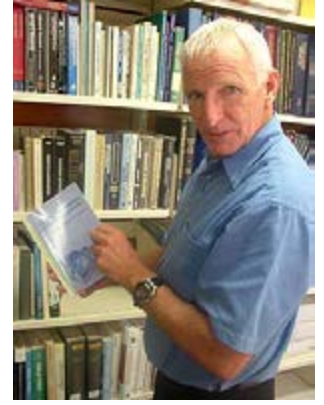
Categories: Awards and appointments; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington)

Growing literacy gap in NZ a major concern

The growing number of New Zealand children who can't read or write adequately is a major concern, says Massey's new Professor of Educational Psychology.

Professor Michael Townsend was appointed last December as the first dedicated Head of the School of Education at the Auckland campus.

The former primary school teacher-turned-academic, with a special interest in how motivation affects learning, comes to the University after 25 years as Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Auckland. He says improving literacy rates is one of the key issues in New Zealand education today.



“Our literacy levels have slipped in the international ratings. But worse, the thing that distinguishes New Zealand from other countries is that we have a huge gap between our higher and lower achieving children – and it's getting larger,” he says.

Professor Townsend is heartened that teachers graduating from Massey's Auckland campus will go into schools equipped with an additional teaching tool to help overcome this negative trend. His colleague, Professor Tom Nicholson, has developed a phonics-based method – included in the teaching programme – that has already been shown to help struggling readers.

“Greater exposure to phonics gives teachers (from Massey) another string to their bow if other things aren't working,” he says.

His latest appointment brings him full circle geographically. He enrolled in 1967 in part-time study at Massey extramurally whilst teaching at a Northland primary school, to do a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in education.

After taking up a new teaching job near Christchurch, he switched to Canterbury University to complete Bachelor and Masters degrees in education.

After completing his doctorate on children's learning and memory at the University of Illinois in Urbana, he spent three years teaching in the school psychology programme and doing research on learning at the State University of New York in Albany – about 100 miles north of New York City.

It was in the United States that he became interested in newly-emerging theories about children's motivation in learning.

“I became fascinated with how some kids are keen to learn, others are anxious, some are afraid, others don't want to be there – it's all about motivational issues.”

He returned to New Zealand in 1981 to the University of Auckland as a Senior Lecturer in Educational Psychology. After a 1988 sabbatical to the University of Michigan exploring new research on motivation, Professor Townsend set up the first courses on educational motivation in learning.

He is also deeply interested in children's friendships, and how the ability to make friends influences learning and self-esteem – ideas he elaborates on in his 1992 book he wrote called *Children's Friendships and Social Development*.

Moving into new territory, he developed a model for “co-operative learning” – a teaching approach that is not merely herding students into groups, but about encouraging them to interact and work together in ways that enhance learning as well as self-esteem.

Professor Townsend has observed big changes in education over the past four decades, including what he considers an over-abundance of paperwork from increased planning, testing, assessment and report-writing currently expected of educators. This, he fears, has distanced teachers from their core work with students.

Administrative demands, while meeting society's need for accountability, should be balanced with the notion that “what brings teachers into teaching is wanting to work with children, to make a difference in their lives. And this is what we are achieving with our programmes in education.” he says.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

Investigating evolution and mutation through ancient DNA research



This year, imparting wisdom to eager rows of biology students is not on the timetable for Distinguished Professor David Lambert. Instead, this eminent researcher will be immersed in a very quiet, but compelling interaction with mummified Sacred Ibis from deep in the catacombs of Egypt.

This month Professor Lambert embarks on a new phase of the ancient DNA research for which he has been awarded a James Cook Research Fellowship by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

It's the research that has earned his group at the Allan Wilson Centre, world wide accolades for its contribution to evolution studies and molecular ecology.

Having a source of well preserved remains thousands of years old and from other times in distant history has been a key contributor to advancing this research.

Professor Lambert and his group developed a series of novel approaches to measuring rates of molecular evolution and investigating the processes that underlie mutation. Their source of ancient DNA, for comparison with recent samples, was the remains of 6000-year old-Adélie penguins in Antarctica.

Now, with access to Sacred Ibis from the catacombs of ancient Egypt, Professor Lambert takes time out from teaching under the terms of his fellowship, to focus on making further discoveries through ancient DNA extracted from the Ibis.

The project, for which he's attracted this top scientific research fellowship, poses the question, "Does a simple sequence DNA evolve simply?"

Research with ancient DNA is now at a turning point, says Professor Lambert, with new genomic technologies opening the way to test new ideas. He is taking the next steps in his research programme with collaborators at University College London, the American University in Cairo and the University of Cape Town.

"With this fellowship, I can capitalise on technological and conceptual developments and apply them to my research programme. I will be able to help transfer these technologies to other New Zealand researchers."

"I feel that the opportunity to concentrate on all aspects of this programme from bioinformatics, experimental work to sample collection and analysis, will help to develop a uniquely New Zealand approach to a field of international interest."

The research involves studying changes in DNA samples from widely separated points in time. The DNA from mummified Sacred Ibis, in some cases as much as 6000 years old, will be compared with samples collected right up to the present day from the widespread population of Sacred Ibis still roaming in Africa.

Mummified Ibis exist in far greater numbers than the many other animals resting in the Egyptian catacombs, because the ancient Egyptians revered the Sacred Ibis as a manifestation of the god Thoth.

Research shows the type of mummification varied depending on when and where the birds were prepared . "Generally, once killed, they would have been desiccated with salts and then covered with oils and resins before being wrapped.

"Some Ibis mummies were placed in large pottery vessels that were sealed and placed in wooden coffins. Some were covered with a layer of a papier mache type material that was plastered and painted," says Professor Lambert.

"The mummification processes, together with moderate and constant temperature in the catacombs, are likely to have ensured good preservation of DNA, as well as the bodies themselves."

Samples of modern DNA will come from an avian unit at the University of Cape Town that regularly bleed Sacred Ibis throughout Africa to collect samples.

The ancient DNA will come from mummies at sites in Egypt and from museum material. Professor Lambert says

it's possible to collect samples from damaged mummies without further damage to the object.

And one of his collaborators, Professor Mark Spigelman (University College, London) has developed methods to sample fully wrapped mummies with an endoscope that will leave little, if any evidence of this intrusion in the name of science.

Date: 24/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Reserve Bank's liquidity boost a confidence booster

The head of the College of Business Professor Larry Rose says there are already signs of a positive response to the most recent moves by the Reserve Bank to ease nervousness about the economy.

Professor Rose noted that immediately after the central bank's move the New Zealand dollar jumped as confidence returned to equity markets, suggesting people had reacted well to the bank's initiative.

He says the bank's action, to help ease the credit squeeze on local banks, was to inject more temporary liquidity into the banking system. This including saying it would accept New Zealand bank bills as collateral.

Professor Rose says one of the responsibilities of the Reserve Bank and any central bank is to calm financial markets.

He says the bank's aim is to deal with some short-term fear factors in the economy and demonstrate that it is prepared to take care of such issues while other issues, outside the bank's control, play out in the international market.

He says positive factors, such as the higher than expected Fonterra payout to farmers, will also have a positive impact on confidence in the economy.

Date: 27/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Doug Hopcroft demonstrates the electron microscope for the Prime Minister, giving her a close-up view of a weta egg.

PM acknowledges contribution of science hub at Microscopy Centre opening

Prime Minister Helen Clark opened the new Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre on the Palmerston North campus today, citing the state-of-the-art centre as an example of industry and science coming together to boost knowledge and the economy.

The centre was a project very much in line with the Government's goals of driving New Zealand forward using research science and technology, Ms Clark said, and the successful application to the Tertiary Education Commission, which provided \$1.5 million for the project was recognition that the state-of-the-art facility would be used not only by Massey staff and students but by many Crown Research Institutes and industry partners.

“Palmerston North's contribution is huge in biological science and research, so it is very logical hub for a centre of this kind. The new Microscopy Centre enables the Manawatu to stay at the forefront of teaching and research in the biological sciences.”

The centre, which houses a range of imaging equipment for use across the physical and biological sciences, represented an important linkage between town and gown, Ms Clark said. “As a country we haven't always been good at that ... but a centre such as this makes it clear we should be.”

Ms Clark also noted the support for New Zealand's primary industries provided by the University.

“What we know is that our primary sector would not be making the huge contribution they are making to the economy were they not relying on the research coming out – a good deal of it coming here from Massey.”

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear said the cutting-edge microscopy and imaging technology was an essential component of research in many fields, including:

- The identification by a veterinary pathologist of disease-causing viruses.
- The study of milk proteins by Fonterra researchers.
- The investigation of the elemental composition of volcanic glass by vulcanologists.
- Confocal analysis of nutrient release in food products by researchers from Crop & Food.

The centre also supports areas of fundamental research such as studies in endophyte symbiosis, micro-rheological studies of bio-materials and human chromosome studies.

“The range of instruments and ancillary equipment – light, fluorescence and confocal microscopes and scanning and transmission electron microscopes – provides the tools to study biological and material structures, both the surfaces and interior features,” Professor Kinnear said. “The facility is already being heavily used by Massey staff

and those from external agencies. As well as this use by leading researchers, another important use in support of the research training of our PhD students who will be the next generation of researchers.”

Professor Kinnear acknowledged the work of artist Kura Te Waru Rewiri, whose work *You cannot measure the distance to infinity* is displayed in the centre.

“It’s a wonderfully apt title for a centre that is concerned with precise measurements – but, rather than measuring astronomically large distances reaching towards infinity, the transmission microscopy in the MMIC can reveal extraordinarily small distances reaching to the atomic level.”

The centre is a key resource for one of the most important biological science hubs in New Zealand. The hub includes the Hopkirk Research Institute for animal health research, four Crown Research Institutes (HortResearch, Crop & Food, AgResearch, Landcare Research), Fonterra Innovation, and Leather and Shoe Research.

More than 150 staff and guests attended the opening. Centre director Dr Al Rowland acknowledged the contribution made by staff, particularly Professor Barry Scott, the team at facilities management, and both the project architect and builder.

Date: 28/08/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Research

Lahar research gets funding from communication company

Investigating the recent “clockwork” lahar on Mt Ruapehu has netted postgraduate student Mark Dittmer a research grant from communication firm Senate Communication Counsel.

Mr Dittmer, a Masters student from the Department of Communication and Journalism, says it was fascinating to study 11 years of communication and issues management connected with the lahar.

“When the lahar swept down Ruapehu in March this year, there was a collective sigh of relief and praise for all the agencies involved. However, it’s important to remember the controversy that has surrounded this issue for years.”

Mr Dittmer describes the Tangiwai disaster, caused by a similar lahar in 1953, as “a spectre that dogged those charged with managing the build-up of water in the crater lake following Ruapehu’s 1995 eruption”. There was criticism of the Government’s decision not to bulldoze the crater rim, leading to media coverage and public concern.

“Management of public relations issues and reputation was an important part of managing the lahar, because all the stakeholders needed to be brought on board to work towards solutions.”

Senate Communication Counsel supports research that aims to increase knowledge and understanding of communication and reputation management, and promote communication research and evaluation. Up to two grants a year are available to postgraduate students attending Massey or Victoria Universities.

Senate Communication managing partner Neil Green says the decision to support Mr Dittmer’s research was an easy one to make. “The topic, and the role stakeholders played in the management of the lahar, make for a fascinating study,” Mr Green says. “Mark’s application had identified the range of issues involved and promises to be a very interesting piece of work. We look forward to supporting the development and promotion of his study.”

Mr Dittmer will use the \$1500 grant to visit and interview key people from agencies managing and communicating about the lahar. The scholarship also gives him the opportunity to work with Senate Communication Counsel partner Marjory Embleton to investigate the role stakeholder communication played in the lahar’s management.

The title of his thesis, *The Clockwork Lahar*, comes from a press interview with a Ruapehu District Council worker who said the lahar “went like clockwork”.

“It’s a great topic,” Mr Dittmer says. “The lahar has caught New Zealand’s attention for the past 11 years, and now it’s an excellent example of issues management in action.”

For more information: http://communication.massey.ac.nz/scholarships_grants.html

Date: 28/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Risk of deaths if horse flu spreads to New Zealand

Equine influenza can be fatal in horse populations like New Zealand and Australia's that have not previously been exposed to the viral infections, says Massey Professor of Equine Studies Joe Mayhew.

Professor Mayhew, a lecturer in equine medicine and neurology at the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Palmerston North, says the outbreak of influenza in Australian horses needs to be taken seriously by New Zealand because of the close relationship between our thoroughbred racing and breeding industries.

"Many of the horses that come into New Zealand from other countries do so via Australia," Professor Mayhew says. "MAF [Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry] Biosecurity here have done a very good job in advising the public and the veterinary profession what to do, in closing down importation of stock from Australia and following up the horses that have come in since 1 August. The information from them is very sensible and very clear."

However, he says there are misconceptions about equine influenza – that it is not fatal to horses and that thoroughbreds are more susceptible than other horses. Outbreaks in naïve populations – those that have little or no previous exposure – have been fatal in several eastern European countries and South Africa, he says. This usually involves young or aged horses but can be in apparently healthy, previously unaffected adult horses.

"There could easily be deaths [in Australia], particularly depending on which viral strain is involved. I expect there won't be though because they would tend to have happened already with all the positive blood tests recorded."

Because they often live in bigger groups and closer proximity than other breeds of horses, thoroughbreds and standardbreds may spread infection more readily, but because they tend to be very fit animals, are no more likely to suffer ill effects of the disease.

A fit horse that continued to be exercised or raced after exposure could easily end up with secondary illnesses like pneumonia, in the same way a fit human might more easily shake off the effects of influenza than an unhealthy person, but could also get very sick if they continued trying to keep fit after exposure.

Anyone who suspects their horse may be showing symptoms of equine influenza should contact their vet immediately or phone the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand emergency hotline 0800-809-966.

Date: 28/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Enron journalist to speak at Wellington conference



A New York journalist who played a key role in exposing corrupt energy company Enron will be the international guest speaker at a journalism educators' conference in Wellington in December.

The Journalism Education Association conference will be hosted by the University's Department of Communication and Journalism on 10-12 December.

Financial journalist Bethany McLean is generally regarded as being the first journalist to raise doubts about Enron in a national publication, triggering one of the great financial scandals of recent times. Covering the story for Fortune magazine in 2001, Ms McLean challenged Enron over its financial accounting practices and questioned whether it was the powerhouse most people assumed it to be.

In fact, although Enron's accounts gave the impression the company was making handsome profits, it was heading for collapse. The scandal erupted several months later when Enron went bankrupt. Thousands of people lost their jobs and pension savings and Enron's accountants, Arthur Andersen, one of the world's top accounting firms, also collapsed.

In the ensuing raft of court trials, Enron's chairman and former chief executive were convicted of charges of fraud, insider trading, money laundering and conspiracy. Major new United States securities law was passed in the wake of the scandal. Ms McLean continued to cover the Enron story and co-wrote the book *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*, later made into an Academy Award-nominated documentary, in which she appears.

"We are delighted to have Bethany at our conference," says association president and Massey Journalism head Dr Grant Hannis. "In the context of business journalism, the Enron scandal is one of the all-time great stories. With commentators frequently questioning the quality of business journalism in New Zealand, this is a golden opportunity to learn from one of the best.

"She will give three presentations – a keynote address, an after-dinner speech, and a research seminar – so delegates will have ample opportunity to hear her.

"Bethany's appearance is possible, thanks to generous support from our sponsors, including Fairfax and APN."

The conference will also feature several high profile local speakers, including Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst, looking at the past and future of print journalism, Radio New Zealand's Mediawatch host Colin Peacock and TV3 political reporter Duncan Garner.

For more information: <http://communication.massey.ac.nz/jeanz.html>

Date: 30/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar

Maori Television accused of missing language focus

Massey's Maori Language head has lashed out at Maori Television for failing to run a live coverage in te reo Maori of the new Maori King's coronation ceremony held last month at Turangawaewae, Ngaruawahia.



The head of Maori Language, Professor Tairahia Black, says the occasion was a rare opportunity to help revitalise and advance Maori language by broadcasting an event with historical and contemporary relevance. The presence of tribal scholars speaking in te reo Maori provided a rich array of thought-provoking and engaging ideas, and perspectives on historical events, relationships, political ambitions, and tribal aspirations, he said.

“The opportunity was here to capture the diction, imagery and style employed,” Professor Black says. “Why did Maori TV not bring its excellent Maori speakers to the forum to provide a live analysis of the meaning of such an important occasion?”

“It was a unique occasion to promote and present te reo Maori to the vast network of reo Maori communities around the country.

“Maori TV must be reminded and held accountable so Maori can access quality Maori language options to build Maori language proficiency and knowledge about ourselves to increase the status and the use of te reo Maori. Isn't this what Maori TV was established to do in 2004 based on the premise te reo Maori is a taonga to be protected and promoted as a living language?”

He says King Tuheitia served as an excellent role model by delivering his speech with dignity and poetry, reflecting the aspirations of his late mother Te Atairangikaahu who Professor Black says “used her powerful, and dignified influence to halt the tide of Maori language loss.

“The language exhibition that we heard was basically about informing non-Maori and moving deliberately away from supporting Maori language revitalisation,” Professor Black says.

He is also sceptical of the value of the second Maori television channel, due to be launched next year with a greater emphasis on te reo Maori, describing it as a waste of resources.

“Let's get this one right and build a stronger reo platform with what we already have.”

Maori Television chief executive Jim Mather has said in a statement that the second channel would better meet the needs of fluent speakers and Maori language learners by screening three hours daily programming in 100 per cent te reo.

Professor Black felt those running Maori television have lost sight of their core aims by diluting reo Maori content in order to attract a more general audience to Maori-themed programmes. But this was a contradiction of what the channel was set up to do, he said.

There were plenty of fluent te reo speakers already working in Maori television whose skills were not being well-utilised, as well as fluent Maori speakers, second language speakers in Maori language communities throughout the country who were not being well served by Maori Television's current offerings, Professor Black said.

He frequently writes to Maori Television bosses challenging their programming choices, and would like to see a review, or even a research-driven baseline study and a follow-up study targeting reo Maori audience participation levels.

“It took 20 years and court cases and legislation to get a Maori language television station and now it seems MTS is heading off in another direction. What's happened to the objective here?”

Professor Black says there are some exciting reo Maori initiatives at Massey.

“We now have eight students writing doctorates in te reo Maori, and last November hosted the first-ever Maori conference where te reo Maori was the only vehicle used by all the keynote speakers, presenters and participants.”

Date: 31/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

Finance experts urge action to quell investor panic

 [Watch the ONE News item](#)

Massey finance researchers are urging the Government or the Reserve Bank to act quickly to restore investor confidence and halt the contagion-like run of collapsing finance companies.

Dr Chris Malone, from the College of Business's Department of Finance, Property and Banking, says a failure to quell investors' fears and help remaining financial institutions survive could lead to negative impacts on other sectors.

The head of the University's Centre for Banking Studies, Dr David Tripe, is also predicting that investor panic could get worse and the domino effect could have a wider economic impact on the supply of credit.

Dr Tripe says New Zealanders need to become more sophisticated about their savings and investment decisions.

"There is a danger in mixing all sorts of financial institutions together, and banks are not perfect. If everyone starts to panic, the pressure very quickly goes on otherwise solvent companies as they face demands for repayment of deposits.

"This potentially cuts some supplies of credit and although the finance companies are not the biggest players in the market they are important for the funding of second-hand cars and hire purchase agreements for retailers."

He says to break the "circuit of panic" the Reserve Bank could be given the power to extend some lender of last resort facility to finance companies.

"Companies could present the central bank with quality loans and ask for, say, a 60 per cent advance on that loan immediately. A central authority could also offer, on a temporary basis, to guarantee 90 per cent of all finance company deposits of up to \$100,000 to halt panic among small and medium investors."

Dr Malone says the situation has developed into a classic "lemons" market, where investors find it hard to distinguish the good from the bad. "In that scenario the whole market can fail unless a monetary authority intervenes and provides liquidity. That help needs to be directed at the lower investment grade end of the market."

"The area of financial contagion is very high on the research agenda of monetary authorities at present. In a sense, it is one of the greatest contributions our discipline can make to society, if it helps us understand how to alleviate and avoid financial contagion."

Dr Malone says monetary authorities are increasingly involved in managing and supporting investor confidence, with beneficial results. "So it seems strange that the Government appears to think the current situation is acceptable. In a credit crunch, there is a strong reason to act. The worst-case scenario is not worth contemplating."

Seven finance companies have failed in the past 16 months, including three in the past eight days, raising fears that investor fear will see even robust and otherwise healthy companies start to collapse. The investment market is now calling for compulsory credit ratings and some sort of supervision to lift falling confidence in finance companies.

Date: 31/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Video Multimedia

Fulbright scholarship leads to research on why so few women become sports coaches

The University's Director of Sport, Dr Sarah Leberman, has won a Fulbright Scholarship to the United States, which she will use to study the issue of why women – particularly mothers – tend not to become sports coaches.

Dr Leberman, a Senior Lecturer in Sport Management in the College of Business's Department of Management, will spend four months at the Tucker Centre for Research on Girls and Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis-St Paul. The centre is the only one of its kind in the world.

Existing research focuses on coaches at the elite level, but she says it is time to consider why men still dominate in coaching sport. There seems to be a perception among girls in sports teams that for a team to have a good coach the coach should be a man, she says.

“Little is known about the influence mothers have on children with respect to sport and their position as role models for children in sport.

“This is like the final frontier for women. Increasing numbers are making it to the top in business, in politics, academia and competing in sports, but when it comes to coaching, sport administration and governance they are very much in the minority.”

She says the reasons for this may include lack of role models and mentors. “There may also be a lack of confidence or issues with childcare that see fewer women managing and coaching sport.

“Much of the previous research has focussed on the work-life conflict experienced by women in paid coaching positions overseas, whereas the situation in New Zealand is different, with few paid coaching positions available and the majority of coaches, sport administrators and board roles being voluntary positions which need to fit in around often full-time work and family commitments.

“The aim of the Fulbright programme is to encourage the exchange of ideas between New Zealand and the United States and as sport plays a prominent role in the culture and economy of both countries it provides an excellent platform from which to start a positive dialogue.”

As a specialist in sport management and the sociology of sport, she has a long-term focus on women in sport leadership. She will also use the study award to explore findings in the United States related to women in decision making roles in sport and the barriers to women getting into these roles.

“This experience will enable me to integrate new learning into my research and sport management teaching, as well as my community work. It will provide me with a greater understanding of sport and the education system in the United States and facilitate the promotion of study opportunities to students I interact with in academia, as well as the athletes I interact with through my sporting involvement.

“Through my role as Director of Sport at Massey and as an executive board member of the New Zealand Centre for Women and Leadership, I intend to continue to develop my professional relationships with academics from the United States and to encourage Massey colleagues to either study or conduct research in the United States.”

Dr Leberman has been involved in the sport and recreation industry within New Zealand for the past 19 years as an academic, practitioner, consultant, administrator and participant. She is one of the five recipients of the latest Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards.

She leaves on 1 October.

For further information: <https://www.massey.ac.nz/~sleberma/>

Date: 31/08/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Power imbalance in health planning

New research has identified problems with community participation in planning and setting up primary health services in New Zealand.

Management researcher, Jan Lockett-Kay, from Massey University, says community participation is a Government requirement in the development, governance and monitoring of health services. But her research suggests the traditional model of involving communities is not working.

Health strategy implementation in New Zealand is prescriptive and centrally driven yet requires community input, she says. This should enhance the likelihood of health services reflecting the unique needs of the community it serves. But the challenge for health service planners is to manage the contradictions and tensions which emerge as a result of both centrally determined and community determined expectations.

Ms Lockett-Kay used as a case study the establishment process for the Horowhenua Primary Health Organisation, which she observed over a nine-month period.

She found the effectiveness of community involvement is diminished by factors that include a power imbalance between the bureaucrats and community representatives, a lack of knowledge and understanding on both sides, and inadequate resourcing.

Her study suggests:

- Power imbalances should be addressed: Bureaucrats, health professionals and other experts must work with and along-side communities.
- All stakeholders (community, health professional and bureaucrat) have valuable knowledge to contribute to the planning process. The knowledge brought by community representatives is important and legitimate. Experts and community representatives must learn from each other.
- The unique needs of a community must be incorporated in planning, and community representatives are very well positioned to take leadership in this.
- Community participants should be involved in all decision-making processes and not excluded at various stages of the planning process simply because they do not have the knowledge and skills.

As just one example of difficulties with communication and resourcing, Ms Lockett-Kay says community participants often have problems receiving and printing out large documents using home computers. Most resource material in the Horowhenua Primary Health Organisation planning was in electronic form.

She also says although the way the experts treated community people was not intended, it sent a clear signal of disempowerment.

Ms Lockett-Kay says policy makers are aware that primary health services will not work in the longer term if they do not meet the needs of their communities and are not run in line with the community's way of doing.

She says the issue is important, with health service funders and providers continually looking at ways to make community participation more effective.

We need a new way of doing things. Community representatives must develop new skills and competencies and the experts also need new skills to better understand communities and what they need, she says.

The traditional community development model, formulated by the World Health Organisation, is often used to involve communities. But this approach will not work in the current New Zealand policy environment where stakeholders with differing access to knowledge and power are required to work together.

Ms Lockett-Kay says the New Zealand primary health care context provides excellent opportunities for experts and grass roots communities to establish strong collaborative approaches to service planning.

If this is not achieved there is the risk that traditional consultation processes will continue to keep decision-making in the control of the experts and the community's input as mere tokenism.

New relationships and partnerships that challenge and modify existing networks are essential .

Date: 01/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

Workshop explores sustainable farms

The 20th Annual Fertiliser and Lime Research Centre workshop focused on topics of high public interest under discussion again this year, with presentations on water quality, forestry conversions to dairy farming, and carbon credits.

Lance Currie, of the University's Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre, says the two-day workshop examined critical aspects of soil and water management.

Presentations were organised into four sessions – environmental best management, closing the nitrogen cycle, measuring land use impacts, and carbon farming.

Keynote speakers included: Robert Brodnax, head of policy and strategy at Environment Waikato, on managing the adverse effects of land-use intensification; Robert Sojka, former President of the American Society of Soil Science, on the management of irrigated agriculture to increase carbon storage; Jim Watson, Genesis Research and Development, on energy farming and bio-refining.

Presentations by Massey researchers included: Mike Bretherton on the variability of soil water and production in hill country pasture; Baisen Zhang and Professor Russ Tillman on pasture responses to nitrogen and phosphorous fertiliser, and Dr Ian Yule and Hayden Lawrence on ground-based fertiliser-spreading vehicles.

A conference programme can be read at: <http://flrc.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 02/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar

Business students take out top prizes in inter-university competitions

Massey College of Business students have won two national competitions in which their strategic skills were pitted against teams of students from other institutions.

A Master of Business Administration team of four from the Auckland campus won a Deloitte post-graduate business strategy competition at Canterbury University last week; while a few days earlier an undergraduate team of business students was first-equal in the Endace National Business Case Competition at Otago University.



Both events attract entrants from across the tertiary education sector. Teams typically combine strengths from the full spectrum of business-related research, including strategy, marketing, finance and human resources.

They are presented with a problem case study and given a specified amount of time to develop and present solutions, something the College of Business trains them for beforehand by presenting them a range of challenges upon which to practice.

In the Deloitte-sponsored strategy competition, Massey's winning MBA team was Michelle Cathcart, Bill Dyet, Cheryl Gush and Matthew Playne. Their challenge was to work out steps to take a young company from entrepreneurial start-up to a successful management-driven organisation.



Mr Playne, who came to the MBA course with an engineering degree and experience in electronics and new technology firms, says the competition provided an exceptional challenge and opportunity. "It was a very practical application of what we've been learning," he says. "We had to tie in our education with the real world under considerable pressure."

Team co-ordinator and manager of the Graduate School of Business in Auckland, Patricia Fulcher, says the interdisciplinary nature of the MBA course gave the students the edge over other teams with more specialised post-graduate education. "Our team could see the whole picture and had a seamless transition working between them," she says.

The undergraduate team which came first-equal with a team from Auckland University in the Endace-sponsored competition was Angus Blair-Butler, Trent Hansen, Teresa Sagacious and Jodie Ahern. They were mentored by Jonathan Matheny, a senior lecturer in management and international business.

Endace, of Auckland, is a global leader in network monitoring intelligence. Its chief executive Selwyn Pellet, a judge in the competition, says: "The Massey team won because they nailed the project at a logic level better than their competitors."

Captions

Top: The Deloitte winners, from left: Michelle Cathcart, Cheryl Gush, team co-ordinator Patricia Fulcher, Mathew Playne and Bill Dyet.

Bottom: The Endace winners, from left: Angus Blair-Butler, Jodie Ahern, team mentor Dr Jonathan Matheny, Teresa Segacious and Trent Hansen.

Date: 03/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Memorial lecture in honour of Sir Hugh Kawharu

Te Putahi-a-Toi will host a memorial lecture on 26 October 2007 in honour of the late Sir Hugh Kawharu.

Sir Hugh, a noted Maori academic and scholar who gained degrees from New Zealand, Oxford and Cambridge universities, was appointed the Foundation Professor of Anthropology and Maori Studies at Massey University from 1971 to 1985.

The lecture, to be given by Maori Language Professor Tairahia Black, will have added significance as the whanau pani (bereaved whanau) and kaumatua of Ngati Whatua will travel from Auckland to commemorate Sir Hugh and his contribution to Massey and the Manawatu Maori and Pakeha community.

Nga Whakahaere (Programme)

2pm Whakaeke Whanau pani and kaumatua of Ngati Whatua will be received at Te Putahi-a-Toi.

2.45pm A memorial commemoration on the 7th floor of the Social Science Tower, where Professor Kawharu's office was located and kowhaiwhai panels were installed.

3.15pm Afternoon tea - Russell Room, Wharerata.

4pm Sir Hugh Kawharu Memorial Lecture: Professor Tairahia Black, at Te Putahi-a-Toi.

5.30pm Dinner - Russell Room, Wharerata.

Date: 03/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar; Maori

Marsden funding for 12 research projects

The Royal Society's Marsden fund is supporting eight new research projects led by University staff and four Fast Start projects for emerging researchers, with new funding totaling \$5.86 million over three years.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the funding is further evidence of the University's focus on excellence, coming soon after the announcement of \$13.6 million research funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and the Government's decision to fund the Riddet Centre as a new Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) and continue funding the Allan Wilson as an existing CoRE. In all, the two centres will receive a total of just over \$38 million in operating funding over a six-year period and more than \$3 million in capital.

"Success in the highly competitive Marsden funding attests to the outstanding quality of Massey researchers in a diversity of domains, ranging from theoretical chemistry to indigenous governance and I'm delighted to salute the researchers involved," Professor Kinnear says. "It is particularly pleasing to note that both the number of projects receiving Marsden funding and the total amount awarded in this round are greater than that received last year."

The Marsden Fund supports excellence in leading-edge research in New Zealand. The Government provides funding for projects of the highest calibre, which are selected by a rigorous panel of nine experts guided by world-leading referees. The fund is administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand. This year it awarded grants totaling \$44 million.

Last year, the University received funding for six projects and five fast start grants, totaling \$5 million. Many other staff are acknowledged as associate investigators in projects led by other institutions.

Marsden grants:

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin, Institute of information and Mathematical Sciences in Auckland, receives \$502,400 for a project on modern analysis and geometry. The work will investigate two central areas of modern mathematics: nonlinear analysis and low-dimensional topology linked by conformal geometry.

Dr Ulrich Zuelicke, Institute of Fundamental Sciences in Palmerston North, receives \$800,000 for the project Jitterbug on a chip: Semiconductor nanospintronics meets relativistic quantum physics.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, Institute of Fundamental Sciences in Auckland, receives \$720,000 for work on chemistry under extreme conditions. The work will address material chemistry under ultra-high pressure by using first-principles relativistic quantum mechanical methods to study new phases and accompanying electronic properties.

Professor Robert McLachlan, Institute of Fundamental Sciences in Palmerston North, receives \$350,000 for a project on geometric integration, a novel approach to simulating the motion of large systems.

Professor D Barry Scott, Institute of Molecular Biosciences in Palmerston North, receives \$750,000 for a project addressing the biological role for reactive oxygen species. The work will provide insights into the molecular and cellular basis for mutualism in fungal-plant interaction.

Dr Joachim Brand, Institute of Fundamental Sciences in Auckland receives \$670,000 for a project studying the dynamics of ultra-cold atoms.

Dr Lara Shepherd, of the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution in Palmerston North, receives \$596,000 for a project tracing the domestication of history and whakapapa of cultivated new Zealand plants using DNA markers. The genetic data combined with traditional oral histories and reflect and illuminate pre-European Maori settlement routes and mobility.

Associate Professor Doug Armstrong, Institute of Natural Resources in Palmerston North, receives \$791,000 for an experimental investigation of predator-prey dynamics in a fragmented landscape. The work will be the first experimental test of functional response in a wildlife predator-prey system, and will have international significance for both population ecology and conservation biology.

Fast Start grants:

Dr Manuhia Barcham, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development in Palmerston North, receives a \$170,000 grant to study indigenous corporate structure. In recent years indigenous groups have begun to establish corporations to manage proceeds of treaty settlements. Dr Barcham's project will look at what is working and what is not working, and why. The key question is which are the most effective governance processes and structures for indigenous groups.

Dr Vyacheslav Filichev, Institute of Fundamental Science in Palmerston North, receives \$170,000 for the project Synthetic probes yielding stable and selective DNA triplexes for gene visualisation. This work may lead to progress in diagnosis of genes associated with diseases and advances in cytogenetic research and the development of new drugs.

Dr Patrick Bowman, of the Centre for Theoretical Chemistry and Physics, at Auckland, receives \$170,000 titled Bondage and confinement: How hadrons keep their quarks.

Dr Phil Battley, Institute of Natural Resources in Palmerston North, receives \$170,000 to explore how globally-migrating shorebirds cope with the limitations of their multi-purpose coat, by investigating the roles of melanin levels (which colour and strengthen feathers) and feather wear in shaping the visual signals of the breeding plumage.

Date: 06/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Funding



Michael Archer (left) and Jenny Weston in surgery with cow Number 168.

Boom makes surgery viable for dairy cattle

 [ASB Breakfast item](#)

The bone chip in dairy cow Number 168's front leg should have been a death sentence, but the skill of equine surgeon Michael Archer means the two-year-old lives to milk another season.

Mr Archer and veterinary lecturer Jenny Weston, who assessed the cow for the University's farm veterinary service last week, operated on Number 168 yesterday, removing a six-centimetre fragment of bone from her front right leg.



"She had the bone fracture about a month ago," Ms Weston says, "when she became caught in the backing gate in the milking shed. It wasn't obvious how bad the leg was and she was not very lame. What we discovered on X-ray yesterday was that a large chip of bone had broken off – the body has reacted to it like a foreign body and the leg has become infected and swollen. Without surgery there was no chance of recovery."

Most surgery performed on cows is done on-farm with the cow standing and using local anaesthetic, but the more complex bone fracture work required a full general anaesthetic. Cows have not routinely received this level of treatment due to the cost, but with the dairy payout topping \$6.40/kg of milksolids for the 2007/08 season and prices reaching up to \$2500 per head, the cow's owner Noel Johnston opted for the surgery.

"She is worth considerably more than she was 12 months ago," says Mr Johnston, who farms two properties in the Manawatu. "It is perceived they [dairy cows] are hard to come by but people might be over-reacting, although we have seen a scarcity of dairy cattle in the past."

Although bone chips are routinely repaired on horses, it is rare for a cow to be treated surgically in the vet hospital, so Ms Weston called on colleague Michael Archer to perform the surgery. Ms Weston says it was necessary to chisel out the new bone growth around the fracture, but the operation went well.

"She should recover well – we'll keep her here for at least a week and will milk her while she's here. It could have been a death sentence so she's a very lucky cow."

Date: 06/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Video Multimedia



Photo: Keith Woodley

Bar-tailed godwit E7 photographed after it was fitted with its transmitter in February this year, just prior to migrating to Alaska.

E7 arrives on schedule but no photos please!

▶ **VIDEO** [Watch the 3 News item](#)

▶ **AUDIO** [Listen to the BBC Radio 4 interview \(MP3\)](#)

E7 is back at Miranda after becoming the first godwit to have her migration monitored by satellite, but has confounded attempts to photograph her after her epic journey. Massey ecologist Dr Phil Battley, who tagged 16 bar-tailed godwits to identify how they made their way to and from Alaska, says E7 is back at her favourite spot on the south side of the Firth of Thames.

"Unfortunately it's a muddy spot with no access so while it would be nice to have pictures we just haven't been able to photograph her," Dr Battley says.

"She probably arrived late on Friday night. Her transmitter is on for six hours every 36 hours and on Friday afternoon she was south-west of Ninety Mile Beach in Northland. By 3am on Sunday morning she was back at Miranda."

E7 will stay in the Firth of Thames resting and "refuelling" until about March, when she will make her way back to Alaska to have her chicks. Data provided by the transmitter means that Dr Battley now knows for sure her route, with her entire migratory journey clocking in at close to 30,000 km, and the southern return leg at more than 11,500km.

"She had the option to fly down to the Alaskan peninsula and take off from about 500 km further south but she didn't do that - this indicates the long journey is not such a problem to her or that she's needing to find a shorter route."

Dr Battley is now awaiting the arrival of four other birds with transmitters still working. Eight birds fitted with backpack tracking devices have not been monitored because the devices appear to have fallen off. The transmitters on three of the eight birds which had the devices surgically implanted also appear to have stopped working.

The next project for Dr Battley is to undertake similar work with a sub-population of the bar-tailed godwit in northwest Australia, allowing comparison of the migratory habits of the two populations.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6988720.stm>

The satellite track of the godwits' travels can be viewed online at:
http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/shorebirds/pacific_migration.html

Date: 07/09/2007

Type: Research

Asthma prevalence may be in decline

The rise in prevalence of asthma symptoms in English-speaking countries such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand has peaked and may even be in decline, researchers have found.

Professor Neil Pearce of the Centre for Public Health Research is the lead author of a paper from phase three of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) published in the international medical journal *Thorax* this month. Key findings include that in most high asthma prevalence countries, particularly English-speaking countries, fewer people are reporting asthma symptoms. Countries in other parts of the world are showing a marked increase in reporting of asthma symptoms, including Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, Panama, Chile, Mexico and Argentina.

The phase one findings, published in 1998 showed that the highest prevalence of symptoms in a 12-month period were reported in English-speaking countries such as Britain, Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland. By phase three, the prevalence of asthma symptoms in 13-14 year old children in these countries had dropped by from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

Phase one found relatively low prevalence in Africa and Asia, with the exception of affluent countries such as Japan and Singapore. "The phase three findings indicate that the striking increases for Latin American countries may lead to a future where asthma is described as a Spanish and Portuguese speaking disease, rather than as an English-speaking disease as it has been known in the past," says Professor Pearce.

"The modest increases for some Asian countries are of potentially major significance given the size of Asia's population and rapid economic growth. Thus, although asthma symptom prevalence is no longer increasing in English language and Western European countries, its global burden may continue to rise."

The ISAAC study is the most extensive international survey of asthma symptom prevalence ever performed. It is led by Professor Innes Asher, at Auckland University's Department of Paediatrics, and Professor Pearce is a member of the five-person executive committee. Professors Asher, Pearce and others founded the study in 1990. More than two million children in 100 countries have been studied. Phase one research was undertaken in the early 1990s, with the phase three surveys taking place five to 10 years later.

Date: 07/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Tackling teen problems by helping school counsellors

Helping distressed teenagers by providing professional support to the overworked North Shore school guidance counsellors who work with them is one of the ways the School of Psychology is reaching out to the community.

Since the Auckland-based School of Psychology launched its "Bringing psychology to the community" services a year ago through its Centre for Psychology, counsellors have been getting extra help from Massey experts, particularly in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques.

Counsellors say the additional training, networking with peers and professional support from the University has helped them significantly in dealing with the quantity, intensity and type of problems that troubled teens approach them for help with daily - from heartbreak over broken romances to the impact of bullying as well as trauma over family break-ups.

"We are run ragged," says Judith Innes, guidance counsellor at Rangitoto College - the country's largest secondary school with more than 3000 students.

"There is never any end to the demands [of students seeking help], so the more skills you have, the more ways you can see to help the clients," she said.

Director of the Centre for Psychology, Dr Kerry Gibson, along with clinical psychologist Kay Mathewson both with longstanding experience and interest in child and adolescent psychology are keen to bridge the divide between academic research and knowledge, and frontline counselling in the arena of teen mental health.

Dr Gibson says school counsellors do a great job, despite being pushed to their limits in terms of resources.

But they are increasingly confronted with students whose state requires more specialised and intensive help than can readily be offered by overstretched school counsellors and who are not eligible for specialised adolescent mental health services reserved for more severe problems.

"We see ourselves as working alongside them, providing professional support and training. We don't want to wait till a child attempts suicide before they get the help they need."

Ms Mathewson says more subtle bullying is one of the trends school counsellors are confronting. This occurs through social exclusion, shifting alliances and deception - such as arranging to meet someone in a group then the group not turning up.

These less obvious methods are harmful and can cause low self-esteem, self-doubt, anxiety, depression, self-loathing and academic non-performance, she says.

Donna Ransley, the only full-time school guidance counsellor at Long Bay College, which has 1800 students, says her workload is "chaos - it's unbelievable, we don't stop".

She says the bulk of her clients' troubles stem from adapting to newly-blended families, and coping with a sense of loss from the changed relationship with their primary caregiver.

The extra training from Massey has been "a big help, especially the CBT training for anxiety and depression", she says.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Christian Centre fundraising launch

A campaign will be launched this month to raise \$1.45 million to build a Christian Centre on the Palmerston North campus.

After several years' planning, a fundraising campaign committee has been formed chaired by former Palmerston North Mayor, Chief Ombudsman and Local Government Commission chairman Sir Brian Elwood.

A consultant to the committee, Tony Pilalis, says the centre will be built on currently vacant land adjacent to the north-eastern end of the science towers.

Mr Pilalis says the committee already has money promised to it and hopes to complete fundraising by the year's end and start construction in the first half of next year.

The centre will be available to staff and students of all Christian denominations and will also be base for chaplaincy services on campus, he says.

It will have a library/reading room, kitchen and café facilities, and offices and an administration area for chaplaincy.

The main meeting room will be designed to provide acoustics that enable it to be used as a venue for weddings, small concerts and other gatherings.

Terry McGrath, one of a team of seven chaplains working on campus, says he expects up to 700 students would visit the centre each week. "The level of student involvement in Christian things is quite high," says Mr McGrath, from the Kingston Street Community Church in Awapuni. "The present centre [on Colombo Rd] is used to capacity. We get about 200 through each week now and it's a small building."

Mr McGrath is a member of the University's Community Christian Centre Trust, as is Palmerston North's Students' Association president Paul Falloon. The trust is chaired by former Chancellor Morva Crosson.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says she is looking forward to the establishment of the centre.

"Massey University welcomes students of all ages and from all parts of the world and, as well as providing a rich learning environment, we are also committed to providing pastoral care. The spiritual and reflective nature of the Christian Centre will add an important dimension to life on campus."

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Services

Making the finals in Māori writing

Bachelor of Arts student Royna Ngahua Fifield is a finalist in a short story section of this year's Pikihua Awards for Māori Writers.

The awards are run by the Māori Literature Trust and Huia Publishers.

Ms Fifield is a finalist in the Best Short Story in English category, for her story titled Secrets of the Heart.

As a finalist in this section, her story will be published in Huia Short Stories 7. The collection, and a second book of stories entirely in te reo, will be launched on 15 September at the Festival of Māori Writers in Wellington. The winners of the awards will also be announced at an awards dinner on the same night.

Ms Fifield is a third-year student, majoring in English, who plans to do Honours at the University next year. Kaitautoko Māori Tracey Hepi-Eparaima describes her as a great role model for Māori students.

Two sons of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Mason Durie, also feature among the finalists in this year's Pikihua Awards. Meihana Durie is a finalist in the short story section, with a story titled How it all happens in the end. He and his brother, Pere Durie, are also finalists in the short film script section.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Professor Ian Evans with Robyn Knuth.

Key roles for Psychology staff in professional practice publication

Staff from the School of Psychology have played key roles in writing *Professional Practice of Psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand*, published by the New Zealand Psychological Society.

The book is intended to be a text for students and practising psychologists, and updates the discipline after the adoption of the Code of Ethics for Psychologists, endorsed by the society in 2002 and the Government's Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act, which came into law in 2003.

Professor Ian Evans co-edited the book and co-authored chapter 18 on Integrating Research and Practice in *Professional Psychology: Models and Paradigms*, with other staff members contributing to or writing eight chapters.

Massey staff contributing as authors or co-authors includes Mei Wah Williams (Chapter five, *Asian Peoples in New Zealand: Implications for Psychological Practice*), Joanne Taylor and Jan Dickson (Chapter 8, *Confidentiality and Privacy*), Kerry Chamberlain (Chapter 10, *Research Ethics and the Protection of Human Participants*), Jhanitra Gavala (Chapter 14, *Training and Supporting a Māori Workforce*), Dianne Gardner (Chapter 15, *Professional Wellbeing*), Leigh Coombes and Erika Te Hiwi (Chapter 24, *Social Justice, Community Change*), Cheryl Woolley (Chapter 25, *Child Abuse and Neglect: Prevention and Intervention*) and Jean Annan (Chapter 29, *Beyond Educational and Clinical Psychology: Working with Children, Families and the Agencies that Care for Them*).

Staff members on the editorial board were Simon Bennett, Stuart Carr, Kerry Chamberlain, Leigh Coombes, Robert Gregory, Shane Harvey, Nikolas Kazantzis, Paul Merrick, Mandy Morgan, Julianna Raskausas, Joanne Taylor, Erika Te Hiwi and Cheryl Woolley. Robyn Knuth acted as editorial assistant for the project.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



James Hudson

Concept could become cultural showcase blueprint

A concept developed by Māori researcher James Hudson may become a blueprint for the way Māori store and showcase their history and culture, from artifacts to intellectual property.

Mr Hudson, a researcher from the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), led a research project that came up with an innovative concept for Ngāpuhi for a knowledge centre or whare mātauranga that Ngāpuhi are now moving to develop in the Northland region.

However, the feasibility study and recommendations from Mr Hudson have taken the Kaikohe-based centre and its function well beyond what it might have been and the planned Mātauranga Centre has been hailed as a very exciting development for both Ngāpuhi and the Northland region.

The new centre will serve as an intellectual storehouse, of Ngāpuhi resources and as an indigenous research centre. The innovation lies in the way in which the centre will interface with other organisations across the country from museums to research institutions.

"We have really welcomed the opportunity to contribute to this and I am delighted that Ngāpuhi have decided to adopt the concept," says Mr Hudson.

"It is not envisaged that the centre be a wananga, museum or training provider. Rather it is to be an indigenous research organisation whose emphasis is the development of the Ngāpuhi iwi," he says.

Technology will take the centre beyond bricks and mortar with digital storage where appropriate and a virtual component connecting and interacting with other locations that will in fact become 'outreaches' of the centre.

For example, the virtual concept might enable taonga and korero to be linked digitally between marae and a central archive at the facility to be built in Kaikohe, Mr Hudson says.

"Our concept for the centre is really all about relationships," says Mr Hudson. "It became clear that different groups across the region had different strengths, from tourism to art or research.

"It made sense, therefore, to deliver the centre to the people, rather than automatically work the other way round and bring everything to the centre.

"In that sense, what is developed in Kaikohe will be a conduit. Similarly, good working relationships will be developed with national repositories like Te Papa, and other museums, libraries and film archives.

"The strategy arises from a collective Ngāpuhi vision and the project will be based on the synergy that flows internally and externally to stakeholders," he says.

At the recommendation of the Massey feasibility study, Te Runanga ā Iwi ō Ngāpuhi has appointed an Interim Consultative Board to carry the project forward. The board members are: Ella Henry (Business Consultant), Dr Mere Roberts (Head of Science, Te Whare Wānanga ō Awanuiarangi), Hone Sadler (Lecturer in Māori Studies Te Wānanga ō Waipapa, Auckland University), Dr Cliff Whiting (Whānau-ā-Apanui, leading educator and advisor on Māori arts.

It is anticipated that the Ngāpuhi Mātauranga Centre will be self-sustaining, independent of state support and within the full control of Ngāpuhi.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

Government's Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships

Three Massey PhD students have been awarded the Government's top scholarships with a total value of more than \$280,000. The Massey recipients of the Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships, of 24 announced recently by the Tertiary Education Commission, are: Alistair Clement, from the School of People, Environment and Planning; Margaret Hartnett from the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy; and Jess Costall, from the School of Ecology/Zoology and Environmental Science.

Alistair Clement: The geomorphological evolution of the Manawatu coastal plain. The Manawatu estuary is the largest estuary on the southwest coast of the North Island. At its maximum extent the estuary reached from Shannon in the east and north to Opiki, with extensions into the lower western valleys of the Tararua Range. Today, little of the original estuary remains as the coast adjusted to the modern sea level highstand by prograding approximately 4km, forming the expansive Manawatu coastal plain.



Mr Clement's project will incorporate geochronology, sedimentology, faunal analysis, geophysics and geographic information systems to investigate the geomorphological evolution of the Manawatu coastal plain in response to climate change that has occurred over the past 10,000 years.

This project represents unique research in both a national and international context. It aims to present a regional model of Holocene coastal plain evolution, utilising a new dating technique in order to overcome the deficiencies of traditional methods. Models of future sedimentation trends as influenced by climate change will result, as will a quantification of the anthropogenic influences on the marginal marine record in the Manawatu.

Margaret Hartnett: Diversity dimensions in online learning environments - towards a model for integration. With the fast-paced development of technology, 'organic computing' has recently emerged as a challenging vision for future information processing systems.



"Organic computing is based on the insight that we will soon be surrounded by large collections of autonomous systems, which are equipped with sensors and actuators; are aware of their environment; can communicate freely, and organise themselves in order to perform the actions and services that seem to be required," Ms Hartnett says. "They also provide new learning opportunities."

It is envisaged that the investigation will contribute towards personalisation of the learning experience of students, based on sound pedagogical principles, thereby improving the experience and learning outcomes for students and teachers from diverse backgrounds.

In addition a collaborative research project, Organic computing and adaptive learning technologies in a Multicultural Context, between the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy at Massey and a researcher in England is proposed using the research findings from this project as the basic design principles to create the prototype of an online learning system; thereby building links between researchers in New Zealand and Britain.

Jessica Costall: Impacts of fragmentation on the ecological integrity of native lowland forest. Most of New Zealand's indigenous lowland forest cover now exists as small, isolated, and highly altered fragments. Although it is known that fragmentation causes a decline in plant biodiversity, the effects of fragmentation on invertebrate biodiversity have not been comprehensively assessed.



This is despite the important role that invertebrates have in providing essential ecological services such as decomposition and nutrient cycling.

Ms Costall says that the intent of this project is to perform a comprehensive assessment of how fragmentation has affected the composition of invertebrate communities and ecosystem functioning in New Zealand forest remnants, and the level of biodiversity and functioning achieved in restoration plantings.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Study urges more amity with Asian students

New Zealanders need to reach out and be more amicable towards Asian students, many of whom are returning home without having made friends here, says a report just out.

Failure to befriend Asian students amounts to lost opportunities in expanding New Zealand-Asia relationships, including future trade and business ventures, according to the Asia New Zealand Foundation's latest report; Friends and Allies; the Impacts of Returning Asian Students on New Zealand-Asia Relationships.

The report's three authors all have Massey University links. They are Terry McGrath, International Student Ministries New Zealand, Paul Stock, Senior Tutor in Plant and Cell Biology, Institute of Molecular BioSciences - both of whom are Massey chaplains - and Dr Andrew Butcher, Director Research and Policy, Asia New Zealand Foundation, who completed his doctoral thesis and has guest lectured at the University.

"The opportunity afforded for a significant expansion of New Zealand-Asia relationships through initiating relationships with Asian students studying here is critical," say the report's authors. The returning students acted as ambassadors for New Zealand, commenting in this country's values, people and lifestyles, and recommending New Zealand as a tourism as well as quality education destination, they said.

But feedback from students revealing negative experiences, such as racist remarks, financial exploitation and poor treatment by service providers, is creating a bad impression back home.

Research showed the majority of Asian students returned home without having really connected with the host community, or with their New Zealand student peers.

Despite the high numbers of Asian students coming here - from 5000 to a peak of 125,000 in 10 years and steady at around 90,000 a year now - New Zealand's "Asian literacy" remains poor, the report says.

New Zealanders may well embrace sushi, karaoke, dragon boat racing, Chinese New Year festivals and sister city cultural exchanges, but they remained reticent when it came to welcoming Asian students on a personal level, says co-author Terry McGrath.

Schools and tertiary institutions were well-placed to facilitate better connections between local and foreign Asian students through organised groups, clubs and events, he said.

"We need to discuss 'Asian students' as part of a broader conversation about what it means for New Zealand to engage with Asia," the report said.

International education in New Zealand needed to focus on mutual relevance and ongoing relationships, manifest in joint ventures, business partnerships, community linkages, advisory networks and professional associations as well as personal friendships.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; International



Custodian Sam Hautapu and Bollgrip creator Uli Thie.

Making lighter work of bollards

Design Workshop staff at the Wellington campus have come up with a practical solution to a back breaking problem - lifting bollards.

At the campus, a team of six is available to lift and shift bollards as frequently as 12 times a day, to block off vehicle access to delivery, maintenance and other essential areas. The bollards, which weigh more than 30 kilograms, have to be lifted again when, for example, a truck needs to get in to deliver equipment and supplies.

Recently this heavy work came to the attention of the 3D Design Workshop in the College of Creative Arts.

Technical demonstrator Uli Thie came up with the idea of making a tool to grip the bollard, using a multi-levering action, and developed a prototype, calling it the Bollgrip.

"When Sam Hautapu, who has lifted many bollards in his 27 years as a custodian at the campus, trialled the lifting device, his reaction was to ask us to go and make him one straight away," says Design Workshop manager Alan Batson.

The team has high hopes for the Bollgrip and note that it could have other applications. "For example, it could be used to lift gas bottles, either in its present form or adapted to a single lift point above a gas bottle," says Mr Batson.

"A search of the internet has not revealed a similar product on the market so if a patent search checks out well, it could have potential for commercial application," he says.

They have also developed a device - called a Bollplug - to cover the potentially hazardous holes left by the bollards when they are lifted out.

The original proposal for the Bollplug came from Workshop staff member Brandon Syme, whose idea won second place in a campus competition last year, aimed at generating ideas to improve safety.

The plate will be galvanised and coloured to highlight the "trip" hazard. It can be padlocked to prevent removal and when not in use, it can be placed in the hole, with the bollard on top of it.

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington



Muslim Harmony Award winner and Massey doctoral student Annette Mortensen pictured with Fardowso Abi (Somali community worker). Cherie Walker (pool manager), Dahaba Hagi (Muslim Women's Swimming Programme coordinator) and Jody Lawrence (health worker) outside the Cameron Pool complex in Mt Roskill, Auckland.

Muslim women benefit from project

It took three years, but eventually Annette Mortensen and a team of health workers got permission from a Mt Roskill swimming pool to hold a weekly two-hour swimming session for Auckland's Muslim women.

It is one of many schemes aimed at improving life for Muslim refugees in New Zealand that the doctoral student has been involved in, and for which she has just been awarded the Supreme Harmony award by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand.

Federation president Javed Khan describes Ms Mortensen as "a great role model" who has "gone out of her way to assist many migrant Muslims in New Zealand".

Human Rights Commissioner Joris de Bres was one of three judges for the award. He says: "Annette's contribution to improving understanding and harmonious relations between Muslims and the wider community is a great example of how we can all find unity in diversity."

In her just-completed sociology doctorate titled *Refugees as 'Others': Social and Cultural Citizenship Rights for Refugees in New Zealand Health Services*, Ms Mortensen explores the consequences of overlooking the needs - particularly in health care - of refugees in New Zealand. Her PhD supervisors are Professor Paul Spoonley and Associate Professor Mike O'Brien.

Ms Mortensen is working for the Northern District Health Board Support Agency implementing the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy developed by a group of government and regional agencies.

She says a Government commitment to targeting the needs of specific refugee groups now means New Zealand is better able to avoid the kinds of problems seen in Australia, Britain and France, where rioting, bombing and gang clashes involving ethnic communities have erupted.

As the refugee health coordinator for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service for the past seven years, Ms Mortensen has seen up close the struggles of refugee and migrant people in adapting to a new life. Her work has encompassed refugee programmes covering everything from nutrition, physical activity, injury prevention, family violence prevention to parenting courses and training community workers from refugee communities in health promotion.

Ms Mortensen, whose nursing career led to working with refugees in a sexual health clinic, says although New Zealand is one of the most open systems as we don't refuse entry on the grounds of pre-existing illness or disability, there is a lack of support services and resources to help those who come here to start a new life.

"Refugees have huge health needs, but the health sector is not set up to meet these," she says.

It might sound like a lot for an already stretched health sector to be expected to deal with the complex and often unfamiliar medical, cultural, linguistic needs of various refugee and migrant groups, some of whom have suffered profound trauma in war zones and refugee camps.

Ms Mortensen has found simple solutions can be effective, as in the case of the swimming sessions for Muslim women.

Many had never been to a pool before, and were unable to participate in other sporting activities or join gymnasiums because of cultural restrictions requiring their bodies to be covered in the presence of men.

It took three years to find a pool that would agree to a two-hour, women-only session to accommodate the needs of the 140 Muslim women who have signed up for aqua-aerobics, swimming and water safety lessons. Some are now acting as swimming instructors to the newer participants.

Ms Mortensen says not only did the women become fitter as a result of the exercise, they reported feeling more relaxed and confident as well.

The women - from about 20 countries including Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq - reported an easing up of traumatic flash-backs, being able to sleep better and suffering fewer physical aches and pains.

In another research project for Auckland Hospitals Emergency Services, Ms Mortensen investigated the increasing use of hospital emergency departments by refugees.

In her just-completed sociology doctorate titled Refugees as 'Others': Social and Cultural Citizenship Rights for Refugees in New Zealand Health Services, she explores the consequences of overlooking the needs - particularly in health care - of refugees in New Zealand.

Health and other government agencies must become more knowledgeable about, and responsive to, the needs of refugees, she argues. There are more than 40,000 people in New Zealand with refugee backgrounds, and the number is increasing by up to 2000 per year.

She hopes to see more New Zealanders embrace and befriend refugees in their midst, as she has.

"I get involved in the lives of their communities. It's been fantastic - I've made lots of friends."

Working with refugee communities, although dealing often with difficult issues, was "like travelling without actually travelling. I get invited to feasts, mosques, wedding parties, independence days. There are such rich cultural opportunities - it's like a door into another world right on our doorsteps."

Date: 10/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Wellington General Staff Service Excellence Awards

Annual awards are made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor- Wellington to mark either sustained excellence or outstanding one-off service to internal or external customers. There are normally up to 2 individual awards and 1 team award made each year, depending on the quality of the nominations.

[View the full story](#)

Date: 11/09/2007

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any

Conference to launch infant mental health association in New Zealand

Issues relating to the mental health of infants will be the subject of a conference in Wellington next month (26 April).

The conference marks the establishment of the Infant Mental Health Association of Aotearoa NZ (IMHAANZ) as an affiliate of The World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH). The association brings together and supports professionals and academics specialising in education, health, psychotherapy, social and family services.

“Our affiliation to the world association is an important step in becoming the organisation for professionals involved and interested in infant mental health in New Zealand”, says association president Dr Kimberley Powell.

Dr Powell, from Massey University's College of Education's School of Arts, Development and Health Education, is known for her research and other work in early childhood education and development.

She says the organisation of a national infant mental health body has taken more than two years of hard work by the IMHAANZ executive committee, who were successful in achieving affiliate status in mid 2006.

Former Massey College of Education lecturer, Dr. Janet Gregory, was also a driving force in developing IMHAANZ so that it could achieve international affiliation.

WAIMH is one of the leading research and professional organisations, providing a forum for collaboration and professional development advancing the wellbeing of infants and families.

“The time is right to now have a national launch of a much-needed infant mental health organisation here in New Zealand,” Dr Powell says. “The primary purpose is to give professionals working with children up to four years of age and their families the support and networking they need along with up-to-date research information so that the integration of services for families can be more easily obtained within New Zealand.

“We know from research in other OECD countries that the coordination of services for infants and their families and a unified approach by a range of professionals is much more cost effective in the long term for reducing poverty, reducing rates of neglect and abuse, and for providing more efficient outreach through social services to families. Children that start off well and are supported early in life benefit New Zealand economically because they develop, learn and grow more rapidly when their emotional environment is healthy and nurturing.

“Infant mental health is all about ensuring that infants are given an optimal environment and emotional support from the pre-natal period onwards. Infant mental health practitioners and researchers are interested in promoting supportive caregiving attachment relationships that will ensure emotional equilibrium, a healthy sense of self and a good basis for optimal development and learning in infants and young children.”

The symposium will be held on Thursday, 26 April, at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, with the official launch cocktail function to follow at the Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings.

Speakers include top New Zealand and Australian professionals and researchers:

Elisabeth Muir, IMHAANZ Patron and author of *Watch, Wait and Wonder*.

Beulah Warren, founder of the Australian AIMH, child psychologist, Brazelton trainer, and author.

Dr Denise Guy, Wellington child psychiatrist and infant mental health clinician.

Sarah Te One, lecturer in early childhood education and lead researcher for the Te Marua-Mangaroa Playcentre Supporting Parents alongside their Children's Education (SPACE) programme.

Dr Trecia Wouldes, researcher and University of Auckland lecturer.

Hon Steve Maharey, Minister of Education.

A copy of the conference programme and registration form is available online at

<http://education.massey.ac.nz/massey/depart/education/staff/adhe/kimberley-powell/imhaanz-flyer.cfm>

Date: 13/09/2007

Type: Research



Doug Hopcroft demonstrates the electron microscope for the Prime Minister, giving her a close-up view of a weta egg.

PM acknowledges contribution of science hub at Microscopy Centre opening

Prime Minister Helen Clark opened the new Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre on the Palmerston North campus today, citing the state-of-the-art centre as an example of industry and science coming together to boost knowledge and the economy.

The centre was a project very much in line with the Government's goals of driving New Zealand forward using research science and technology, Ms Clark said, and the successful application to the Tertiary Education Commission, which provided \$1.5 million for the project was recognition that the state-of-the-art facility would be used not only by Massey staff and students but by many Crown Research Institutes and industry partners.

“Palmerston North's contribution is huge in biological science and research, so it is very logical hub for a centre of this kind. The new Microscopy Centre enables the Manawatu to stay at the forefront of teaching and research in the biological sciences.”

The centre, which houses a range of imaging equipment for use across the physical and biological sciences, represented an important linkage between town and gown, Ms Clark said. “As a country we haven't always been good at that ... but a centre such as this makes it clear we should be.”

Ms Clark also noted the support for New Zealand's primary industries provided by the University.

“What we know is that our primary sector would not be making the huge contribution they are making to the economy were they not relying on the research coming out – a good deal of it coming here from Massey.”

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear said the cutting-edge microscopy and imaging technology was an essential component of research in many fields, including:

- The identification by a veterinary pathologist of disease-causing viruses.
- The study of milk proteins by Fonterra researchers.
- The investigation of the elemental composition of volcanic glass by vulcanologists.
- Confocal analysis of nutrient release in food products by researchers from Crop & Food.

The centre also supports areas of fundamental research such as studies in endophyte symbiosis, micro-rheological studies of bio-materials and human chromosome studies.

“The range of instruments and ancillary equipment – light, fluorescence and confocal microscopes and scanning and transmission electron microscopes – provides the tools to study biological and material structures, both the surfaces and interior features,” Professor Kinnear said. “The facility is already being heavily used by Massey staff and those from external agencies. As well as this use by leading researchers, another important use in support of the research training of our PhD students who will be the next generation of researchers.”

Professor Kinnear acknowledged the work of artist Kura Te Waru Rewiri, whose work *You cannot measure the distance to infinity* is displayed in the centre.

“It’s a wonderfully apt title for a centre that is concerned with precise measurements – but, rather than measuring astronomically large distances reaching towards infinity, the transmission microscopy in the MMIC can reveal extraordinarily small distances reaching to the atomic level.”

The centre is a key resource for one of the most important biological science hubs in New Zealand. The hub includes the Hopkirk Research Institute for animal health research, four Crown Research Institutes (HortResearch, Crop & Food, AgResearch, Landcare Research), Fonterra Innovation, and Leather and Shoe Research.

More than 150 staff and guests attended the opening. Centre director Dr Al Rowland acknowledged the contribution made by staff, particularly Professor Barry Scott, the team at facilities management, and both the project architect and builder.

Date: 13/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Research

Kerry Howe receives Distinguished Professor award

Renowned historian Kerry Howe has been appointed a Distinguished Professor, one of only six academics at the University to have the title and the first from Humanities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, who chairs the Distinguished Professor Assessment Committee, announced the award.

"Professor Howe, an outstanding scholar of Pacific history, joins Massey's family of Distinguished Professors as a most welcome and well-deserved first addition from the Humanities domain," Professor Kinnear says.

"Kerry joins this select group of Massey academics, that can number no more than 10 at any time, on whom the title of Distinguished Professor has been conferred. His many highly original scholarly contributions have been highly influential and widely acknowledged both nationally and internationally."

Professor Howe, from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' School of Social and Cultural Studies, is based at the Auckland campus.

He won the history category of this year's Montana Book Awards for *Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors*, which he edited. It was published to accompany the Vaka Moana exhibition, which opened in Auckland last December. He was also curator of the exhibition and drew on years of research and writing about the Pacific to contribute to the book and edit it.

The title of distinguished professor was established in 2004 by the University Council and the Academic Board to recognise professorial staff who have achieved positions of eminence internationally in their field. Recipients retain the title for the duration of their appointment at Massey.

Date: 17/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Fashion Week pulses with fresh talent

From newly-minted graduates to veteran designers, Air New Zealand Fashion Week is pulsing with creative talent, with Massey School of Design graduates figuring prominently.

Since graduating last year, Renee Stewart is now an assistant designer at Auckland label State of Grace, where she works with Sherilyn Catchpole. Ms Stewart says their show this morning, Birds of Bodega Bay, went smoothly and the response has been really good. Her tasks included preparing their collection, packing goodie bags and making the models look their best for the runway.

Designer Michael Pattison, whose clothing is pictured, says his show was everything he could have hoped for. "I decided to use Asian models, and buyers and media responded really well."



Since completing a Bachelor of Fashion Design in 2002, Mr Pattison began designing his self-titled fashion label. Initially focusing on individual tailoring, he launched his label at Fashion Week in 2005.

Others from the School of Design include Juliette Hogan, Deborah Sweeney, Adrian Hailwood, Petrena Miller, Kate Sylvester, Dane Johnson, and 2006 World of Wearable Arts supreme winner Rodney Leong.

Fashion design lecturer Mary-Ellen Imlach said the standard of presentation this year is higher than ever. "The atmosphere is fabulous. It's a full-on week, and a great chance to catch up with former students and engage with the industry."

She tipped newcomers OYL as a label to look out for.

Date: 19/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Food pilot plant will do the business

 [Watch the Campbell Live item](#)

Food with a lower glycaemic index or breakfast cereal with added crunch? University researchers are working on a number of projects to provide new eating experiences, and industry will soon be able to access their facility and expertise as a new \$6.5 million food pilot plant comes online.

Associate Professor Charles Brennan says the plant is the most comprehensive and advanced in New Zealand, and is expected to be complete by early 2008. The facility, at the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health on the University's Palmerston North campus will have export accreditation.

"While there are a few plants owned by big businesses, there is nothing available for small to medium-sized enterprises," Dr Brennan says.

"We're breaking the pilot plant down to smaller units so industry groups can come in and confidentially work, even just for small runs. Construction will meet the NZ Food Safety Authority standards, which include red line areas to the main pilot plant and a smaller foods laboratory. This will give the facility the ability to produce small-scale product batches which meet export certification."

The pilot plant also includes several smaller laboratories to allow sensitive or confidential work to be done in tandem with teaching classes, and a whole complex of chillers and freezers ranging from 10 to -30deg. Hot, cold, chilled and soft potable water, steam, vacuum and compressed, will be available.

New product development is catered for by an extensive refurbishment of existing facilities together with a new food quality assessment laboratory, which includes a purpose built sensory suite for consumer trials.

"Not only is the vision to have the biggest and best plant in order to produce food or manipulate raw ingredients, but to be able to test it both in terms of its composition and with consumers," Dr Brennan says.

Post harvest quality is given a dedicated laboratory area including five specialised walk-in temperature and humidity-controlled rooms. Each of these has a nitrogen generator, which will allow controlled atmospheres to be generated, providing opportunities for any number of storage trial combinations.

Dedicated food engineering and dairy processing equipment will be housed in separate areas as well as a research area devoted to extrusion technology. Massey is the only university in New Zealand with extruded food capabilities.

Associated with the pilot plant complex is a comprehensive suite of laboratories catering for food characterisation (determining aspects of rheology, texture and biochemistry affecting food structures) as well as food chemistry (the chemical composition of foods and how these affect the nutritional quality of foods such as glycaemic index and fat intake). The 2200m² building also has easy access to the existing food microbiology suite and human studies laboratory, which has its own DEXA (bone composition) laboratory, new Bod Pod (body composition) laboratory, examination room and analytical laboratory.

The existing facility is being maintained while work on the new complex is underway, so pilot plant equipment, food characterisation and consumer analysis services are and will remain available.

"And both the new facility and the current service are very well-serviced with the best academics in the field, both from the Institute and across campus. We are able to find solutions people would just not find anywhere else."

Date: 21/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Video Multimedia





Iguaçu tops Hospitality Association Awards

Auckland's Iguaçu restaurant collected top awards at the New Zealand Hospitality Association Awards, held last week in Wellington.

Co-owner Julie-Ann Bell (Massey MBA, 2005) said she and partner Phil are "pretty chuffed" with the awards.

The competition included both restaurants and hotels. Judging was undertaken by an independent panel who visited premises unannounced on three separate occasions.

Iguaçu won HANZ awards for Best New Zealand Restaurant, Excellence in Customer Service, Best Lamb dish and to top it off, the HANZ 2007 Supreme Overall Winner.

Ms Bell said one of her first moves after buying Iguaçu in 2005 was to create a staff training programme, bringing in expert tutors and preparing a blueprint based on advice from the Hospitality Standards Institute.

"It was all about customer service and communication. That means looking after people from the moment they walk in until they leave the restaurant. It means taking a constructive approach to any complaints: if someone isn't happy with their food, our staff replace it immediately. It also means understanding that all customers are different in their expectations and needs."

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni

2007 Technicians Awards

These awards provide for an annual salary of up to \$35,000 to be paid for two years to provide technical support and assistance for a specific research project undertaken by the recipients. This year's recipients are:

Gareth Rowlands

Gareth Rowlands of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences receives a technician's award for research that aims to study alternative forms of chirality in the development of novel organocatalysts, with a goal to improve the efficacy of these catalysts.

Organocatalysts is the pre-eminent method to achieve enantioselective synthesis due to its numerous advantages over its metal-based counterparts, particularly in the area of waste control.

The first stage of the current project will be to complete preliminary studies; synthesis of the catalysts by a technician, to resynthesize catalysts first prepared in Britain.

Dr Jan Schmid

A senior lecturer from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Dr Jan Schmid receives a technician's award for a project on candida contingency genes.

Dr Schmid, working in collaboration with Dr Barbara Holland from the Allan Wilson Centre, Dr Mark Patchett from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences and an Otago researcher, has discovered that two hypermutable surface proteins in *Candida albicans*, the most important fungal pathogen of humans, are pathogenicity determinants and that more such proteins may exist. The finding resulted in a hypothesis, which will now be tested.

Professor Neil Pearce

Professor Neil Pearce, director of the Centre for Public Health Research receives an award for the centre's project Balancing Innate Immunity in Asthma.

The funding for a full-time technician will allow establishment of a research programme into the immunological mechanisms of asthma, which will be developed in collaboration with the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

This study will be the first of its kind to examine interaction of different cells derived directly from the airways. Eighty asthmatic children and 40 control children will be recruited.

Professor Pearce also receives the individual research medal

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Massey University Research Medals 2007

Individual award

Professor Neil Pearce founded the Centre for Public Health Research in Wellington, when he joined Massey University in 2000, with the centre awarded the Massey Research Award for a team last year.

Professor Pearce has made significant discoveries relating to public health not only in New Zealand but also worldwide; his contribution spanning several decades. During the 1980s Professor Pearce showed there were strong socio-economic differences in mortality in New Zealand, leading to a number of confirmatory studies and incorporation of this knowledge into health policy. Also in the 1980s research led by Professor Pearce found that the high mortality rates for Māori were not due solely to socio-economic factors but were also due to problems of access to health care. In 1988 Professor Pearce showed that meat workers have an increased risk of some types of cancer, work which has been confirmed overseas igniting interest in the likely aetiological mechanisms.

In 1990 and in 1995 Professor Pearce studied the role of Fenoterol in the New Zealand asthma mortality epidemic of the 1970s and 1980s, with the Government ultimately acknowledging the role of Fenoterol in many deaths and restricting its availability.

Asthma has been an area of sustained research, and Professor Pearce was one of the founders of the international Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood, involving more than two million children in 250 centres in 100 countries. He also published a series of reviews and commentaries that have questioned the importance of allergic mechanisms for asthma, stimulating interest in non-allergic mechanisms.

In 1998 Professor Pearce was awarded a Silver Medal from the Royal Society of New Zealand, and in 2005 he was elected a Fellow. He is serving as president-elect of the International Epidemiological Association from 2005 and will serve as president from next year until 2011.

Professor Pearce's first degree was a BSc in mathematics, followed by a DipSci mathematics and later a PhD in epidemiology, all at the University of Otago. A DipORS was completed at Victoria University in 1978 and in 2003 Professor Pearce completed a DSc in epidemiology at Massey. Prior to joining Massey, Professor Pearce was professor and director of the asthma research group at the Wellington School of Medicine. He is an honorary research fellow at the Ministry of Health's Public Health Intelligence Unit.

Professor Pearce was successful this year in applying for a Massey University technician's award for the project Balancing Innate Immunity in Asthma. The funding for a full-time technician will allow establishment of a research programme into the immunological mechanisms of asthma, which will be developed in collaboration with the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

Professor Pearce also receives a University Technicians Award and a College of Sciences individual award.

Supervisor award

Since his appointment as Professor of Molecular Genetics at Massey in 1985, **Professor Barry Scott** has supervised 21 doctorates and nine masterates, including 17 doctorates as first supervisor.

After completing a BSc (Hons) and a PhD in biochemistry at the University of Otago, professor Scott worked as a research scientist at DSIR before being appointed professor.

Professor Scott has set a high academic standard for research, with highlights including a PBRF A rating, many invited presentations at international conferences including the plenary lecture at the 2007 Fungal Genetics meeting, and six invited reviews. Much of his research has been collaborative, with New Zealand's AgResearch and overseas academics and organisations.

Recent scientific successes include molecular cloning and genetic analysis of the first gene cluster for the biosynthesis of indole-diterpenes, the molecular cloning and genetic analysis of two additional indole-diterpene



gene clusters, new insights into the process of concerted evolution through the study of inter-specific hybrids of grass endophytes, important insights into the mechanisms of plasmid integration in fungal genomes and identification for the first time of the evolutionary origins of non-culturable fungal endophytes of grasses. Professor Scott has also demonstrated for the first time that a fungal metabolite can provide protection to a plant host from insect herbivory and identified a novel role for reactive oxygen species in maintaining a mutualistic interaction between a fungus and a plant.

The core of Professor Scott's success as a supervisor is two-fold: a passion and enjoyment for excellent research, and a careful and explicit management policy applied to all students. The passion for research means projects selected by Professor Scott are ambitious and always at the leading edge of the interface of microbiology, genetics and biochemistry. Professor Scott's approach includes requiring each student to write a research proposal, a schedule of regular meetings and a defence of their PhD topic at the end of year one.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences

Bucky revealed

The legacy of pioneering environmental designer Buckminster Fuller is explored in a new book by Dr Scott Eastham, senior lecturer in English and media studies.

When Dr Eastham arrived in New Zealand in the 1990s he was surprised to learn nobody seemed to know who Buckminster was - let alone what he had done or built or said.

"Bucky", as he is known to the 60s counter-culture, is the designer of the geodesic domes, and was also famed as a poet, mathematician, scientist, social critic, inventor, and for the many who heard him at the time, perhaps one of the earliest prophets of ecological awareness and the need to save "spaceship earth".

Dr Eastham says he wanted to produce a book that revealed the many dimensions of a man whose character was as multifaceted as the geometric forms he studied.

"Many commentators seem to think Bucky's ideas stand or fall by the success or failure of the dome-building industry. I beg to differ," Dr Eastham says.

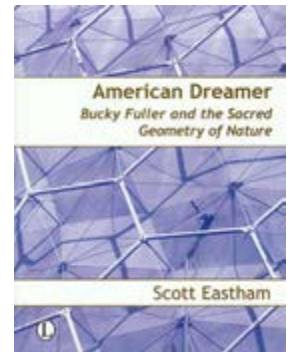
"I find his fundamental re-envisioning of technology as 'what nature does' and his deployment of 'nature's coordinate system' to be initiatives more far-reaching and even more durable than the domes themselves."

Dr Eastham's *American Dreamer* is not yet on sale in New Zealand but can be sourced from online booksellers.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Book explores work-life balance

Work-life balance - policy buzzword or code for an elusive state of well-being - but what does it really mean and how do we know when we've achieved it?

These issues are explored in a new book of essays penned by Massey academics, which looks at how we define "work" and "life" and how we juggle the often blurred boundary between them.

Managing Mayhem, published by Dunmore, was launched in Auckland recently. It is co-edited and co-authored by Massey Associate Professor of Social Work Christa Fouche and Professor of Public Policy Marilyn Waring from the Auckland University of Technology. Fourteen of the 18 contributors, including Professor Waring, are current or former staff or students of Massey Auckland.

The essays explore what work-life balance means to a variety of New Zealanders, including house husbands, custodial grandparents, unpaid workers, Māori, Pacific Islanders and Asians.

As Associate Professor Ann Dupuis says in her chapter, "At times 'work-life balance' appears to be a very slippery concept indeed and one that defies clear definitions". Dr Dupuis says the phrase is an irrelevant luxury to low-paid workers who struggle to find employment in order to survive.

"Those who work at the margins, especially in the low-paid service sector, are more concerned about ...finding work and working sufficient hours to support themselves and their families than they are with work-life balance.

"For marginal workers therefore, work-life balance is an irrelevancy."

For others, the lack of clear division between work and life hints at a blissfully satisfying existence, as one interviewee reveals in the book.

"We talked in the beginning about blurring of distinctions and the hardest one for me is actually working out what work is."

Funding for the groundwork leading to the book's publication came from the Auckland campus Strategic Research Fund.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book

Top trombonist shares jazz genius with Massey students

Top US jazz trombonist, composer and arranger Bill Reichenbach - who has played on albums by Elton John, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Queen Latifah and many more - shared his musical genius with students at Massey last week.

Reichenbach is considered one of the top two base trombonists in the world, says Rodger Fox - also a trombonist, jazz legend, band leader and jazz tutor at the School of Music in Auckland.

The visiting artist shared some of his well-honed guidelines on arranging and composing with Massey's Auckland students. His experience embraces composing, arranging and playing trombone for many of the big names in pop and jazz, including Christine Aguilera, Michael Buble, Tony Bennett and Earth, Wind and Fire.

He once shared a Rolls Royce with Michael Jackson en route to a Los Angeles studio to record a track Jackson was producing for Diana Ross. He's also played on several of Jackson's albums, and describes the controversial singer in person as "very quiet, very shy."

As well as the theoretical session in Auckland, he ran workshops in trombone techniques last week for Massey's School of Music students in Wellington and Auckland. He also performed in Wellington with the New Zealand School of Music Big Band along with Norman Meehan, Paul Dyne and Roger Sellers.

Last weekend he was special guest at the Auckland Trombone Day at the New Zealand School of Music, and which included guest artist Jim Pugh - trombonist with Steely Dan, and later in concert with the Rodger Fox Big Band.

Reichenbach first came to New Zealand in 1983 to tutor jazz musicians through his musical connections with Fox.

He says he started playing jazz drums aged four - his father was a jazz drummer - and the trombone at age of 11 because he was "attracted to the sound, the Dixieland style - it sounded fun."

He is based in Los Angeles where he continues with studio recordings, writing film scores - he's written film music for The Incredibles, King Kong, The Chronicles of Narnia, Pirates of the Caribbean 2 and Mr and Mrs Smith - composing and arranging, performing and teaching music.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Uni News





Top prizes for design students

Two students at the University's School of Engineering and Technology won top prizes in the annual packaging design awards.

John Fletcher won the category for student concepts with his design for USB Flash Drive packaging - a product he believes will be commonplace at supermarket checkouts in the future.

The packaging concept was hailed by judges as forward thinking, functional and environmentally sound.

Runner up Mathew Nagel also scored high on meeting environmental concerns with his recyclable oil container featuring an internal disposable bladder.

The awards are run by the Packaging Council of New Zealand. The category for student designers invites environmentally friendly packaging concepts.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Health focus for new scholarship

The University has funded a Peter Snell Doctoral Scholarship in Public Health and Exercise Sciences, supporting research aimed at keeping New Zealanders well.

Dr Steve Stannard, of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, says applications are being sought for the new award, based at the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development on the Palmerston North and Wellington campuses. "The idea behind this scholarship is to develop research capability at the interface between exercise science and public health," Dr Stannard says.

The scholarship is designed to acknowledge the ongoing and active relationship between Massey researchers and Associate Professor Snell, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University earlier this year.

Professor Chris Cunningham, director of the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development, says the successful candidate is likely to have a background in the domains of exercise science, public health, Māori health, physical education or human physiology.

Application forms and further details are available by e-mailing PeterSnellScholarship@massey.ac.nz.

The scholarship includes payment of doctoral fees and a stipend.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Explore - HEALTH; Scholarships

2007 Marsden and Fast-Start Awards

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin, Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Auckland, was awarded \$502,400 for a project on modern analysis and geometry.

The work will investigate two central areas of modern mathematics: non-linear analysis and low-dimensional topology linked by conformal geometry.

When deforming an object, including heating or stressing, physical laws state the deformation minimises an energy function and can be found as the solution to a usually non-linear partial differential equation.

This research exploits unexpected connections between minimisation problems for scale invariant measures of energy and distortion and harmonic mappings to give applications in theoretical materials science and critical phase phenomena, and addresses fundamental questions relating to microstructure and length scales in degenerate settings.

The work also seeks to classify conformal dynamical systems in higher dimensions and to identify the basic fundamental constants of hyperbolic geometry and identify all the arithmetically defined generalised triangle groups - relating geometry and arithmetic.

Dr Ulrich Zuelicke

Dr Ulrich Zuelicke, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Palmerston North, receives \$800,000 for the project Jitterbug on a Chip: Semiconductor Nanospintronics Meets Relativistic Quantum Physics.

Einstein's laws of special relativity generalise those of Newtonian mechanics, famously predicting new behaviour for fast-moving objects. Conspiring with quantum physics, relativity is ultimately responsible for the phenomenon of spin, which makes electrons behave like tiny permanent magnets.

Dr Zuelicke's research, with colleagues from North Illinois University and the University of New South Wales, will contribute to the effort to ultimate miniaturisation of electronic chips using spintronic devices.

It will also pursue recent theoretical work that has reopened discussion on the jitter of free electrons in a vacuum, by showing that electrons in microchips exhibit an analogous, spin-related jittery motion. The project will also investigate how concepts of relativistic quantum physics may inspire new ways to make spin-electronic devices.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Auckland, receives \$720,000 for work on chemistry under extreme conditions.

Because life is limited to a narrow range of temperatures and pressures, most modern chemistry and physics is focused around 'normal' conditions.

Recent advances in high-pressure physics however, have made it possible to study materials at ultra-high pressures - outside the laboratory these conditions are only in detonations of high-energy materials, in the interior of planets or in comet collisions.

At such extreme conditions the chemical bonds break and new ones form, leading to interesting new materials or phases. Materials chemistry under ultra-high pressure is an important new research area, opening up exciting new routes for stabilising novel and interesting materials or original structures of different compounds.

Professor Schwerdtfeger's work will address material chemistry under ultra-high pressure by using first-principles relativistic quantum mechanical methods to study new phases and accompanying electronic properties.

Professor Robert McLachlan

Professor Robert McLachlan, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Palmerston North, was awarded \$350,000 for a project on geometric integration, a novel approach to simulating the motion of large systems.

New methods, inspired by chaos theory but driven by the demands of modern applications, are faster, more reliable and often simpler than traditional approaches.

Although used in diverse areas, these systems have in common features that make them amenable to a new approach - they all preserve some underlying geometric structure which influences the qualitative nature of the phenomena they produce.

In geometric integration these properties are built into the numerical method, which gives the method markedly superior performance, especially during long simulations.

In this new research Professor McLachlan will, with colleagues from La Trobe University, explore the geometric or structural features that systems can have, the implications for their long-time dynamics, and how to design efficient numerical integrators that preserve these geometric properties.

Professor Barry Scott

Professor Barry Scott, Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Palmerston North, receives \$750,000 for a project addressing the biological role for reactive oxygen species. One of the most successful strategies that plants have evolved is the ability to form symbiotic associations with micro-organisms.

Professor Scott and his colleagues recently demonstrated that fungal production of reactive oxygen species is crucial for maintaining a symbiotic interaction between the fungal endophyte *Epichloe festucase* and its host perennial ryegrass.

The new project, undertaken with colleagues at Japan's Nagoya University, will test the resultant working model by identifying key fungal proteins required for sensing and transducing the molecular signs that lead to Reactive Oxygen Species production and control of hyphal growth.

The work will provide insights into the molecular and cellular basis for mutualism in fungal-plant interaction.

Dr Joachim Brand

Dr Joachim Brand, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Auckland, \$670,000 for a project studying the dynamics of ultra-cold atoms.

Two people who hate each other are trapped in a room. As both try to exit quickly, will they end up taking more time than people with less sentiment acting independently? What happens when three, or more, people are involved?

Replacing people with atoms, and cooling them to ultra-low temperatures, the world of quantum mechanics is entered, leading to discovery of counter-intuitive behaviour like reflection from attractive surfaces or that independent atoms leak from a box more slowly when their number is counted repeatedly.

This phenomenon is known as the quantum Zeno effect.

This project, with collaborators from Massey University and the University of Heidelberg, will address questions including whether interactions between particles will modify or enhance the quantum Zeno effect, computing the exact dynamics of ultra-cold particle systems containing two to 30 interacting atoms.

Dr Lara Shepherd

Dr Lara Shepherd receives \$596,000 for a project tracing the domestication of history and whakapapa of cultivated New Zealand plants using DNA markers.

The project will be undertaken at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution in Palmerston North,

The domestication of plants and animals was the most important development in human history during the past 13,000 years, with most crops thousands of years old and their initial domestication undeterminable.

The relatively recent settlement of New Zealand by Māori, however, provides a unique opportunity to investigate an early phase of crop domestication.

Dr Shepherd, with colleagues from the University's Institute of Natural Resources and the Department of Conservation, will genetically analyse four endemic New Zealand plants cultivated by Māori: karaka, rengarenga, whau and coastal kōwhai.

Genetic data combined with traditional oral histories will reflect and illuminate pre-European Māori settlement routes and mobility.

Associate Professor Doug Armstrong

Associate Professor Doug Armstrong, Ecology group at the Institute of Natural Resources, Palmerston North, \$791,000 for an experimental investigation of predator-prey dynamics in a fragmented landscape.

A key aspect of predator-prey theory is the functional response of a predator to its prey.

An individual predator may kill a relatively fixed proportion of prey per population time or the proportion killed may decline at high prey densities.

These different possibilities have important implications for conservation of prey populations.

Dr Armstrong, with colleagues from the University of British Columbia, will test the functional response of ship rats (exotic predator) to North Island robins (native prey) in remnant forest fragments.

As the first experimental test of functional response in a wildlife system, the project will have international significance for both population ecology and conservation biology.

Fast start grants of \$170,000 each went to:

Dr Manuhua Barcham

Dr Manuhua Barcham, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development, Palmerston North, to study indigenous corporate structure.

In recent years indigenous groups have begun to establish corporations to manage proceeds of treaty settlements. In order to receive settlement and ensure legitimacy of the claim, indigenous groups are being forced to adopt certain forms of organisational structure.

A problem arises in that the Anglo-American corporate models do not necessarily provide the best vehicle for the provision of the needs and aspirations of indigenous groups.

The adoption of inappropriate organisational structures and processes - and ultimately, values - could be one of the biggest threats facing indigenous groups.

Dr Barcham's project will explore these tensions, and look at what is working and what is not working, and why.

The key question is what are the most appropriate and effective governance structures and processes for indigenous groups in order to manage resources to provide the best possible outcomes for their people?

Dr Vyacheslav Filichev

Dr Vyacheslav Filichev, Institute of Fundamental Science, Palmerston North, for the project Synthetic Probes Yielding stable and Selective DNA Triplexes for Gene Visualisation.

Gene visualisation in cells has attracted the attention of scientists due to the intriguing prospect of being able to map the location of genes on chromosomes and directly observe and study chromosome dynamic architecture which can give a better understanding of fundamental native processes like replication, transcription and gene expression.

This may lead to progress in diagnosis of genes associated with diseases and advances in cytogenic research and the development of new drugs.

This project will develop highly efficient and selective triplex-forming DNAs through the chemical modification of nucleic acids with novel type of intercalating moieties, first in vitro and later on living cells using a laboratory at the University of Heidelberg.

Dr Patrick Bowman

Dr Patrick Bowman, of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Auckland, for a project called Bondage and Confinement: How Hadrons keep their Quarks.

The strong force is one of the four fundamental forces of nature; it binds protons and neutrons to form atomic nuclei. These however are just the most common members of a family of strongly interacting particles, the hadrons.

This large family can be understood as a number of small constituent particles called quarks, bound together in twos and threes.

According to the theory of quantum chromodynamics, quarks interact by exchanging another particle, called a gluon.

Dr Bowman, with colleagues from Dublin's Trinity College, plans to study the quark-gluon interaction by calculating the quark-gluon vertex using a numerical method known as lattice QCD.

A precise understanding of the quark-gluon vertex will provide insight into the mechanism of quark confinement and understanding of confinement is central to understanding the structure of matter.

Dr Phil Battley

Dr Phil Battley, Ecology group, Institute of Natural Resources, Palmerston North, to explore how globally-migrating shorebirds cope with the limitations of their multi-purpose coat, by investigating the roles of melanin levels (which colour and strengthen feathers) and feather wear in shaping the visual signals of the breeding plumage.

The colourful plumages of birds, while fascinating to humans for aesthetic reasons, serve crucial physiological and social roles, and in flight feathers aid thermoregulation and act as an important signalling agent.

Plumage can tell other birds of the sex, condition, social status and identity of the bird, but they do become degraded over time.

Dr Battley and colleagues from the University of Groningen, Netherlands, will address questions including whether more investment in plumage at the start of migration grows stronger feathers resistant to physical breakdown or if in fact spending a length of time fuelling up for migrations actually allows this luxury.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

2007 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Appointment of a postdoctoral fellow who has worked in a multi-disciplinary research environment means that the project can be progressed quickly to make significant advances and publish, laying claim to very fertile research territory.

Dr Glenda Anthony

Dr Glenda Anthony, from the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy won a fellowship for a project called Maths Teaching/Learning Nexus, a collaboration with colleagues from the College of Education that involves participation of mathematics education researchers from 15 countries in an international video-based study.

Professor Kerry Chamberlain from the School of Psychology won a fellowship for a project involving councils, church groups, charitable organisations and international researchers called The Meanings of Home and Homelessness.

It will enable additional research to be conducted to assist a project, which already has Marsden funding, on social reintegration and social interaction for homeless people.

Dr Paul Plieger

Dr Paul Plieger, a senior chemistry lecturer in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, won a fellowship for a project called Metal Salt Extracts.

This will enable continuation of research that received Marsden Fast Start funding two years ago to investigate electrochemically-controlled anion encapsulation.

Associate Professor Max Scott, from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, won a fellowship to develop a project on the role of histone modifications in the establishment and maintenance of long-term memories called Are memories written in the histone code?

It involves studying the brain of the vinegar fly.

Dr Shane Telfer and Dr Mark Waterland

Dr Shane Telfer and Dr Mark Waterland of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences won a fellowship for a project entitled Connecting the (Quantum) Dots, which lies at the cutting edge of research in nanoscience, a competitive and dynamic field.

Gold nanoparticles are very small clusters of several hundred gold atoms, with the aim of the project to tether the nanoparticles together in a controlled way.

Applications may include extremely sensitive sensors for both metal ions and biological compounds. The technical difficulty means the team requires an individual with a highly specific skill-set including organic and inorganic synthesis, nanoparticle chemistry, microscopy and spectroscopy.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

2007 University Research Fellowships

Dr Rukmani Gounder

An associate professor in the Department of Applied and International Economics, Dr Rukmani Gounder's research interest is economic development in Fiji.

The study will investigate a broad range of issues relating to the economic development of the small island state.

These issues include the nature and recent transformation in Fiji for economic growth and development, the reasons for economic growth (or lack of) in small states during the 1990s; the trajectory of economic policy to meet the objectives of growth; and the economic and political dynamics behind policy change.

Along with economic factors that explain growth, other factors that influence economic outcomes such as attitude, social capital and social capability are also being explored in this study.

The study is the basis of a book Economic Development in Fiji which is expected to have a significant role in identifying factors that contribute to differentials in growth rates among countries.

Professor Roger Openshaw

Professor Roger Openshaw, in the School of Educational Studies, is completing a book for inclusion in an acclaimed international series Secondary Education in a Changing World.

Professor Openshaw's book will critically examine the Picot Report and the subsequent Labour government policy document, 'Tomorrow's Schools'. In the late 20th century, the Picot Report brought in the most significant and far-reaching educational reforms in New Zealand's history. These reforms still impact on the theory and practice of education.

This study of a key New Zealand educational reform policy will be situated within multi-disciplinary scholarship in the United States, the UK and Australia and within the broader context of education policy studies internationally.

It is expected to generate interest amongst researchers in social sciences, humanities and professional studies who share common interest in the development of public policy. Professor Openshaw's book is expected to have a broad general readership.

Professor Openshaw also receives a College Research Award.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Research

2007 College Research Awards

Professor Donald Maurice

The Research Award to Professor Donald Maurice recognises a combination of traditional academic publications and a sustained career as a performing and recording artist.

Professor Maurice was appointed Professor of Music with the College of Creative Arts in 2004 and is now with the New Zealand School of Music.

He has an international reputation as a viola player and has played with major orchestras in Europe, Britain and New Zealand. He taught viola at Cambridge University.

His academic interest in the music of Bela Bartok and his revision of the Viola Concerto earned him invitations to give seminars in Switzerland, the United States and Australia.

Professor Maurice's current research projects include the editorship and annotation of the Leipzig Diary of Alfred Hill, New Zealand's first professional composer, and recordings of his 17 string quartets.

His transcription for viola of George Enescu's Third Violin Sonata will be premiered at next year's International Viola Congress in the United States.

Jacqueline Naismith

Jacqueline Naismith is programme leader for the Master of Design Programme, and programme leader in History Theory and Research for the Department of Two Dimensional Design in the College of Creative Arts.

Her specialist teaching areas are visual communications design studies, theory, history, and visual research methodologies, and she teaches in the Master of Design programme.

Her recent research includes projects that examine relationships between mass media design languages, social formation and identity construction; design languages and their technologies of production; visual communications design pedagogy, and visual research methodologies.

Her research was cited in a recent paper published in the Journal of Communication, Oxford University Press.

Ms Naismith has played a leading role in establishing a culture of research in the School of Design and the Institute of Communication Design.

She is completing a PhD in Sociology titled Destination, locality and design; consuming and performing places through tourism imagery in New Zealand 1955-2004.

Dr Claire Robinson

Dr Claire Robinson is head of the Institute of Communication Design in the College of Creative Arts.

Her research interests include political marketing, political communication and electoral studies, with specific emphasis on the visual communication of political messages.

In 2006 she completed a PhD in politics, examining the political advertising messages of the seven major parties contesting the 1999 and 2002 New Zealand general elections. She examined the associations between demonstration of market orientation and political gain.

Dr Robinson is often called upon for comment on radio and television on political advertising and political marketing.

In 2004 she was awarded a Wallace Electoral Award for her CD-ROM contribution to the book New Zealand Votes. The award is made by the New Zealand Electoral Commission for the scholarly work considered to have best promoted public understanding of electoral matters.

In 2004 Dr Robinson was also the recipient of a College postgraduate research excellence award.

Professor Janet Hoek

Professor Janet Hoek's research has appeared in leading business and marketing journals. In the past decade she has initiated and developed four research programmes, all of which examine issues in marketing regulation.

These research initiatives have involved numerous colleagues and attracted substantial grants, directly strengthening the research environment.

She is widely known for her work in the regulation of tobacco marketing. She has contributed to the development of government policy on this issue and played a large role in developing tobacco research in New Zealand.

She has had international recognition for her research into consumer understandings and responses to tobacco related messages and warning labels on cigarette packs.

Professor Hoek has more recently been researching food marketing and exploring the relationships between food promotions directed to children and obesity.

In this area too her findings have played a role in health policy development and to her appointment as an expert adviser to the Select Committee enquiry into obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Professor Hoek has also been an active researcher into the marketing of medicines direct to consumers and consumer deception issues related to marketing and advertising.

Her work has also encompassed alcohol marketing to young people and her reputation as a social marketing researcher led to a relationship with the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and to further work in this area with a million dollar Health Research Council grant.

Professor Roger Openshaw

New Zealand's only Chair in Education History, Professor Roger Openshaw receives the individual research award for the College of Education.

He has consistently employed the skills and perspectives of a historian to his work in which he has placed a strong focus on curriculum issues and development.

In the past two years he has co-written and co-edited eight books which are relevant to the entire education field, including curriculum, policy, pedagogy, administration, and the critical study of culture.

Each of the volumes illustrates, and gives insight to, methodologies and skills to be gained from education history.

In 2002, Professor Openshaw was awarded his personal chair and a Claude McCarthy Fellowship.

His research and expertise is internationally recognised and last year he received an American Educational Research Association Outstanding Book Award, together with successive Visiting Senior Scholar appointments from the Open University, Milton Keynes, England. Professor Openshaw also receives a University Research Fellowship.

Associate Professor Keith Tuffin

Associate Professor Keith Tuffin of the School of Psychology receives the supervisor's award from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, with Dr Glen Pettigrove the recipient of the early career award and Professor Neil Pearce the individual research award.

Dr Tuffin, an experimental social psychologist, has a successful supervision record stretching from 1986, when he first began supervising graduate research.

His supervision has covered areas from racism, emotion, grief and suicide to clinical psychology and disabled people online.

Dr Tuffin says his approach is one of working with students, guiding them through the research process and balancing praise with critique. "As a graduate student I was very fortunate to have supervision of the highest quality," Dr Tuffin says.

"I now provide my own research students with high quality professional supervision, helping them through the challenges and complexities of conducting original research.

Dr Tuffin also serves as a mentor to Te Rua Puawai scholarship students, acts as an external PhD examiner and as a journal referee for several publications.

Professor Harjinder Singh

Professor Harjinder Singh, Fonterra Chair in Dairy Science and co-director of the Riddet Centre, He is considered a world authority on milk proteins and their relationship to dairy technology and processing.

Professor Singh's early research focused on understanding the chemical and physical changes in the structures of milk proteins, in particular casein micelles and why proteins during heat processing.

After moving to Massey in 1989, Professor Singh broadened his interest to investigate structure-function relationships of milk products in food colloids, providing many new insights and new measurement techniques.

This work has had a major international impact and has also allowed the New Zealand dairy industry to develop new protein products with highly enhanced functionality.

The international standing of Professor Singh's contribution has been recognised by an industry sponsored Chair at the University since 1998, Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Marshall Rhodia International Dairy Science award and Professor Singh's recent fellowship to the International Academy of Food Science and Technology.

Since taking up the chair, Professor Singh has published 120 papers, 12 book chapters, 10 referred conference papers and has authored four patents.

Professor Tom Barry

Professor Tom Barry has served as first supervisor for 11 bachelors honours theses completed, 11 Masters and 14 PhDs, as well as co-supervising others.

He has contributed to building a strong research environment by playing a major role in the building of the nutrition laboratory and expanding the deer unit and has since 2000 been responsible for the Riverside Farm field laboratory.

He has worked in collaboration with external agencies including AgResearch, HortResearch and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation plant division (Australia). Professor Barry is regularly asked to act as an examiner both at Massey and externally, and as a reviewer.

Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences Professor Grant Guilford says Professor Barry's passion for research and scientific rigour has inspired a commitment to excellence in numerous young staff. "Caring for his students, their day-to-day needs and their future careers is very important to Tom and he works tirelessly to ensure their educational experience is as good as it possibly can be. He sets very high standards and successfully develops an appreciation for scientific rigour, creativity and self-motivation in his students by a skilful balance between supervisory guidance, and respect for his students."

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences

2007 Women's Awards

University Women's Awards enable staff involved in teaching or administrative work to take time out to write up research results for publication, or to collect and analyse further data. Each award is worth up to \$10,000.

Kylie Foster

Kylie Foster is a lecturer in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Her research project is a study of human mastication, chewing trajectories and jaw shape. The human chewing process is highly variable depending on numerous factors including the individual, food properties and circumstances.

For the study Ms Foster will recruit subjects according to strict dental and health criteria, measure each subject's jaw and trajectories of the jaw while chewing. From data gathered from the study subjects she will explore the correlations between jaw properties, food properties and chewing trajectories.

The project is an extension of mastication research which investigated the relationships between food properties and chewing behaviour. She expects the project to be of particular interest to research groups looking at modelling and reproducing human chewing trajectories.

Liqiong Tang

Liqiong Tang is a member of the Institute of Technology and Engineering research team investigating the use of computer technologies to assist medical surgery.

Research will first focus on understanding the requirements of medical professionals and learning how to couple engineering techniques and skills with medical requirements in order to solve particular medical problems. Subsequent research will focus on software and hardware interface development, programming modelling and individual case study.

This project is in the new but very active field of computer assisted surgery (CAS), which is currently attracting the attention of both engineering researchers and medical professionals.

CAS has the potential to improve surgical outcomes through the combined application of safe, non-contact data collection, accurate and fast data processing, precise medical models, virtual surgery simulation, rapid tooling for implants and surgery jigs, and real time surgery monitoring.

Dr Doreen D'Cruz

Dr Doreen D'Cruz, of the School of English and Media Studies, is working in collaboration with Dr John Ross on the project *Sad, Mad or Bad: Isolates in New Zealand Fiction*. The project explores some major texts and authors in New Zealand fiction using the topos of the 'man alone', most famously exemplified by John Mulgan's book *Man Alone* as a starting point for the enquiry.

A recent survey of this topos within New Zealand fiction by Lawrence Jones has not only listed recurrences of it but has also shown the parallel development of the woman alone as a strong motif. The study seeks to interpret this aspect of New Zealand fiction using a multiplicity of critical methodologies that will assist in facilitating an understanding of the various ways in which isolation works textually.

Dr Sandra Heffernan

College of Creative Arts researcher Dr Sandra Heffernan's research interest is in textiles. Her project aims to analyse and document socio-cultural aspects of textiles and dress through material culture research. It will focus on 1930s depression era to 1940s utility era textiles owned by Wellington-based textile collector and author, Rosemary McLeod.

These textiles will be examples of ordinary clothing from every day life in the eras such as mended and re-mended knitted clothes, dresses and textile designs both typical and atypical of the depression and utility era.

Dr Heffernan intends to curate an exhibition and produce a catalogue of the textiles and garments.

She says both Auckland Museum and the National Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, have expressed interest in exhibiting the items following the completion of the project.

Dr Marie Wong

Dr Marie Wong of Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, is researching healthy edible oils, and for the past five years she has been carrying out collaborative research on avocado oil with Dr Allan Woolf at HortResearch.

Her research team is now well recognised internationally as experts in avocado oil extraction, composition and quality. Ongoing research aims to define maturity indices for olives and their influence on oil composition and quality. This research will start next autumn at harvest. Dr Wong now intends to write up all her research on avocado oil for publication.

Dr Margaret Walshaw

Dr Margaret Walshaw's project focuses on the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault and explores how his thinking might be applied within mathematics education.

Dr Walshaw, of the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, plans to write a text for the mathematics education community that challenges traditional thinking.

Her text will attempt to capture the potential of Foucault's philosophy to move current understandings within the mathematics discipline forward. She says Foucault's system of ideas will present a different way of looking at practices and processes such as teacher education and mathematics classroom teaching and learning.

Dr Walshaw says the timing of this project is opportune as the discipline is currently searching for new directions to explain phenomena in a way that is not tied to conventional thinking.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

2007 Māori Awards

Three Māori academics from Te Uru Māraurau have been awarded research funding through the annual University Māori Awards. These awards provide up to \$10,000 to enable researchers to take time away from administrative and teaching duties to write up research results or to collect and analyse further data.

James Graham, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngai Te Whatuiāpiti.

James Graham's research explores the role of Te Aute College in Hawke's Bay and its contribution to Māori development.

It is envisaged that a range of personal experiences and influences through stories, and various literature will contribute to Te Aute's story and hence its contribution to Māori advancement since the latter stages of the 19th century.

The research will explore how Te Aute might maintain its unique Māori focus and character, while assisting with possible strategies to assist transition into the 21st century.

Mr Graham is based at the College of Education's Ruawharo Centre in Napier.



Pani Kenrick, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa

Based on a qualitative Māori-centered approach, College of Education lecturer Pani Kenrick's study titled He Ahi Kā, He Pōkai Rānei examines the provision of a total immersion Māori pre-service teacher education programme.

The study focuses on the ways in which the induction process, self-efficacy and professional development programmes within various classrooms and educational settings contribute to supporting beginning teachers.

Issues related to access and participation in such support programmes and contributions of key personnel to the provision of beginning teacher support are also explored.



Peti Kenrick, Ngāti Kahungunu, Muaupoko, Ngai Tahu

Diversity and disparities within New Zealand society raises the question as to whether beginning teachers have been prepared successfully to cater for the environment into which they are entering.

Peti Kenrick's EdD thesis focuses on beginning teachers' perceptions of their preparation for teaching Māori children and the basis of these perceptions. It also aims to ascertain if teachers can identify why they may believe they can or cannot teach Māori pupils.

Miss Kenrick is based in Napier at the College of Education's Ruawharo Centre.



Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

2007 Early Career Medals

Dr Ben Marshall

Since embarking on his academic career just five years ago, **Dr Ben Marshall** has had a string of papers accepted for publication in top ranking finance journals and has received numerous prizes and awards.

He completed his PhD in 2005 and has already had papers accepted by 15 international journals. The calibre of some of these publications has contributed to the high international ranking in finance that Massey currently has.

Most recently Dr Marshall's research work now in progress has gained acceptance for presentation at the top three finance conferences globally in the face of strong international competition.

That his research attracts a lot of attention is proven by the high number of downloads from business working papers on the social science research network. Based on the number of times his papers have been downloaded, he is already ranked in the top 3.4 per cent of the world's academic finance authors. His research has also attracted the interest of the financial media.

Dr Marshall is known for his ability to articulate the latest finance theory in a way that is relevant to those with less knowledge of the subject. His research expertise is highly valued among students and he is sought after to provide research supervision to students at masters level.

As well gaining rapid acceptance from international conferences and publications so early in his career, he has had considerable success in attracting funding for his research. He has been awarded a Pricewaterhouse Coopers Global Competency Grant of \$4000 and last year he received a grant of \$14,000 from MURF.

Dr Marshall also receives a College of Business Early Career Award.



Dr Ajay Awati

An expert in mammalian digestion and gut microbial fermentation, **Dr Ajay Awati** is a postdoctoral fellow at the University's Riddet Centre.

He was awarded his PhD at Wageningen University in 2005, after completing a BVSc at the MP Agricultural University in Rahuri, India in 1998 and an MSc at Wageningen University, The Netherlands, under Nuffic University Fellowship Program in 2001.

Dr Awati has published 16 scientific papers in leading peer-reviewed journals, one invited book chapter and several industry reports and scientific abstracts.

Co-director of the Riddet Centre Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan says that Dr Awati is clearly an up-and-coming young researcher with excellent prospects.

"Dr Awati has had a prolific publishing output, has been a frequent invitee to present at local and overseas conferences and workshops and is increasingly being recognised by his peers as an invited journal referee."

Dr Awati says he was pleased to join the Riddet Centre, a Government-recognised Centre of Research Excellence hosted by Massey University. He has particularly appreciated the ability to work with Professor Moughan and the progressive nature of the Riddet Centre, allowing strong team interaction and exposure to a range of projects.

"Winning the research medal as a person who has just been around for a couple of years and being recognised by the University for the work you do is very encouraging.

"Certainly the environment created within the Riddet Centre plays a major part in making that possible."

Dr Awati also receives a College of Sciences Early Career Award.



Dr Glen Pettigrove

Dr Glen Pettigrove completed his PhD at the University of California at Riverside in 2003 and has been a lecturer in the philosophy programme at Massey since 2005.

Dr Pettigrove has had 10 sole-authored articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and has a further three currently under consideration. He has also contributed a chapter to a book and has presented many papers to professional audiences.

The award earlier this year by the American Philosophical Association of the Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship was an indicator of the calibre of his work. The award, made every five years, is usually awarded to academics at a later stage in their career.

Dr Pettigrove says he is interested in two key areas. The first is the role of emotion in our judgement of right action.

"You don't just want your friends to be in the right places at the right times doing the right things, you also want them to be caring in the right kind of way."

The second area concerns the ways in which groups can be held morally responsible.

"There has been an interesting change over the past 15 years as nations, corporations, and other groups have acknowledged moral responsibility for their actions.

"For example the US apologised to Japanese Americans for how they were treated in World War II. In many cases the wrong was done prior to any current member of the group's existence.

"It's also interesting that 50 years ago this was barely conceivable that a group could apologise or offer forgiveness to another group. The idea that a nation could do moral wrong to a group of people who were not its citizens became salient after World War II due to the treatment of Jews in the Holocaust."

Dr Pettigrove also receives a College of Humanities and Social Sciences Early Career Award.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences





Pictured above are: Dr Steve Stannard (Hon Research Fellow); Dr Maureen Holdaway (Deputy Director); Prof Mason Durie (DVC, Māori); Prof Chris Cunningham (Director, RCMHD); Mr Isaac Warbrick (TPH Doctoral Scholar); Dr Janice Wenn (TPH Post Doctoral Fellow); Mr Eljon Fitzgerald (Research Officer); Dr Amohia Boulton (HRC Post-Doctoral Fellow); Mr Bevan Clayton-Smith (TPH Doctoral Scholar); Ms Hope Tupara (TPH Doctoral Scholar); Mr Brendon Stevenson (Research Officer); Ms Victoria Simon (TPH Doctoral Scholar); Mr Will Edwards (TPH Doctoral Scholar); Ms Kelly Rongonui (Administrator); Mr John Waldon (TPH Doctoral Scholar)

2007 Outstanding Research Team

Outstanding Research Team: Te Pūmanawa Hauora, Research Centre for Māori Health and Development

The mission of the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development is to improve Māori health through research and scholarship, and the centre has an outstanding record of both research and team development.

Formally established as a research centre in 2003, its origins are in the health programme established a decade earlier by Professor Mason Durie at the School of Māori Studies. Two seminal research programmes were established: Te Pūmanawa Hauora (Māori health research unit) and Te Hoe Nuku Roa, a longitudinal survey of Māori households.

The programmes grew and, in 1996, Dr Chris Cunningham was appointed as director of health research and the consolidation of both programmes. In 2000 the University's Wellington campus was opened and Te Pūmanawa Hauora established a second office within the Research School of Public Health.

In 2003 establishment as an independent research centre saw Dr Cunningham promoted to Professor. The centre is co-located with the Research Centre for Public Health and enjoys strong links with Professor Neil Pearce and his team.

Since its inception as a research programme, the centre has secured more than \$25 million in external funding, and now holds both Health Research Council and Foundation for Research, Science and Technology programmes. Projects range from mental health to diabetes and insulin resistance, to the health of older Māori and the health of children. Significant aspects of health policy are also addressed.

Professor Cunningham says the medal is acknowledgement of the very sound base put in place by Professor Durie.

"And it's really about the ongoing commitment to workforce development - that's probably our biggest contribution, followed by the programmes of research themselves.

"While everything in the area of Māori health is a priority, the plans we have around exercise science and diabetes are exciting. This really draws upon the University's talent in the exercise sciences and the talents within the Research School of Public Health."

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Barrie Macdonald says that as well as making its own contribution in research, the centre has provided an exemplar as to how research capacity can be built and critical mass achieved.

Since its inception, the centre has produced 10 Māori PhD graduates, six post-doctoral fellows and currently has 18 doctoral students.

"The nurturing of postgraduate and early career researchers has been a distinct feature," Professor Macdonald says.

"In a field where researchers are hard to find, and the research questions are pressing, the centre has made a major contribution to addressing these key questions, influencing policy and building the research capability that would allow research in this area to grow.

"This is a contribution that has gone well beyond the University and is of national importance."

The work of the centre is acknowledged both nationally and internationally. Professor Durie was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professor Cunningham is also an Honorary Professor at the Wellington School of Medicine and a Visiting Research Fellow and Associate at the University of Sydney.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Maori

Consolidating research success

In last year's research edition of Massey News I paid tribute to the talented individuals that constitute Massey University's world class research capability and the recognition of some of these staff through our internal awards process.

Since the publication of this material, a number of important developments have occurred which speak to the further growth and dynamism of research at Massey University.

I'll reflect briefly on three of these. The first relates to the second research quality evaluation (PBRF) conducted by the Tertiary Education Commission in 2006 for which results were available in 2007.

The following results speak for themselves:

- Massey University was one of two universities to improve its national institutional ranking;
- With the exception of AUT University, Massey University showed the greatest improvement in institution quality score;
- Massey University PBRF funding for 2007 was initially projected by the TEC to be \$32.7m. On basis of 2006 Quality Evaluation results released today, Massey PBRF funding for 2007 is now \$34.6m;
- Massey improved from seven subject areas in top three in 2003 to 13 in top in 2006.

The second major research success relates to the opening of the University's Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre by the Prime Minister in August 2007.

The Microscopy Centre was the outcome of a successful application to the TEC's Innovation and Development fund.

The application was led by Professor Barry Scott and its success was largely dependent on the high degree of support from across the College of Sciences and by CRIs and private sector partners.

The other highlight for 2007 was Massey 's successful bid for a national Centre of Research Excellence, launched through the Riddet Centre.

Massey University was the only successful applicant in this round of CoRE applications and this reflects the University's commitment to world-class research in pursuit of economic development.

In this instance, New Zealand's food industry will be a major recipient of innovation generated from this centre.

All three developments represent long-term research commitments to excellent and relevant research which extend well into the next decade. The common theme here is that of longer term consolidation of the University's status as a nationally and internationally significant research provider.

Professor Nigel Long
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Massey celebrates world-class research

Massey researchers have this year again proved themselves of national and international standing, reflected by their achievements in boosting the University's profile and world ranking.

For the fourth year Massey News devotes an issue to acknowledging and celebrating the individual and collaborative efforts of staff whose research work is making vital contributions across a wide range of disciplines and those younger academics already receiving recognition as rising stars of research.

In May the Tertiary Education Commission announced results of last year's Performance-Based Research Fund quality evaluation, which saw the University's score increase 45 per cent over the inaugural 2003 PBRF result - the biggest increase of any university.

Its PBRF-based funding, now \$34.7 million, is the third highest in New Zealand, while the results also saw a 52 per cent increase in the number of A-ranked researchers and a 27 per cent overall increase in A, B and C-ranked researchers.

Massey is ranked first for research in Design, Nursing, Veterinary Science and in the top three in New Zealand for Agriculture and Applied Biological Sciences, Public Health, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Visual Arts and Craft, Clinical Medicine, Engineering and Technology, other Health Studies, Physics, Sport and Exercise Science, and Statistics.

Earlier this month Massey recorded the biggest gain of the New Zealand universities in the annual Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranking of the world's top 500 universities, moving from a ranking of between 401 and 500 last year to between 305 and 401 this year.

It now ranks second-equal with Otago, behind only Auckland, and ahead of Canterbury and Victoria, the only other New Zealand institutions to make the 500. Of the universities in the Asia-Pacific region, it is ranked between 43 and 64, compared with 64-92 last year.

The research medals are to be presented at a dinner at Parliament Buildings on 25 October, hosted by Education Minister and Palmerston North MP Steve Maharey with Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

The team medal has been won by the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; the individual medal goes to Professor Neil Pearce from the same college, and the supervisor's medal to Professor Barry Scott from the College of Science.

Early career research medals have gone to Dr Ajay Awati, College of Sciences, Dr Ben Marshall, College of Business and Dr Glen Pettigrove, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Their stories and those of the other winners - of college research awards, technicians' awards, Māori and women's awards, postdoctoral fellowships - are here, as well as the recently-announced Marsden funding of close to \$6 million for a dozen Massey staff.

Date: 24/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



Veterinary school gets full US accreditation

Massey University's BVSc has again been approved as an accredited programme by the American Veterinary Medical Association, confirming the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences as one of the top veterinary schools in the world.

Head of the institute Professor Grant Guilford says the programme has been granted full accreditation for seven years. The accreditation means that vets trained at Massey can work in the US without additional study, and that the school is acknowledged for its high standard of veterinary education.

"The AVMA once again singled out the commitment of staff to students as a hallmark of the Massey BVSc," Professor Guilford says. "It is a quality which the AVMA finds very refreshing and admirable."

Professor Guilford says it is noteworthy that this is the first such re-accreditation in Australasia.

"Re-accreditation is arguably a more difficult process than the initial accreditation because there is less 'forgiveness' in the minds of the accreditors - and risks of complacency amongst staff and university administration. This is an exacting accreditation process and one which we have passed, I'm told, with 'flying colours'."

The BVSc programme was first accredited by the AMVA in 2002. Massey is one of only eight veterinary schools outside North America to be accredited. It joins an elite group of 40 universities worldwide, including Cornell University and universities of California and Pennsylvania, and the University of Edinburgh Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. The BVSc is also accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association, the British Royal college of veterinary Surgeons and the Australian Veterinary Boards Council.

Date: 26/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Journalism student earns place in Jakarta

Massey journalism student Will Robertson is one of three New Zealanders to have been awarded a work placement in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

The Australian Consortium of 'In Country' Indonesian Studies Journalism Professional Practicum aims to give students the background knowledge and theoretical insights required to work in and report on Indonesia.

ACICIS was established to develop and coordinate study programmes in Indonesia. Its programmes were extended to include media placements in 2002 and for the first time this year New Zealand journalists were invited to join the programme.

Head of Journalism at Massey's Wellington campus Dr Grant Hannis says he is delighted at Mr Robertson's success. "He is a capable, hard-working student, and I'm sure he'll get a lot out of this fantastic opportunity.

"As Asia's influence on New Zealand grows it is vital that journalists can write about Asia in an informed, intelligent way. It seems to me the best way to gain that knowledge is by the kind of direct experience he is going to have."

Mr Robertson, who graduates this year, says he has always been interested in Indonesia. "I think it is important we get to know such a huge neighbour. I also see it as an opportunity to get a job in the region. I would like to be a foreign correspondent one day."

He plans to stay for longer than the six-week practicum, so that he can learn Bahasa (Indonesian language). The practicum starts in January.

Other New Zealand students on the programme are Aroha Treacher and Dylan Quinnell from AUT University.

All three New Zealanders are supported by the Asia:New Zealand Foundation.

Date: 26/09/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Educators welcome new teaching scholarships

Massey University educators have welcomed the government's announcement of scholarship changes for prospective teachers.

From 2008 existing scholarships and allowances will be replaced with a single flexible and responsive TeachNZ recruitment scholarship. A total of 538 scholarships will be available - 80 of them, enhanced scholarships and the rest for tertiary students and graduates.

Education Minister Steve Maharey says that the changes made are to make teaching a more accessible and attractive career, and Massey's Director of Teacher Education, Dr Mary Simpson is pleased with the announcement.

"With a pending teacher shortage, it is vital to promote teaching as an attractive and rewarding career option," she says. "To have this recognized in the form of new scholarships from the Government is very significant."

Dr Simpson says that the announcement also provides an opportunity for institutions that prepare teachers, to evaluate their priorities.

"While there is an urgency to enter new teachers into the workforce, it is equally as important to ensure that those teachers are quality, and meeting the areas of greatest need identified by the Government," she says.

The TeachNZ recruitment scholarship is targeted at areas of highest need - chemistry, home economics, mathematics, physics, technology, te reo Maori, and Maori medium.

Under the recruitment scholarship for graduates, all full-time secondary student teachers will receive course fees and an allowance and be bonded to teach.

New 'career changer' scholarships will also be available to attract people with established careers to become teachers of technology and/or te reo Maori, or to teach in bilingual or Maori immersion environments.

"Massey's College of Education offers a total-immersion, te reo Maori teaching qualification, Te Aho Tatairangi, and it's an opportunity for us to promote this programme to prospective teachers, or even those fluent in te reo who may be considering a career change," Dr Simpson says.

Under the scholarship incentives, up to \$30,000 is available to support those in this area.

Date: 26/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Government Policy commentators

Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue a highlight of NZSM spectacular

Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue will be the centrepiece of a New Zealand School of Music concert next month.

In his only Wellington performance, Grammy-nominated jazz pianist, composer and arranger Bill Cunliffe will perform his arrangement of the piece that established Gershwin's reputation as a composer.

Using the original orchestration, Cunliffe pays homage to the 1924 debut of Rhapsody and recaptures its improvisatory nature.

Rhapsody in Blue has often been interpreted as a musical portrait of New York City, and is used to this effect in Woody Allen's film Manhattan.

Featuring Cunliffe as soloist, supported by bassist Paul Dyne, drummer Steve Houghton and the NZSM Orchestra, it promises to be a showstopper.

Americans Cunliffe and Houghton will also perform at the Queenstown international jazz festival. Houghton is an internationally recognised drummer, percussionist, author and educator.

Also in the NZSM concert, Wellington City Organist and keyboard specialist Douglas Mews will join the orchestra to perform Camille Saint-Saëns's Symphony No 3, popularly known as the 'organ symphony'.

Student soloists from the NZSM classical performance voice department will sing with the orchestra in Vaughan Williams's Serenade to Music.

NZSM Director Professor Elizabeth Hudson said the concert showcases the best of both classical and jazz - exactly what the NZSM is all about.

"It's our biggest event of the year, and our students, staff and guests will be giving a vividly entertaining view of the collaborations that define us."

NZSM Spectacular concert

Wednesday 17 October at 8pm, Wellington Town Hall

Tickets at \$35 / 20 / 10 can be purchased from Ticketek. Media are welcome to attend.

Date: 27/09/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Wellington

Finance leaders caution on over-reactive regulation

A group of leading financial academics and researchers from New Zealand and Australia are cautioning their governments against over-reacting in regulating suppliers of riskier investment products.

The Australia-New Zealand Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee have just met in Melbourne and discussed the financial turmoil affecting markets across the world. In a statement issued in Australia on Tuesday (25 November) the group said: "Failure of financial institutions and the attendant losses must be expected as part of the normal operation of efficient and innovative financial systems.

"Risk taking, risk transformation and risk management are core parts of the business of financial intermediation. By its very nature, risk involves the prospect of loss as well as gain, and losses must occasionally occur. When investors knowingly accept exposure to high-risk financial assets in the expectation of improving their returns, they should bear the consequences of failure."

The group said that if governments were to protect investors from the adverse consequences of their informed decisions, moral hazard can arise to distort the efficient working of the financial system.

The ANZSFRC's third statement also:

emphasised that the prudential safety net should be limited in extent. This means that regulatory proposals such as those being considered to protect investors in financial products need to take care not to blur the boundary line of the safety net.

Repeated its December 2006 call to the Australian and New Zealand authorities to speedily finalise and implement their proposals regarding failure management arrangements, which would help to clearly delineate the safety net boundary.

Recommends that proposals for new disclosure requirements should be "road tested" with consumers as part of the required regulatory impact assessment.

Suggested that regulators review whether increasing (or retaining) the role of mandatory trustees for debenture or deposit-like securities is appropriate, given the availability of alternative, possibly superior, approaches to fulfilling their current investor protection role.

Argued that the authorities should promote the development of secondary markets for such securities as a complement to other measures which have been proposed for improving information (and exit mechanisms) for retail investors.

Questioned whether the application of an "If Not Why Not" approach to disclosing whether benchmark financial indicators have been met, as proposed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), is effectively equivalent to compulsion, and calls for more detailed consideration of the benchmarks proposed.

The ANZSFRC meets twice every year in one of the major cities in Australia or New Zealand. The 'shadow' function of the ANZSFRC is related to the Committee's purpose of following and analysing critically the existing and evolving regulatory framework for financial institutions and markets. The ANZSFRC is part of an emerging worldwide network of Shadow Financial Regulatory Committees that meet to discuss a theme of common interest, resulting in a joint policy statement.

Members on the ANZSFRC include Co-chair Professor Glenn Boyle, Victoria University, Professor Lawrence Rose, Massey University, Professor Steven Cahan, Auckland University and Professor Alireza Tourani Rad from AUT University as well as representatives from the University of New South Wales, Macquarie Graduate School of Management, the University of Melbourne, Sydney University, Melbourne Business School and Griffith University.

Professor Martin Young from the University's finance department is a member of the Asian SFRC.

Date: 27/09/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Lahars and floods increase demand for health protection officers

Lahars and new risks from climate change are accelerating demand for health science professionals, says an environmental health expert.

When Ruapehu blows its top or Northland gets flooded, environmental health officers are there to protect people from environmental hazards.

Climate change exposes people to hazards such as extreme weather events, says environmental health lecturer Dr Beatrice Dias-Wanigasekera.

A new risk is the possibility of vector-borne diseases becoming established in New Zealand, such as malaria or dengue fever carried by mosquitoes. Establishment of new and emerging pathogens, new epidemics, and recurrence of past epidemics are other hazards due to climate change.

With more floods, droughts and other health hazards, demand is so high for environmental health graduates that most land jobs while in their final year of study.

In response, the University's Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health has launched a new programme in human health and the environment on its Wellington campus. Study can be in a mixed mode, with a combination of extramural and internally taught papers.

Dr Dias-Wanigasekera says every day is different for Environmental Health and Health Protection Officers. The role is challenging, people oriented and focused on promoting human health and well being.

"These officers face a huge range of challenges from managing natural hazards, assessing drinking water and food quality and safety, dealing with chemical spills, and harmful microbes.

"People have increasing expectations of their environment being safe, whether the issue is lahars, toxic chemicals, unsafe food, or excessive noise," she says.

Laws such as the Resource Management Act, the Building Act, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, and the Food Act are evidence that the community demands protection from hazards.

"A Health Protection Officer's job is to keep us safe from harmful environmental effects."

Massey also offers a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health, aimed at people already in the workforce.

Date: 01/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Health researchers target diabetes

International academics will tackle key health issues facing New Zealand's most vulnerable populations, at a one-day research symposium to be hosted by the Research Centre for Maori Health and Development on 30 October.

Centre director Professor Chris Cunningham says the focus will be on identifying the research agenda for combating Metabolic Syndrome in New Zealand, including the benefits of early identification of insulin resistance, and the role of exercise and nutrition.

Participants include Stanford University academic Professor Gerald Reaven, who in 1988 first introduced the idea that abdominal obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes have a common link which is insulin resistance and impaired glucose tolerance. He called this clustering of symptoms Syndrome X which is more recently known among other names as the Metabolic Syndrome.

Iconic New Zealand athlete and University of Texas exercise scientist Associate Professor Peter Snell and Australian expert on nutrition and Aboriginal health Professor Kerin O'Dea will also take part.

"It's a coup to be able to bring the best expertise in the World to Wellington to discuss how research can help ease the burden of diabetes in Maori and New Zealand," says Professor Cunningham. "It's an opportunity too good to miss."

Limited to 200 participants, Insulin Resistance, Diabetes and Vulnerable Populations will be held at the Museum Theatre, at the University's Wellington campus.

Registration details can be found at: <http://publichealth.massey.ac.nz/meetings.htm>

Date: 01/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Maori



Debris-covered snow and ice on Mt Ruapehu.

Eruption debris may extend snow seasons

Skiers and snowboarders may have the recent eruption to thank for an extended ski season, says University glaciologist Dr Martin Brook.

Dr Brook is a lecturer in physical geography who has specialised in the study of glaciers. On hearing of the eruption last Tuesday, he and a team headed up Mt Ruapehu to install monitoring equipment to assess the glaciological response.

"The eruption dumped a lot of volcanic material on the upper snowfields at Ruapehu, which act as source accumulation areas collecting snow," he says. "This in turn turns into firm snow and then glacier ice for the Whakapapa Glacier in particular. As we are now moving into the spring and summer melting season, where the sun is at a higher angle, and the days are longer, snow and glacier ice on Ruapehu usually melts rapidly until the following autumn. However, this year, there is now debris cover on the ice of varying thickness, so this will protect the snow and ice from melting in the accumulation area, keeping a base of snow and ice in place for a longer than usual. That also gives us the tantalising prospect of enhanced snow at the beginning of the autumn ski season in 2008."

Were the layer of debris thinner - or thicker - it would have a different impact.

"Melting is enhanced under debris up to about 8mm thick, due to absorption of shortwave radiation from the sun. The debris re-emits this as long-wave radiation into the adjacent snow and ice. This is because dark colours have a low reflectivity, and do not reflect sunlight like lighter colours do. However, with a debris cover thicker than about eight to 10mm, this actually acts to insulate the ice and snow below, as the debris is too thick for any radiation received at the surface to be transmitted downwards to the snow below."

Dr Brooks says New Zealand is unusual in glaciological terms. "It's doubly intriguing; New Zealand's glaciers are not your average glaciers. Those on the west coast of the South Island (Fox, Franz Josef) respond to snowfall, which appears to overprint the effect of temperature.

"Hence, we have a situation in New Zealand, with global warming heating the oceans, evaporating more sea water into the atmosphere, leading to enhanced precipitation on the West Coast of the South Island, and a short seven-minute volcanic eruption perhaps leading to insulation of parts of the Ruapehu glaciers and snowfields on the North Island."

Dr Brooks and his team have a permit application with the Department of Conservation to install an automatic weather station and an array of ablation stakes in the summit snowfield, and the top of the Whakapapa Glacier. They hope to return to install the equipment with the assistance of Mt Ruapehu ski field staff this week.

Date: 02/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Papatuanuku inspires exhibition

Iwi Creativity, an exhibition of artwork from nine Maori students inspired by Papatuanuku (the earth mother) goes on display at the Great Hall in the Museum Building on 8 October.

Kaiwhakaahua (Director of Maori Development) Ross Hemera (Ngai Tahu) says the work is a celebration of creativity from Māori students in design and fine arts, from Toi Rauwharangi-the College of Creative Arts.

"The work celebrates Maori student achievement and highlights the students' academic endeavour." Mr Hemera says.

"We have chosen the concept of Papatuanuku to describe the work in this exhibition. Papatuanuku is the symbol of sustenance for Maori. Papatuanuku sustains all life including these tender new shoots of iwi creativity as they strive for excellence."

Contemporary Maori design and the work of Irish furniture designer Eileen Gray are the inspirations for third-year industrial design student Jamaine Fraser (Te Arawa). He has designed Haupapa (pictured), a space divider which is laser cut from resin or perspex.

Building on his love of drawing since he was at kindergarten, Mr Fraser says he always knew his future lay in design.

The exhibition will also feature in Blow: Nga hau e wha, the College's creative arts festival next month.

Date: 02/10/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Maori



Rave review for student big band album



A new album of jazz classics from the New Zealand School of Music's Big Band has attracted an enthusiastic review in the United States.

Rodger Fox Presents Ray Woolf has been acclaimed by leading reviewer Jack Bowers.

"Talented singer, terrific band, tasteful songs—totally recommended," he wrote in the All About Jazz website.

"And what a band this is—so tight and perceptive that it's hard to believe the members are actually students."

It is rare for New Zealand jazz albums to even get reviewed internationally, says bandleader Rodger Fox, who also tutors jazz at the School of Music.

"People are taking notice. Audiences love the power of the big band sound, and the diversity of styles—they can play the standard jazz repertoire, like Count Basie or Frank Sinatra, or blues, funk and swing."

The album was recorded at the School of Music's concert hall in Wellington. It includes vocalist Ray Woolf performing songs from the Great American Songbook such as *You Make Me Feel So Young*, *South of the Border*, and *I've Got You Under My Skin*, and pop/rock standards like *Smoke on the Water*, *Kansas City* and *Can't Buy Me Love*.

Big bands, also known as jazz orchestras, emerged in the 1920s and include five saxophones, four trumpets, four trombones, and a rhythm section of drums, bass and piano.

The New Zealand School of Music's Big Band is made up of senior music students and is Wellington's only regularly rehearsed big band.

They play at the Bristol Hotel in Cuba St, Wellington, on 11 October.

Rodger Fox Presents Ray Woolf is released by Ode Music.

Date: 03/10/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

More bad news on home affordability

The bad news on home affordability continues and there is little light at the end of the tunnel for first home buyers, according to the latest quarterly report from the University's Property Foundation.

In the past five years home affordability has declined by 70 per cent, with the annual decline in the year to 31 August 13.2 per cent.

In the quarter ending in August, affordability, which takes into account prices, incomes and mortgage interest rates, declined by an average 2.5 per cent, says the report from Massey's College of Business property market researchers. The latest decline was mainly due to rising interest rates.

However, the quarter did bring affordability improvements in some regions. In Taranaki home affordability improved by 4.5 per cent, in Manawatu/Wanganui there was a lift of 3.6 per cent and in Northland there was a slight improvement of 0.9 per cent.

Declines in home affordability in the quarter were reported from Central Otago Lakes (16.2 per cent), Southland (10.3 per cent), Otago (8.1 per cent), Waikato/Bay of Plenty (6.7 per cent), Nelson/Marlborough (4.8 per cent), Wellington (3.1 per cent), Hawke's Bay (2.6 per cent), Canterbury/Westland (1.6 per cent), and Auckland (1.3 per cent).

All regions recorded declines in annual affordability and house prices over the year to August increased by 12.9 per cent.

Currently Southland leads as the easiest place to buy a house followed by Manawatu/Wanganui and Taranaki. Central Otago Lakes continues to be the least affordable region followed by Auckland, Nelson/ Marlborough respectively.

View the full report at: http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/fileadmin/research_outputs/AugustHousingReport2007b.pdf

Date: 03/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Council sets fees for 2008, pledge renewed effort to lobby Government over tertiary underfunding

The Massey University Council today voted to increase undergraduate domestic tuition fees by 5 per cent for next year. Postgraduate taught and research fees will increase by \$500 (including gst).

University Chancellor Nigel Gould says even with the increase the University's fees remain well below the maximum allowable and generally below those charged by other universities.

Assuming other universities choose to increase fees by 5 per cent for 2008, 94 per cent of Massey domestic undergraduate students will pay between 4 and 10 per cent less than the sector average fees for the equivalent full-time course of study next year. The increases equates to between \$24 and \$29 per paper, excluding veterinary science, which is \$79. An Arts or Business degree will now cost \$3976, Education \$3667, Science \$4515 and Agricultural Science and Nursing \$4698.

Mr Gould says the university needs to get back to a sustainable investment regime to enable investment in facilities and services that improve the student experience.

"It was necessary to ask students to contribute in part to the increased cost of delivering tuition and to ensure continued delivery of quality teaching and student experience."

Not increasing fees would have compromised the ability to achieve the goals and outcomes identified in the Investment Plan, which are designed to achieve the Government's priorities for the tertiary sector, he says.

Endorsing concerns raised by the students associations, the Council also approved a recommendation to note the inadequate levels of government funding of the university sector, when benchmarked internationally, and to continue to work with all stakeholders in the university sector to seek further improvements in the level of investment by the Government.

"Underfunding of universities is a concern shared by all of Council. We support a university sector-wide initiative to ask Government to push deeper into their pockets."

Small increases were also approved for non-tuition fees such as student services levies, and the Auckland and Palmerston North Students' Associations also increased their levies.

"We also needed to make sure that we could continue to provide high levels of support services and to invest in such things as technology and libraries to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education," says Mr Gould.

Mr Gould says the university has a responsibility to ensure it meets its obligations to students, staff and the community. Management is currently implementing initiatives to more closely align income with costs, he says, and maximising all sources of income is important to achieve financial sustainability. The University is not expected to achieve the Government-defined target of 3 per cent return on revenue in 2007. The fees increase is expected to increase revenue from fees by about \$4 million.

Date: 04/10/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Bomb scare at Wellington campus

Parts of the Wellington campus were cordoned off by police this afternoon following the discovery by University staff at 1.45pm of two suspicious packages. Several hundred students and staff were safely evacuated. Wallace St was also closed by the police.

Five buildings were affected: Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6 and the Student Centre.

The suspicious items were located in Block 3 and Block 5. Police subsequently cleared both items as non-threatening and the cordon was lifted at 4.40pm.

Date: 04/10/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Steve Maharey and university Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

DNA sequencer first of its kind in Southern Hemisphere

A next-generation DNA sequencer now installed at Massey University will enable scientists to analyse DNA 100 times faster than previously. The Solexa Genome Analyser system was launched this afternoon at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, on the University's Palmerston North campus.

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Research, Science and Technology Steve Maharey said the Solexa would enable the Centre to take a leading role in showing the world how such new technology could be used to study populations, individuals and diseases. "The new Solexa will advance our knowledge of the causes of diseases like Hepatitis-B and the genetic susceptibility to cancers such as stomach cancer," Mr Maharey said. "It will also help us find tests for diseases.

"It can also be used to study the genetic diversity of our native plants and animals or to identify the microbes that cause diseases on grapevines, which could be a huge benefit to the New Zealand wine industry."

Professor Mike Hendy, centre co-director, says this facility will contribute significantly to all genomic research conducted in New Zealand.

"By sharing the facility we are able to reduce costs and increase efficiency for all researchers. Although we have many new applications planned within the Allan Wilson Centre, history tells us that often the most dramatic advances are those that were not anticipated. The scale of data obtained is measured in terabytes per run, and hence there are major mathematical and computing challenges to be met in order to gain maximum benefit from this new source of information. The Allan Wilson Centre, as a cooperative interdisciplinary research organisation is well placed to take a major role in the world-wide effort to interpret and process this new information."

The Solexa and the existing ABI 3730 sequencer are complementary, and will allow almost all projects requiring next-generation sequencing to take place within New Zealand.

The Centre is a Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence, hosted by Massey and partnered by researchers from Auckland, Canterbury, Otago and Victoria universities. It comprises world-class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who work together to unlock the secrets of New Zealand's plants, animals, and microbes. Scientists from AgResearch, Fonterra, the University of Otago and Lincoln University attended a workshop session on how to prepare material for the Solexa and how to manipulate data generated, prior to the launch. The Solexa is intended to become an accredited facility, the only one in the Southern Hemisphere, and provides an opportunity to attract clients from across Australasia.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Research



Distinguished Professor David Lambert, Professor Grant Guilford, Sir Neil Waters and Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin at the launch of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study.

Institute for Advanced Study launched

Massey University has created a New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study, allowing elite scientists to pursue fundamental scholarship with the aim of driving New Zealand forward and potentially earning New Zealand's first Nobel Prize.

Governing Board chairman Professor Grant Guilford says the NZIAS will be unlike any other academic institution in New Zealand.

"Most developed nations have such an institute, characterised by interdisciplinary clusters of elite scholars with the ambition and capability to lead mankind's cultivation and generation of knowledge. For many hundreds of years science has been organised within disciplines - for example ecologists working with ecologists or biologists collaborating with biologists. In the institutes for advanced study we break this traditional mould and bring together the top people from disparate fields to see what breakthroughs can arise - it's a case of let's put them together and see what happens.

"As well as enjoying the supportive and creative environment offered by the NZIAS to support their research, each will be able to mentor and develop the next generation of scholars so that New Zealand is best able to advance at a scientific and economic level."

Professor Guilford, head of Massey's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, says the university's history of foreseeing the challenges ahead enabled it to develop programmes recognised as critical to the economy, including agriculture, food and applied biological sciences; veterinary studies; engineering and technology, and finance. "This culture of innovation makes Massey the natural home for a progressive organisation such as the NZIAS. Developing a world-leading science capability is consistent with Massey's leadership of learning in New Zealand."

Professor Guilford says that the NZIAS will secure international prestige for New Zealand as a whole, as well as enhancing the university's drive for focused excellence.

"Each of the four professoriate is a world-leader in his field. This interdisciplinary grouping of pre-eminent scholars provides huge opportunity, both for them to pursue their research and for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to aspire to study with the professoriate. We also anticipate that we will develop a schedule of visiting researchers, seminars and symposia to ensure that the influence of the NZIAS is promulgated throughout academia. It is certainly within the realms of possibility that the NZIAS could be the means by which New Zealand secures its first Nobel prize for work done here."

The inaugural professoriate and their research teams are all working from the University's Auckland campus. Associate and visiting academics will be selected to support the professoriate.

The New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study will be officially launched by Minister for Research, Science and Technology Steve Maharey tomorrow (3 October) at 2pm.

The NZIAS Professoriate

Distinguished Professor David Lambert FRSNZ

Research Interests: Molecular Biology and Evolution.

Professor Lambert's research is focused on aspects of evolutionary theory and evolutionary genetics, particularly in relation to species theory, the nature of Darwinian biology and ancient DNA.

"Our research has pioneered approaches to the estimation of evolutionary rates, as measured by changes in ancient DNA over time, and has made a special study of Adélie penguins from the Antarctic, representing one of the best sources of ancient DNA yet discovered, as well as ancient DNA from extinct moa," Professor Lambert says.

Other research has enabled the reconstruction of the phylogenetic relationships among moa species testing the use of DNA barcoding to determine its efficacy to the identification of species of ancient life.

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin FRSNZ

Research Interests: Mathematics

Non-linear analysis, elliptic partial differential equations and Beltrami systems are of particular interest to Professor Martin, as is geometric function theory, particularly as it interacts with conformal geometry, quasiconformal mappings and their generalisations. Professor Martin is also working on applications in non-linear elasticity and materials science, low dimensional topology and geometry, particularly hyperbolic geometry, discrete groups and their associated universal constants, such as minimal co-volume, and relations between arithmetic and geometry.

Professor Victor Flambaum FAA

Research interests: Physics

Challenging problems in atomic, nuclear, elementary particle, solid state physics and astrophysics are of interest to Professor Flambaum, in particular violation of the fundamental symmetries (parity, time invariance), test of the theories of Grand Unification of elementary particles and their interactions and the search for spatial and temporal variation of the fundamental constants in the Universe from the Big Bang to the present time. Professor Flambaum is also interested in many-body theory and high-precision atomic calculations, quantum chaos and statistical theory, high-temperature superconductivity and conductance quantisation.

Professor Paul Rainey

Research Interests: Ecology and Evolution

Evolutionary processes particularly, but not exclusively, evolution by natural selection are of interest to Professor Rainey. The research is both theoretical and empirical and makes use of microbial populations in order to observe and dissect evolution in real time. A growing focus is the evolutionary origins of multicellularity. Other interests include the ecological significance of diversity in natural microbial populations; evolutionary processes determining patterns of diversity in space and time; and the genetics and fitness consequences of traits that enhance ecological performance in populations of plant-colonising bacteria.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger FRSNZ

Research Interests: Theoretical Chemistry

Professor Schwerdtfeger addresses aspects of quantum chemistry and physics focused toward fundamental issues. Current research areas include parity-violation in chiral molecules, relativistic effects, the chemistry of heavy and superheavy elements, simulation of metallic clusters, quantum-electrodynamic effects in atoms and molecules, solid state chemistry and physics including high-pressure materials, surface science, chemical evolution theory and the mathematical and philosophical aspects of quantum theory.

Professor Victor Flambaum is scheduled to relocate from the University of New South Wales to NZIAS in 2009, with provision made for a further five professors to be selected.

NZIAS Scientific Board

Professor Rodney Bartlett

Graduate Research Professor: University of Florida

Schrödinger Medal

Guggenheim Fellow

Professor Lennart Carleson

Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Leroy Steel Prize - American Mathematical Society

Wolf Prize

Lomonosov Gold Medal - Russian Academy of Sciences

Sylvester Medal - Royal Society, London Abel Prize 2006

Professor Vaughan Jones DCNZM DSc FRS FRSNZ
University of California, Berkeley
Fields Medal
Onsager Medal
Inaugural Rutherford Medal

Professor Helmut Schwarz
Director of the Humboldt Foundation
Lise Meitner-Alexander von Humboldt-Award, Israel Ministry of Sciences
van't Hoff Award, Royal Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam
Otto Bayer Award for Chemistry
Thomson Medal

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences



Massey warning system picks eruption

The University's volcanic response group is working with the Department of Conservation to find out why its warning system did not pick up Mt Ruapehu's latest eruption but the University's equipment did.

Dr Shane Cronin, of the Institute of Natural Resources, says the cause may be because the event was eruption-related.

"It looks as if the flows were so short-lived they weren't recorded on the DoC warning system.

"What we're trying to figure out is why they weren't picked up there and make some recommendations to DoC about how they update their system to catch things like this in the future."

Dr Cronin and his students drove to the Central Plateau as soon as he heard about the eruption and spent a night camped by a lahar monitoring station at the base of Mt Ruapehu. They have since been back to the mountain several times and now analysing samples taken from across the mountain and data from monitoring instruments.

The instruments were purchased in December as part of a \$720,000 Marsden Fund project led by Dr Cronin and Dr Vern Manville from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

"Our efforts included surveying precisely the levels of the lahars down the Whangaehu channel. The lahar deposits are an unusual mix of snow, mud and rock - like in 1995.

"There were at least three flows down the valley and our instruments installed for the Marsden Fund research project seem all to have worked in capturing the flows as they passed."

He says the Whangaehu lahars were probably in total only about 15 per cent of the size of the March 18 lahar from the crater lake and were more or less confined to the upper mountain.

Dr Cronin says the technique used to gather information about the internal dynamics of the lahar, using seismometers, will be used to enhance predictive models being developed by the group.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences





Ngaahina Hohaia.

Māori Visual Arts student wins Te Waka Toi scholarship

Master of Māori Visual Arts student Ngaahina Hohaia is one of two Nga Karahipi a Te Waka Toi scholarship winners this year.

The scholarship is significant both in the sense that many recipients including recent School of Māori Studies graduate Kelcy Taratoa have gone on to considerable success - and in that the scholarship "almost covers the fees".

"The reality of being a visual artist is that the cost of materials is pretty high, Ms Hohaia says. "It would be easy to spend \$8000 a year on course materials, then there's exhibition costs and the printing of catalogues."

The 31-year-old has exhibited prolifically, with works ranging from sculpture to jewellery and adornment pieces. Historical narratives and imagery from her childhood home Parihaka have influenced the work.

The installation Roimata Toroa was created using 600 blanket poi for a wall at Palmerston North's Te Manawa art gallery. Each poi is made from pure wool blanket, and embroidered with one of 60 symbols related to the tiny Taranaki settlement known for its role as a centre of passive resistance during the New Zealand wars.

"What I wanted to do for Te Manawa was create something so that anyone could walk into the space and find a connection with the work," Ms Hohaia says.

So successful was the exhibit, an electronic sensor had to be used to keep viewers from touching the poi, which Ms Hohaia labels "fibre sculpture".

"This type of work links directly back to the weaving - I have been weaving since I was about eight and that has been one of the foundations of my work. This is still a type of weaving together."

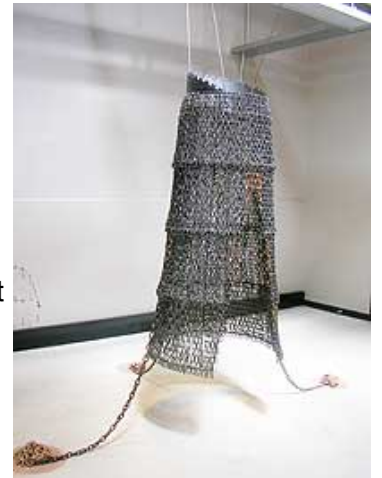
Now the elder of Ms Hohaia's two sons is ready to start weaving. "He's asking ... it could be a good time to start teaching him."

Other plans for the future include a return to Taranaki later this year for an exhibition at the prestigious Govett-Brewster Gallery in New Plymouth. Then, next year Ms Hohaia plans to hold her end-of-year exhibition in the meeting hall at Parihaka.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori; Scholarships



French view NZ as primitive Utopia, via Campion

The French may be getting a hefty dose of Antipodean brute force watching the All Blacks in the Rugby World Cup, but a Massey lecturer says their view of New Zealand as an antipodal 'Other', rife with primitive forces, is already well-established thanks to their interpretations of Jane Campion's two New Zealand films.

In an essay to be published in an international book, Film, Television and Media studies lecturer Dr Simon Sigley contemplates how Campion's films - *An Angel at My Table* and *The Piano*, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1993 - have helped shape a French vision of this country.

Admired and upheld as examples of sophisticated cinematic art that echoed French aesthetic ideals, Campion's films succeeded in captivating French film reviewers and audiences alike with their raw, striking images - from the mute Victorian-era heroine Ada washed up on a wild West Coast beach with a piano, to the harshly primeval bush-clad setting drenched in rain and mud.

Such imagery depicted New Zealand as a primeval space in which new ways of being might be possible, says Dr Sigley.

As a fresh-faced New World cinematic auteur (film-maker with a distinctive vision and style), Campion was credited with injecting new energy into a lack-lustre Old World film culture weighed down by its traditions and a post-modern skepticism about narrative.

Much of her imagery taps into and reinforces an historical French predilection to imagine South Seas islands as relatively unscathed by civilization, and characterised by a blend of primitivism and Utopian romance, he says.

"The islands are symbolic spaces that allow Europeans to contrast their societies with those believed to exist in the South Pacific. Such a practice began with Denis Diderot's musings on Tahitian society in 1773 after the navigator Louis de Bougainville published an account of his explorations in the South Pacific," he says.

Through detailed study of film reviews of *An Angel at My Table* and *The Piano* taken from the following dailies and weeklies: *l'Humanité*, *Libération*, *le Monde*, *le Nouvel Observateur*, *le Quotidien de Paris*, *les Echos*, *le Journal du dimanche*, *la Croix*, *l'Express*, *France-soir*, *le Figaro*, *Globe Hebdo*, and *Télérama*, Dr Sigley analyses the impact of Campion's cinema on French film culture.

As a woman with a strong, female-oriented creative vision (through the roles of Janet Frame in *An Angel at My Table* and Ada in *The Piano*), Campion's vision of women, the feminine, and heterosexual female desire was sufficiently novel to attract much favorable critical attention, he observes.

"In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Campion's gender in a creative role dominated by men was unusual and merited comment, as a review in *France-soir* noted: 'Jane Campion is the first female director to awaken the sexist world of the cinema.'"

Mesmerised by what they saw as a boundary-breaking style combining naturalism and naivety with sophisticated surrealism, some French film critics saw her as an heir to the poet Rimbaud's vision, and on a par with French film legends Bresson and Resnais.

"Campion was adopted by the French critical establishment as 'one of us', and located within a widely understood and solidly established cultural hierarchy that included some of the great pillars of French film and literature, both past and present," Dr Sigley says.

The essay examines how New Zealand came to be "simultaneously an actual location and a screen for emotional projection", for French film critics. Referring to the 18th century French explorers and voyagers who set out to find the vast southern continent of Terra Australis, he argues that remnants of a mythologised version of Oceania and its peoples as a primitive Utopia persist in modern French perceptions.

"For the French symbolic order, the name 'Jane Campion' was associated with the austral imagination; invoking it meant invoking the Other - a European fiction whose narrative resolved opposites: the baroque and modernity, violence and tenderness, darkness and optimism."

Dr Sigley first presented his research at a colloquium on Jane Campion entitled *Cinema, Nation, Identity*, jointly organised by the University of Otago and the Paris-based *La Maison des sciences de l'homme* at Otago University last December.

The essay, titled ... comme une invitation au voyage': French reception of Jane Campion, *An Angel at My Table*, and *The Piano*, will appear in a book called *Jane Campion: Cinema, Nation, Identity*, to be published by Wayne State University in 2008. There may also be a French-language version.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Maggie Robertson and Janine Smith.

New advisory board members

Two highly experienced businesswomen are joining the advisory board established last year by the College of Business as a hotline to the commercial world.

The two new members of the advisory board are Auckland-based Janine Smith of Boardroom Practice Ltd and Maggie Robertson, Head of Customer Experience and Human Resources at Telstra Clear in Wellington.

Ms Smith is a Director of the Bank of New Zealand, The Warehouse Group Limited, Kordia Group Limited, Chair of McLaren Young New Zealand Limited and a Trustee of Taranaki's economic development agency, Venture Taranaki.

She specialises in boardroom practice, strategic planning, organisational development and organisational change issues for boards and management.

Ms Robertson has a successful track record at senior level in large organisations before joining Telstra Clear.

Her experience encompassing marketing, human resources and general management, includes six years with Xerox in Britain, seven years as a consultant with KPMG and Price Waterhouse, six years with Carter Holt Harvey and four years at Wrightson Limited.

The advisory board is headed by Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly.

The board has representatives selected from sectors aligned to programmes offered by the College of Business including aviation, finance, leadership development, retail, property development, marketing, accounting and small business.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Keys to successful smaller businesses

Flexibility, innovation, great relationships with customers and a willingness to change direction fast are among the attributes that can keep smaller businesses successful - sometimes, against considerable odds.

They are the strengths that showed up in a study of small to medium-sized companies in New Zealand's software industry by Professor of Marketing, Sylvie Chetty. As the next speaker in the Professorial Lecture Series at the University's Auckland campus she will be talking about how this specialised group of small to medium-sized enterprises overcome obstacles to grow and often to become international operations.

Professor Chetty is widely known for her research on how small New Zealand companies take the leap from the domestic market into the international market. She has found the Kiwi way of going international is unique and doesn't follow the theories found in international marketing and business text books.

The main constraints for New Zealand's software industry are lack of venture capital, limited resources, a small domestic market, isolation from major markets, credibility, currency movements and difficulty penetrating established networks.

As well as having skilled employees and, a passion for what they are doing, using social and business networks to get information, skills and capital play a big part in helping these enterprises grow and go offshore, says Professor Chetty.

They keep up with rapidly changing technology by exploiting the interdependency they have with both suppliers and customers, and working closely together. They work with customers to develop highly specialised new products and services for niche markets. Customers typically see them as a competency centre.

Software companies that have gone international, she says, usually tackle the Australian market as the first step. But it is important for them to have a present in the US market she says to get capital, gain credibility and keep up with technological growth.

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Storytelling scholar brings wonder to his classes

English lecturer Derek Gordon's classes are too spellbound by their teacher's mesmerising eloquence to be bothered writing notes - and that's just the way he wants it to be.

Mr Gordon alias 'Bringwonder' the tale-telling troubadour for 21 years in schools and festivals throughout the land was New Zealand's first-ever full-time professional storyteller - a rare species.

Now he's continuing what he can't help doing at university level, to the delight of students who've likely never witnessed such animation in the halls of academia.

He might just introduce a tutorial with a bout of harp music, or recount the ancient Chinese legend of the Monkey King to a rapt audience of mainly Asian students in the increasingly popular Speaking: Theory and Practice paper.

Whether re-enacting a famous speech by the likes of Greek leader Pericles during a mass bone burial, orating epic Greek legends of Troy and Oedipus, or Shakespeare's Hamlet in the tragedy paper, Mr Gordon blends theatricality and theory in his inimitable teaching style at the Auckland campus.

"Research shows it's far better to engage with the lecturer and not enslave yourself to taking notes," he says. He sends them formal lecture notes later.

Class time is devoted to enlivening course material and texts through his lifelong passion for the spoken word. He likes to involve students in role-playing for added dramatic effect.

Mr Gordon, who has never had formal training in acting or elocution, says storytelling is in his blood. His mother, aged 87 now, was an actress and performer who toured with concert parties during World War II. He vividly recalls her rehearsing, and also telling him stories.

As a child asthma sufferer he turned to reading instead of rugby.

"I was the guy at the edge of the rugby field writing poetry and reading classical literature. In a single sex boys school that was a dangerous thing to do."

But it was at Hamilton Boys High School that his theatrical leanings emerged when he played Hamlet at the age of 17, sharing the stage with poet, the late Alan Brunton and film-maker Leon Narbey.

During a stint as a secondary school teacher, Mr Gordon wove his irrepressible love of poetically crafted stories into his teaching. Eventually, he took his students' advice and in 1981 began fulltime storytelling in the guise of Bringwonder.

He earned a living for 21 years as a roaming raconteur in schools and arts festivals throughout New Zealand and Australia with stories and legends from across different cultures, from Rudyard Kipling's animal tales to Asian, Celtic and ancient Greek legends.

In 2000, he enrolled in a Master's in English at Massey and completed a thesis on why so many 16 and 17-year-olds take Classical Studies in New Zealand.

He discovered that in 1999, more students in this age group were taking classical studies than accountancy. 651

What's more, his research - which he is shaping into a book showed that students of classical studies did better at university - the result of the subject's eclectic knowledge base encompassing philosophy, psychology, religion, art, history and language, he says.

While a student, his university teachers "became aware that they had in their midst an unusual someone with a genetic predilection to loquacity," he quips. Following this recognition, he was invited to join their ranks.

Whatever age or academic level his audience, Mr Gordon is convinced of the primal power of storytelling as a teaching tool, an arousing emotional experience and a means of fulfilling an innate human need for meaning, insight and connection.

"Stories are a doorway, and once you open that doorway and glimpse another world you begin to understand the culture that contains that story."

Date: 05/10/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Teaching



More boats a risk for Northland dolphins say marine scientists

A request to allow more tourist boats to view dolphins in the Bay of Islands could place more species at risk of disturbance, say scientists from the University.

Karen Stockin, a research officer with the College of Sciences' Coastal-Marine Research Group in Auckland, wants the Conservation Department to carefully consider the results of her recent study on the impacts of tourism on common dolphins in the Hauraki Gulf.

Ms Stockin's research found the presence of tour boats affected the behaviour of common dolphins, causing the marine mammals to spend significantly less time foraging for food.

Ferry operators Fullers Bay of Islands are seeking a new commercial marine mammal tourism permit from the department and plan to add two more boats to the current fleet.

Ms Stockin believes that will mean more attention will be paid to common dolphins.

"To date, dolphin tourism in the region has focused primarily on bottlenose dolphins." Previous research findings showing detrimental effects on bottlenose dolphins suggest no further commercial tour permits are likely to be granted for that species, she says.

Consequently, tour operators are looking to target other dolphin species in the area, most likely common dolphins.

Ms Stockin's research supervisor Dr Mark Orams, from the Institute of Natural Resources, says there is now a "widespread" view amongst marine mammal scientists that dolphin and whale-based tourism is not benign, and that the impacts of tourism operations need to be carefully considered and sensitively managed.

"We are concerned that any expansion or switch to other species for marine mammal tour operations in the Bay of Islands could cause significant impacts," Dr Orams says. "We must be careful to not simply shift the problem from one species of dolphin to another."

Public submissions relating to the Fullers' application close on October 11.

Date: 08/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science





Remembering Passchendaele: New Zealand's darkest day

 [Watch the TV3 Sunrise item with Professor Glyn Harper](#)

Almost 1000 New Zealand soldiers were killed in the first battle of Passchendaele, on 12 October 1917, more than in any event in the nation's history. Associate Professor Glyn Harper has played a part in commemorating the tragic events of the Western Front in World War I, contributing to the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association's new Poppy Pack by writing on the events.

The pack has been developed to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Passchendaele, linking to the Rugby World Cup taking place in France at the time of the anniversary. Passchendaele and Ypres are in West Flanders, a region of Belgium, which had been invaded by the German army en-route to capturing key industrial areas in northern France. British, Australian, Canadian and South African forces fought on the Western Front in cooperation with their French allies. Dr Harper, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, has contributed articles on WWI on the Western Front, the Battle of Ypres and Massacre at Passchendaele, to the Poppy Pack.

Included in the information booklet are the details of 10 All Blacks who lost their lives on the Western Front, including Dave Gallagher, the Captain of the 1905 Originals, who was killed in the early stages of the Passchendaele battle.

The Poppy Pack, as its name suggests, contains several poppies and it is hoped that those attending the World Cup will leave them on the graves of New Zealand soldiers buried in France and Belgium. Some 12,483 New Zealanders remain buried in the soil of the western front, 4227 of them with no known grave.

Dr Harper will also give two lectures during the Poppy Partners Passchendaele 90th Commemorations. The first lecture is known as the Dave Gallaher Memorial Lecture. Dr Harper is also the only New Zealander speaking at the Dead Reckoning: Passchendaele 1917 conference in November. The conference is the culmination of the Belgian government's cultural programme to commemorate 1917.

The Poppy Pack includes information on Dr Harper's latest book *Dark Journey*, which is launched in October. *Dark Journey* includes accounts of the three critical battles during World War One: "Massacre at Passchendaele", "Spring Offensive" and "Bloody Bapaume", the third major battle of the Somme.

Date: 08/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Creative talents honoured at new Hall of Fame

Three creative New Zealanders will be honoured next month at a new College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame at the University.

The inaugural inductees are Richard Taylor, Director of Weta Workshop; New York based fashion designer Rebecca Taylor; and (posthumously) sculptor and filmmaker Len Lye.

The Hall of Fame will recognise students and staff of the College, and its forerunner institutions, who have made outstanding contributions to New Zealand's economy, reputation and national identity through art and design, says Dr Claire Robinson, head of the Institute of Communication Design.

"Their remarkable achievements will be honoured at a black-tie dinner in the Museum Building on Massey's Wellington Campus on 2 November," Dr Robinson says.

"For more than 120 years, as the School of Art, Wellington Technical College, the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design, and now the Massey University College of Creative Arts, we have educated some of New Zealand's best designers and artists.

"For most of this time we have been understated about our successes. This is fairly typical of designers who prefer to work behind the scenes rather than steal the limelight. This has all changed with the decision to launch a College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame."

Richard Taylor studied at the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design from 1984-1986. He founded and directs the visual and physical effects companies Weta Workshops and Weta Digital with his wife Tania Rodger, Peter Jackson and Jamie Selkirk. He is a five-time Academy Award winner for his work on the Lord of the Rings trilogy and King Kong, and his work features in many feature films, television programmes and video games.

Rebecca Taylor studied Fashion Design at Wellington Polytechnic in the late 1980s. She moved to New York where she first worked as an assistant for Cynthia Rowley before developing her own label. In 2000 she opened her flagship store in Japan, and has been a fixture on the international runway circuit ever since. Her clothes are worn by television and movie stars including Cameron Diaz, Uma Thurman, Reese Witherspoon, Ashley Judd, Sarah Jessica Parker and Julia Stiles.

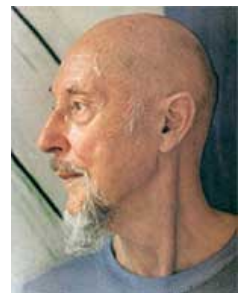
Len Lye studied at the Wellington Technical College in its commercial course from 1915-16 and in its drawing and art evening courses between 1918 and 1921. He went on to become an experimental film-maker, poet, painter, kinetic sculptor, and one of New Zealand's most widely-known modernist artists.

His sculptures are found in the collections of major art museums, including the Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum in New York, and the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as on the waterfronts of New Plymouth and Wellington. He died in 1980.

Date: 09/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Massey Blues honour New Zealand athletes

Sixty-three athletes of national and international ranking, from a wide variety of sports, will receive Massey University Blues awards next week at functions in Auckland and Palmerston North.

A sportswoman and sportsman of the year will also be announced at each campus.

Dr Sarah Leberman, who chairs the Blues awards committee, says all of the 63 recipients of this year's awards have reached exceptional standards in their chosen codes, are succeeding in their studies and, in many cases, are national and international representatives.

"To receive a Blues award is a double achievement for these students because not only do they need to represent the University and the region, they must also be passing their studies as well," Dr Leberman says.

"We have some of the top sportspeople in the country studying at Massey and it's great to be able to honour their achievements."

Former All Black lock and Sky TV rugby commentator Ian Jones will be the guest speaker at the Auckland campus awards dinner on Monday evening, while sports psychologist Dr Gary Hermansson will speak at the Palmerston North Convention Centre on Tuesday, where the recipients from the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses will be acknowledged.

Jones, with 79 tests from 1990-99, is the second most capped All Black and the most-capped lock in the history of the game. Dr Hermansson, a former Counselling and Sport Psychology lecturer at Massey's College of Education, is the National Adviser for Sport Psychology to the New Zealand Academy of Sport, NZ Golf and NZ Equestrian. He was the New Zealand teams' sport psychologist at the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and 2002 and at the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004.

Auckland Blues recipients: Athletics: Julia Hart, Charles Nicolson, Elizabeth Orchard; Flatwater sprint kayak: Scott Bicknell; Golf: Jenna Hirst; Hockey: Hamish Baron, Amanda Green, Kimberley Green, Genevieve Helliwell, Shaun Matthews; Judo: Alister Leat; Orienteering: Greg Flynn; Rowing: Juliette Haigh, Courtney Jacks; Rugby: Robert Coulhoun, Anna Richards, Ryan Wilson; Surf lifesaving: Chris Moors, Jane Moors; Swimming: Katie Bone, Helen Norfolk, Robert Voss, John Zulch; Triathlon: Anna Hamilton; Yachting: Matt Coutts, Joshua McCormack.

Auckland campus nominees for sportswoman of the year: Jenna Hirst, Kimberley Green, Juliette Haigh, Anna Richards, Helen Norfolk, and Anna Hamilton.

Auckland campus nominees for sportsman of the year: Charles Nicolson, Scott Bicknell, Robert Voss, John Zulch, Matt Coutts and Joshua McCormack.

Palmerston North and Wellington (*) Blues recipients: Alpine skiing Ben Griffin; Artistic roller skating: Freyja Phillips; Athletics: Laura Roozendaal*; Badminton: Leck Sheng Tham; Barefoot waterskiing: Nick Hamblyn; Basketball: Alexander Wastney*; Beach volleyball: Rebecca Reidy; Canoe polo: Olivia Hilhorst, Hanchen le Roux, Olivia Spencer-Bower*, Joanna Wright; Canoe polo and canoe slalom: Tania Perrett; Canoe slalom: Michael Dawson, Mark Yungnickel; Cricket: Rachel Candy; Cycling: Simon van Velthooven; Equestrian: Sam Taylor, Sophie Wigley; Golf: Stephanie McKillop, Gemma Mathieson, Amy Smith; Hockey: Ricky Clark, Scott Falconer*, Catherine Finlayson, Stephen Graham, Emily Naylor, Jesse Workman; Inline hockey: Sam Beardman, Khord Kopu; Inline speed skating: Peter Homburg; Motorsport: Anthony Pedersen; Netball: Erika Burgess, Lauren Burgess, Samantha Burkhart, Lana Phipps; Rally sport: Sara Randall; Rowing: Nathan Cohen, Storm Uru; Rugby: Cameron Hayton, Louis Maxwell, Leon Power; Shooting: Robert Eastham; Soccer: Chelsea Aim, Allena Hill; Swimming: Matt Woodrow*; Table tennis: Grant Gordon; Triathlon: Alice Weaver.

Palmerston North/Wellington nominees for sportswoman of the year: Freyja Phillips, Rebecca Reidy, Olivia Spencer-Bower, Tania Perrett, Rachel Candy, Gemma Mathieson, Amy Smith, Emily Naylor, Sara Randall, Chelsea Aim, and Allena Hill.

Palmerston North/Wellington nominees for sportsman of the year: Ben Griffin, Nicky Hamblyn, Michael Dawson, Mark Yungnickel, Stephen Graham, Peter Homburg, Cameron Hayton, Louis Maxwell, Nathan Cohen, Storm Uru, Grant Gordon.

Date: 09/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Entrepreneurship subject of lecture

Despite acknowledgement of the importance of entrepreneurship to economic development, there is no consensus definition of entrepreneurship and the term is often applied in a wide range of settings, with many variations, says economics professor, Anne de Bruin, one of New Zealand's leading researchers on the subject.

Professor de Bruin shared her insights on entrepreneurship as first speaker in the Professorial Lecture series at the Auckland campus.

Professor de Bruin has made an extensive study of entrepreneurs - how they work, the conditions in which they thrive and the outside forces that might support or thwart them.

Her study has touched on the business style of global players and a raft of organisations in between, right down to the stall holders in New Zealand's thriving weekend markets, to entrepreneurship in youth, ethnic communities, green groups, older people and indigenous groups.

She has had a long-running interest in the success story of New Zealand's film industry and the entrepreneurship demonstrated within this business, where enterprising and creative individuals achieve big successes through innovative partnerships.

She has tracked the rapid climb of the industry from relative obscurity in the late 1970s to global acclaim and blockbuster titles.

Her research into entrepreneurship is ongoing but for her professorial lecture in Auckland she summed entrepreneurship up as: "the process of adding commercial value to creativity and sustained opportunity exploitation at each level of action - individual, firm, industry, region, nation".

Date: 09/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Meeting modern security needs

Security needs of the 21st century are quite different to those of a generation ago, Defence Minister Phil Goff told participants at the Contemporary Warfighting seminar, hosted by the Centre for Defence Studies on the Palmerston North campus last month.

"Traditional inter-state conflict had taken second place to conflict between states. And, unlike the Cold War, where conflicting parties were often proxies for ideological battles between super powers, today by-and-large, outsiders cannot be blamed for the violence."

Mr Goff said New Zealand's primary defence interests were protecting New Zealand's territorial sovereignty, meeting shared alliance commitments to Australia, and fulfilling obligations and responsibilities in the South Pacific.

"The wider Asian-Pacific strategic environment, of which we are part, is also relevant. New Zealand is not directly threatened by any other country and is not likely to be involved in widespread armed conflict."

Lessons had been learned by experience, he said.

"Firstly, there is a need for a holistic approach. While insecurity and violence are the most obvious and pressing problems, they are the manifestation of more deep-seated weaknesses, in particular ethnic tension, weak or corrupt central authorities, and lack of economic opportunity, which also need to be addressed.

"Secondly, interventions must be balanced.

"We must, as Kofi Annan put it, strike the right balance between hard and soft responses. Military forces will often be required to end instability and lawlessness where insurgents are a threat. In recognition of that we deployed three rotations of Special Forces personnel to Afghanistan.

"But the use of force can also undermine the consent environment, especially when it causes harm to local people. So-called collateral damage in dealing with insurgents or a heavy-handed approach to the local population will quickly turn them against intervention forces. Skill and sensitivity on the part of military forces is required to avoid that.

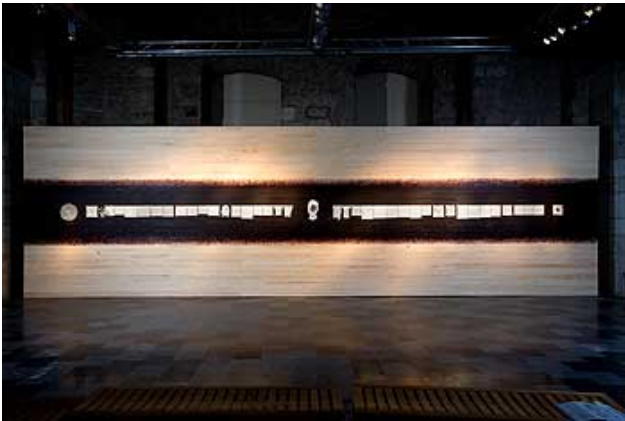
"Use of force must be proportionate and highly discriminating. It needs to be balanced with the ability to get alongside the local people. Earning their respect and trust is critically important. "

Mr Goff was among speakers including Commander of the New Zealand Defence Force Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae at the seminar. Keynote international speakers included retired US Marine Colonel Thomas Hammes, author of *The Sling and the Stone*, and Canadian Afghanistan veteran Lieutenant Colonel Omer Lavoie.

Date: 09/10/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar



It is unlikely that the latest art work by senior lecturer Kingsley Baird will ever be exhibited in New Zealand or seen outside Ypres in Belgium.

Art in Flanders Fields

By comparison, one of his earlier works, the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, is viewed by thousands every year, in its place in front of the National War Memorial in Wellington's Buckle Street. A more recent work, the International Nagasaki Peace Park sculpture, Te Korowai Rangimarie, The Cloak of Peace, is seen by millions annually.



His new work, called Diary Dagboek, relates to World War I, exploring memory, memorial forms and relationships between New Zealand soldiers and their loved ones at home. But it was created in Belgium while he was artist-in-residence at the Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres earlier this year.

The work is large and its components - planks, knitted wool, lace, clay and blood - make it fragile and perishable. "Although it had its beginnings in New Zealand, and has strong connections with this country, the logistics of bringing it home are possibly too difficult - and too expensive," Mr Baird says.

The work remains in Flanders, on show at the museum until October. "After that, I would like to see the museum arrange for a large hole to be dug in the fields and the work to be buried, providing a sort of continuance because it is possible it will be discovered and dug up again some time in the future," he says.

As an artist-in-residence, Mr Baird says he set out to create a work "that not only tells the story of WWI but does so, in part, through the eye of the artist as witness and conscience". His concept partly had its origins in a 1915 photograph of a group of knitters in Wellington.

"Women knitted, both as an expression of support for the loved one who was away at war, and also for the war effort. There was ambivalence there because many women's groups in New Zealand opposed the war and formed international alliances to express that opposition."



As a first step, he asked a group of knitters in the Wellington suburb of Karori - Café Knitting - to create 200mm square patterns and other forms, "knitting in" images and words that included excerpts from letters and a rubbing from his own Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

With the help of Wellington ceramics maker Katherine Smyth, these samples were dipped in a clay slip then fired. Once technical aspects of this process were resolved, the knitted works were carefully packaged and shipped to Flanders.

In Belgium he approached local lace makers who agreed to produce lace works for the project, with different words and images, which - along with the knitted woollen patterns from New Zealand - were again dipped and fired. "In this process the wool and lace are burnt out leaving behind their 'memory' in fired clay," he says.

"The ceramic 'tiles' look almost ossified, hard and brittle, which could represent the transformation undergone by those who died or were injured."

For the final assemblage, he used planks painted with pigs' blood, which further echoes the sense of "earth", and the red tones created by rusted iron weaponry in the fields around Flanders. The tiles were mounted on the

painted background, forming a dramatic, 10-metre long "wall".

Copies of the substantial catalogue for the exhibition will be held at the University Library and at Te Papa and will be given to those who contributed to the project. Mr Baird, who is with the School of Visual and Material Culture in the College of Creative Arts, says it may be appropriate that the work itself will not endure.



"Part of its message is to work question whether memorials of robust materials can really guarantee we will 'never forget.'."

He has reason to believe that it may resurface one day. In Flanders he joined up with a local group of amateur archaeologists called The Diggers who have permission to undertake a survey with metal detectors when an area is being cleared for development.

They have found more than 200 missing bodies from WWI, and many artefacts.

Date: 09/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Anna Hamilton (right) with her mother, Katy, made a rare public appearance at Massey's Blues Sports Awards, following a horrific cycling two months ago.

Injured athlete steps out for sports awards

Attending Massey's Blues Sports Awards dinner tonight in Auckland will be a rare social outing for top New Zealand sportswoman Anna Hamilton, seriously injured when she was knocked off her cycle during a training ride two months ago.

The 21-year-old Massey student, one of the country's top multi-sports athletes, suffered serious head injuries and has undergone two major operations to repair damage to her neck, spine, shoulder and collarbone.

Since being hit by a car on 3 August on State Highway 17 near Dairy Flat, she has been taking things very quietly at home as she recovers, says her mother Katy Hamilton.

She has physiotherapy treatment away from home twice a week, and can now walk several hundred metres without a walking frame.

Even reading and watching television make her tired because the head injury has affected her eyesight - something she hopes will gradually improve.

"She's supposed to stay in a very low stimulus environment, away from tv, cellphones, computers, people and crowds," says Mrs Hamilton, who has been politely dissuading "hundreds of kind and interested well-wishers" who want to visit Anna. Even a small amount of stimulation could upset her recovery and see her back in hospital.

Mrs Hamilton says staying at home in quiet, bush-clad surroundings has been the best therapy for her daughter.

Wearing a full upper body brace means she cannot sit for long due to the discomfort. "She's either walking or lying down," Mrs Hamilton says.

Anna, who is enrolled as a part-time student in a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in human nutrition, says she is happy to be attending the dinner as she had been separated from her sporting life since the accident.

She will begin swimming training in three weeks when her body brace comes off and plans to resume study next year.

Twenty-six athletes of national and international standing will receive Blues awards tonight at the function at University's Auckland campus and a sportsman and sportswoman of the year will be named.

Tomorrow night a similar function will be held at Palmerston North, where 47 athletes from the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses will receive Blues awards.

For further details see: http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz/2007/Press_Releases/10-03-07.html

Date: 10/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Rural property prices set to rise further

All types of pastoral rural property are expected to rise in value as a direct result of the record high in commodity prices and payouts to farmers, says the latest forecast for the rural market from the University's property analysis group.

Dairy farms will be leading the charge in rising values over the next quarter, followed by land suitable for conversion to dairying, says the director of the Massey University Real Estate Unit, Professor Bob Hargreaves.

The quarterly report on the outlook for the rural property market is based on the predictions of a panel of rural property experts. The price increases for dairy farms were forecast by 90 per cent of the panel, with 30 per cent forecasting big price increases for dairy farms in the next quarter.

For arable flat land, 60 per cent of the panel expected increases and 10 per cent expected that price increases would be large.

The situation is not so bullish for hill country where only 40 per cent of the panel is forecasting modest increases. Similarly the majority of the panel did not expect the good news on commodity prices to lift the value of horticultural units. For forestry land, a minority 12 per cent of the panel warned of moderate price decreases.

It's expected that there will be an increase in the rate of turnover in both dairy farms and arable farms.

Date: 10/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Massey free bus service chosen as finalist in national energy efficiency awards

The Palmerston North campus unlimited access free bus service is a finalist in this year's Energywise Awards run by the Government's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

The service, which carries about half a million passengers a year, began in 2005 as a way of cutting back car use, reducing congestion on campus and to provide cost-saving benefit to students and staff as well as an environmental benefit to the community.

It was so successful it halved the numbers who used cars to get to the campus sites at Turitea and Hokowhitu and trebled the numbers of bus users. More than one in four students now use it and it is calculated to save each of them an average \$1050 a year in avoided vehicle running costs and parking charges.

After the millionth passenger was carried in less than two years, the University decided to extend what had been a two-year trial until 2012. It was hailed last year by the then Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Morgan Williams as an example that other university cities should follow.

Campus transport plan co-ordinator Ken McEwen says the service has attracted national and international recognition. "I gave a presentation in Canberra earlier this month about it and already we've got people from a university in Queensland coming out to see how it works.

"It's exceeded all expectations. It achieves total fuel savings of \$25,000 a week, a 10,000kg reduction in weekly carbon dioxide emissions and has cut the University's carbon footprint by more than 500 tonnes a year."

The service is funded by the University, the Horizons (Manawatu-Wanganui) Regional Council and Land Transport New Zealand. It costs about \$750,000 a year.

The service is one of six finalists in the public sector category of the Energywise Awards. Others are the Palmerston North City Council's renewable energy self sufficiency project, Christchurch's landfill gas heating QEII pool project and energy efficiency projects run by Waitakere City, Hutt Valley health board and Auckland's Watercare Services.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority chief executive Mike Underhill says there were 150 entries this year - almost double last year's - and 27 were selected as finalists.

"Smart energy management is something successful businesses and organisations now see as part of their everyday planning," says Mr Underhill. "All the successful finalists have saved money and resources by factoring efficiency or renewable energy principles into what they do."

Mr Underhill says Massey University's scheme shows the day to day benefits of putting energy efficiency principles to work. "A free bus scheme seems simple but it demonstrates how a little smart thinking about practical alternatives can make a real difference. Transport accounts for 43 per cent of our energy use, and programmes like this are to be applauded. They bring real savings in fuel and roading bills and also for the environment," Mr Underhill says.

The winners will be announced at a function in Auckland on 1 November.

For further information about the awards www.eeca.govt.nz

Date: 15/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Palmerston North; Services; Uni News

Cycling campaign praised

A campaign created by public relations students to get more people riding bicycles in Palmerston North is among the finalists at the Sparc Cycle-Friendly Awards.

The students created the "On Ya Bike" campaign last year as part of their course work. They were responsible for all aspects of the campaign, including research, planning and sourcing funding.



Public Relations lecturer Kane Hopkins says he chose this task for the students after returning from Europe where he was astounded at the number of people cycling instead of driving.

"We knew we had developed a really solid campaign and it is great for the team to be recognised for their hard work", says Mr Hopkins. "The campaign gained a lot of attention in the local and national media and created some vigorous discussion among the general public about cycle helmet laws."

Post-campaign research showed an increase in cycling, especially travelling to and from Massey.

"What the campaign also demonstrated was how green issues need to be dealt with locally, as national pro-cycling campaigns don't offer practical solutions."

The students' three key messages - fitter, faster and free - highlighted that cycling is an alternative to driving. They developed eye-catching and innovative tactics to gain media attention. These included taking over a downtown car-park and installing bike stands to show that cycling is more convenient than driving, and organising a race from the Square to the Manawatu River bridge between local sportspeople and a radio station car, to show that cycling is faster than driving.

The campaign is one of three finalists for the Sparc (Sport and Recreation New Zealand) Cycle-Friendly Awards for best cycling promotion.

The awards acknowledge and celebrate the most notable achievements that are helping to promote cycling and create a cycle-friendly environment.

Prizewinners will be announced at a cycling conference in Napier on 1 November. Minister of Transport Annette King will present the awards.

Date: 15/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



A young albatross about to fledge.

Mystery of the albatross may soon be solved

The mystery of where juvenile albatrosses fly to after leaving New Zealand may soon be solved, with satellite tracking devices now successfully showing the progress of two males and one female hatched at Taiaroa Heads, Otago, this season. The tracking of the majestic seabirds for the next four years is a collaboration between the University's Bindi Thomas, who is undertaking a PhD study into the efficacy of satellite tracking, and the Department of Conservation.



Click image to view latest version.

So far the equipment is working perfectly, Ms Thomas says, and the birds progress can be viewed at her [website](#).

One of the juveniles selected for tracking is Toroa, the 500th Northern Royal albatross chick born at Taiaroa heads. New data available this morning shows he has travelled 1500km since leaving Taiaroa Head in September, about 800km of that in the past six days. He seems to have visited the Chatham Islands, where most albatrosses breed, and spent about three days sitting in the water 20km to 80km off the Chathams coast. Toroa is now heading back towards New Zealand and is about 560km from the coast. Juvenile 55027, named Disappearing Gun Track Chick, departed in early October and is now approximately 22km off the coast of Timaru. She has traveled 195km in about a week. The second male chick to be tracked, named Richdale's Flat, is now approximately 95km from Christchurch having traveled 410km. All three are heading east, as expected.



Toroa, the 500th chick born at Taiaroa Heads.

The three tracked chicks are among 23 hatched this year, most of which are expected to return to Taiaroa Head in about 2011.

"We know they go across the Southern Ocean somewhere but we don't know where they go or how often they stop," Ms Thomas says. "We think they go to islands off the coast of Chile, but again we don't know for sure."

The transmitters fitted to the backs of the young albatrosses weigh about 30g, which is about 0.5 per cent of their 9kg bodyweight. The units are solar-powered, and can last for up to three years. It is hoped they will stay attached for up to two years, when the birds will moult and the units will fall off.

Ms Thomas' PhD study includes studying different tracking systems and assessing the economic and ecological benefits of using satellite technology for tracking. She has already undertaken study on three elephants in Kruger National Park in South Africa, a crocodile near Darwin, Australia, and five falcons from Kaingaroa Forest in New Zealand's central North Island.

"We really want to find out how these technologies can help species," she says, "and that this is not just a toy

used for interest. There are other tools biologists can use but the Northern Royal albatross is a long-range species, which makes conventional tracking methods such as radio telemetry or direct viewing difficult to maintain.

“Because satellite tracking has the capability to capture a substantial amount of data over a longer period of time at regular intervals, it will hopefully be able to capture accurate information on long-distance movement patterns without the need to have an observer nearby. There are already a number of projects that have used this technology for this and other species, many with successful results, but there is still a lot we don't know about this species.”

Ms Thomas says the intention is to develop a greater understanding of the range of the Northern Royal Albatross, improving the management of its habitat, and dealing with dangers such as predators and longline fishing activity.

For more information: <http://www.albatross.org.nz/toroa.html>

Date: 15/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Research



Dr Brian McDonnell

Massey film expert off to US as Fulbright lecturer

American university students will learn about New Zealand through films like *Whale Rider* and *In My Father's Den* when Massey University media studies lecturer Dr Brian McDonnell takes up a Fulbright lectureship in the second semester next year.

He is the second Massey Auckland staff member in two years to be awarded a visiting lectureship at prestigious Georgetown University in Washington, where former President Bill Clinton studied.

Dr McDonnell will follow close behind his colleague Dr Adam Claasen, a history lecturer who held the visiting lectureship at Georgetown University's Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies for the first semester of 2006. Only two academics are selected from throughout Australia and New Zealand each year for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme.

In his tentatively titled course "Understanding New Zealand through film and literature", he'll share slices of New Zealand life via cinema and books with Year Two students. He plans to include Maori and Pacific Island cinematic stories such as *Once Were Warriors*, *Whale Rider*, *Number 2* and *Sione's Wedding*, as well as novels and poetry from a wide range of writers.

As author of New Zealand's first doctoral thesis on film completed at Auckland University - on the relationship between New Zealand literature and film in the 1980s - Dr McDonnell is well-placed as a spokesperson for New Zealand's cinematic evolution. He is also an international authority on Hollywood cinema and American film noir.

In fact, his first introduction to the handsome brownstone buildings that lend Georgetown its historic character and gentrified charm was seeing the 1973 shock horror film *The Exorcist*. Scenes from the film, which terrified audiences with special effects involving 360-degree head rotation and projectile vomiting by a young girl possessed by demons, were shot in Georgetown and on the campus.

Dr McDonnell understands the students he'll encounter may have scant knowledge of New Zealand, and he's expecting to fill in the gaps with basic background information on history, politics and geography, as well as to rectify any trans-Tasman misunderstandings. He's heard that *Whale Rider* was promoted in one location as an Australian movie, and that its young Maori star Keisha Castle-Hughes was identified as Aborigine.

"Everyone who teaches there has to be a kind of explainer of NZ, an ambassador of all things NZ, which I'm quite happy to do," he says.

Georgetown University, founded by Catholic Jesuit priests in 1789 and now ranked among the United States' top academic institutions, is renowned as a "nursery" for diplomats and future senators and State Secretaries.

Politics will definitely be on everyone's minds during his posting, which coincides with the US presidential elections.

"I think it's going to be the most interesting election since 1968, since Nixon got elected," he says.

Date: 17/10/2007

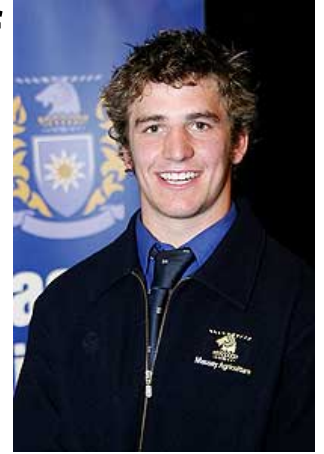
Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Great mate named Agriculture Student of the Year

The student described as simply "a bloody good guy" by his fellow students has been named the University's Agriculture and Applied Sciences Student of the Year.

Samuel Werder, a former Hawera High School pupil, is in the final year of a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in agriculture and agribusiness. Sammy, as he is known, has been an integral part of rugby at Massey, and a member of the Massey Agriculture team for his entire time at university, both in playing and organisational roles. He has maintained an excellent academic record throughout, and has been the recipient of several academic scholarships.



Mr Werder grew up on his family's Patea dairy farm, and says he has always loved working on the farm and relief milking for neighbours. He is to join BNZ agribusiness graduate programme as a rural manager based in Wanganui. After a year spent training he will manage the accounts of about 60 farmers, though Mr Werder says he'll be back on his parents' property on weekends. At some point he hopes to farm. "That would be the ultimate," he says.

His citation from fellow students says Mr Werder is an inspirational leader and a great mate, "liked by the entire agricultural community and most deserving of this accolade". Mr Werder has also been a member of the University's young farmers group throughout his study, taking on a committee role this year.

Others honoured at the annual agriculture awards include Simeon Ward, from Hamilton, who received the William Gerrish Memorial Award for outstanding performance in farm management. The Massey equine student of the year prize went to Maren Domke, who is a second-year Bachelor of Applied Science (equine) degree. Ms Domke is a top-level German equestrian.

Recipients of the 2007 Massey Agriculture and Applied Science Awards:

- Applied sciences and sciences practicum award: Susan De Lange (Taupo) at 100-level, Simeon Ward (Hamilton) at 200-level.
- Bruce Coleman Prize for most proficient student of vegetable production at 300-level: Amy Watson (Palmerston North).
- John Salinger prize for the BAppSci student in horticulture or landscape management deemed to best show excellence in presentation of their work: Chris Clement (Palmerston North).
- The New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management Award for excellence in farm management: Neil Best (Drury).
- William Gerrish Memorial Award for outstanding performance in farm management: Simeon Ward (Hamilton).
- Massey Equine Student of the Year: Maren Domke.
- Massey Agriculture & Applied Sciences student of the year, for an applied science student judged to have made the largest contribution to the well-being and reputation of their fellow students: Samuel Werder (Patea).

The Massey Agriculture Awards were established in 1992 by the Pro Vice-Chancellor for the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson.

Date: 17/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Multi-million dollar Maori achievement programme challenged.

A Massey University study is challenging the effectiveness of a flagship Government programme designed to lift Maori educational achievement in secondary schools.

Te Kotahitanga is a multi-million dollar professional development programme for teachers, credited with achieving a significant improvement in Maori student's performance, but the Massey review, commissioned by the Post-Primary Teachers' Association questions the validity of the programme's claims.

Professor Roger Openshaw, from the School of Education Studies, says Te Kotahitanga overstates the capacity of teachers alone to shape student achievement and plays down the impact on students of their peers, their home life and broader socio-economic factors.

"Te Kotahitanga is based on the proposition that teacher effects are central to Maori educational underachievement, and also substantially contribute to Maori student failure. These are over-simplistic conclusions that disregard considerable evidence to the contrary," Professor Openshaw says.

His review also found insufficient data on teachers in the project to claim that participation in Te Kotahitanga had significantly changed their teaching, and that results do not take into account other literacy and numeracy projects operating alongside it.

The association surveyed 1000 teachers as part of the review. He says their responses indicated a considerable degree of coercion for them to participate in the programme and he says there were claims by some teachers they had been bullied or bribed to produce the outcomes or provide the responses wanted by those running Te Kotahitanga or school principals.

Professor Openshaw says many respondents drew attention to what they saw as an intense and unjustifiable pressure placed upon them both to opt into Te Kotahitanga, and to stay in, "resulting in alienation and sometimes victimisation that detracted from staff collegiality and ultimately led to de-professionalisation".

This included pressure from principals to participate, according to some teachers. One teacher told the survey: "Staff who did not opt in received written letters from principal expressing principal's concern. Staff members who have opted out of doing TK or who have withdrawn are 'unofficially blacklisted'."

Another participant said: "Any gains in our school are attributed to Te Kotahitanga - no credit is given to many other programmes going on in school."

Teachers also drew attention to weaknesses in data collection and presentation, and expressed concern about time commitment and resourcing for the programme.

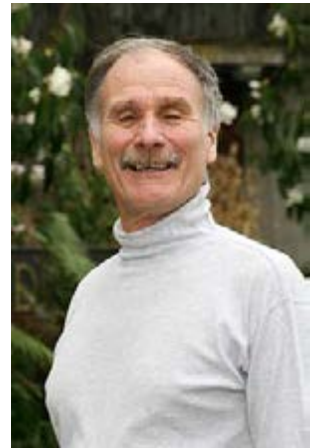
Professor Openshaw says Te Kotahitanga's remedy is deceptively simple - by changing teachers' attitudes to Maori students and their culture teachers will come to use the power of their own agency to see, "wonderful changes in Maori students' behaviour, participation, engagement and achievement in their classrooms".

About half the survey respondents believed that their participation in the programme had improved their professional relationships with Maori students or the achievement of their Maori or non-Maori students.

Date: 17/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Maori



Time to debate political policing

The public can and must debate the scope of political policing in the wake of the "anti-terrorism" Operation O-desk, says Dr Warwick Tie, sociologist with the School of Social and Cultural Studies at Massey University.

"This present operation signals a departure from how police in New Zealand have previously operated, both in terms of use of the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002 and also the scope and expertise they have used," Dr Tie says. "This is the first example we have had of large-scale political policing. While there has been some use of political policing previously, this has been much smaller in scale."

This development of military-style policing is significant for New Zealand society, Dr Tie says.

"My fear is that policing will tilt towards a more security oriented coercive form when public debate falls into a black hole between security-related and human rights arguments. For the first time, New Zealanders have to consider the fact that the national police service now possesses both the legal mandate and operational capability to undertake sustained, military-style political policing.

"In order to progress, debate needs to occur in a manner that avoids the black hole that is quickly forming between the pro-security and human rights arguments."

Two contrary kinds of questions have emerged to shape public thought on this situation.

"The first assumes the possibility of security threats and asks about the extent posed by alleged activities. The second asks about the rights of those either restricted in the course of such operations or who are detained and arrested. The insurmountable gap that exists between these two positions - which emerged around the taser debate and that surfaces each time the police shoot an armed assailant - create an impasse between the arguments of those favouring public security and those that support human rights."

The matters that these two positions address are set to enlarge in New Zealand over the next decades, as Peak Oil and rapid climate change amplify challenges around issues like energy supply and bio-security.

"The New Zealand Police's policy of wide public consultation around the development of its new Act appears to have as one of its motivations the circumvention of this very deadlock. Through that consultation, the Police have sought input regarding the relationships that national police should have with other policing agencies, such as the Maori Wardens' Association and the private security industry.

"The relationship that is the most fraught in an open democratic society like New Zealand, however, is the relationship of police to the fields of military operation and covert surveillance better-known as spying. These two latter fields, as has been demonstrated in Operation O-desk, are key elements in the deployment of political policing."

Date: 17/10/2007

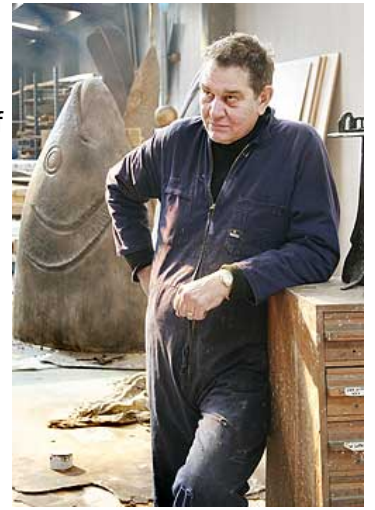
Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Election/Politics; Government Policy commentators

Dibble exhibition on campus

The University's Palmerston North campus is hosting an exhibition of photographs of local sculptor Paul Dibble, taken while Dr Dibble was preparing the New Zealand Memorial now installed in London's Hyde Park.

The exhibition comprises 50 black and white images by David Lupton of the artist at work, part of an exhibition shown at Palmerston North's Te Manawa art gallery last year. Staff from the University's museum studies programme, in the School of People, Environment and Planning, championed the exhibition, due to the many connections the project has with the University. Dr Dibble received an Honorary Doctorate from the University in May, and has previously taught at the then Palmerston North Teachers College. His workshop foreman Sonny Hawkins is a graduate of the BA Maori Visual Arts programme, while local historian Therese Crocker who assisted with literary research for the text, and local woodworker Martin Carryer, who assisted with pattern-making, are both Massey alumni.



The New Zealand Memorial was dedicated on Armistice Day last year. The innovative design is made up of a series of leaning bronze cross-stakes, known as standards, cut at an angle and lined up in the same plane. The standards refer to large pouwhenua markers around Maori sites or perhaps Celtic remains. Some of the standards are five metres high, each adorned with patterns and New Zealand icons, quotations and images.

The exhibition is on display on level two of the Social Sciences Lecture Block, until October 17, and is open from 8.30am to 6pm each Monday to Friday.

Date: 17/10/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Exhibition/Show



Pictured, from left, are: first-year Bachelor of Applied Science student Elliott Power, second-year BAppSc student Adam Goldwater, Professor Tillman, MSc student Emma Childerhouse, Mr Roskruge from the College of Sciences, Ms Pickering from Hort NZ, PhD student Ben van Hooijdonk, second-year Bachelor of Business Studies and BSc student Katherine O'Leary and third-year BSc student Chris Clement. Absent was BAppSc honours student Liarna Fraser.

Record number of Horticulture NZ scholars at Massey

Seven of this year's Massey students are recipients of Horticulture NZ scholarships, ranging in value from \$3000 to \$10,000.

Nick Roskruge, who acts as a mentor for the scholarship winners says the seven scholarships awarded this year was the most Massey had received since HortNZ formed from the Fruitgrowers' Federation and the Vegetable and Potato Growers' Federation.

Mr Roskruge says apart from the obvious benefits of the financial assistance for students and young researchers, there was value to them and to the industry and building relationships while they were studying. "We can teach them as much as they like but at the end of the day they're going to be working in the industry."

HortNZ offers three types of one-year scholarships to students and trainees who have special interest in the fruit and vegetable industries. These range in value from \$500 for trainees to \$3000 for undergraduate students and up to \$10,000 for postgraduate students.

The students met for lunch in Palmerston North this week with Horticulture NZ senior business manager Sue Pickering and the head of the Institute of Natural Resources Professor Russ Tillman.

Ms Pickering says a key outcome for HortNZ is an industry that has the technological, financial and human capability to rapidly meet and exceed customer demands and needs.

"So we need bright, qualified people to take up a range of positions within our industry. Our scholarships aim to acknowledge, motivate and connect such people with our industry early in their career," she says.

"This year we had a record number of applicants for the undergraduate scholarships and Massey has been leading the way. HortNZ is very pleased to be able to support our new people and the University providing their educational pathway. We wish our scholars the best in their study and their future work in our industry."

For more information about Horticulture NZ scholarships see:

<http://www.hortnz.co.nz/communications/pdfs/ScholBrochure.pdf>

For more information about horticulture at Massey see:

<http://study.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/studymassey/search.cfm?view=prog&show=1&location=&type=&college=&keyword=horticulture&search=Search>

Date: 18/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments



Top awards for Massey design students and staff

An all-terrain in-line board and an animation focusing on computer dependency have won top awards for Massey design students and staff.

Industrial design graduate Ben Thomsen, now a tutor on the Auckland campus, collected a gold award at the "Best" Awards, held last Friday, for creating a skateboard designed to move on grass.

Judges of the Designers Institute national award programme say his entry showed an ability to challenge traditional solutions for human-powered vehicles.

"The designer present a credible solution that is aligned in form, materials and finish with the proposed market."

In the interactive media and website design category, Wellington graduate Caroline Ting won a gold award for her animation, titled Computer Dependency, pictured at right.

Judges called it the best animation at student level they saw. "The observation and character building was outstanding in this engaging and delightful work by a truly gifted student."



In the student spatial design category, Lauren Skogstad and Gemma Devonport-Ward won a gold award for Disseminate + Densify. Judges said they took a brief and executed the concept through to its natural conclusion. "This has been explained well showing a strong understanding of process and presentation."

Auckland School of Design regional director Azhar Mohamed, says success at the awards confirms that Massey's research-led approach to design is finding favour with industry.

In the furniture design category for professionals, industrial design graduate Philip Cuttance was a bronze winner for his fantasy chair. He manages the design workshop at the Auckland campus.

In student categories, Massey winners of silver and bronze awards were Tracey Halliday, Brienne Welsh, Laura Gordon Mitchell, Ying-min Chu, Kylie Phillips, Monique Wolland, Sarah Anderson, Juliet McLaren, Lita Patel, Macarena Rodriguez and Dan Pemberton.

The Government's Performance Based Research Fund rankings confirmed Massey as New Zealand's leading design school.

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Accelerated lambing can work, despite no rush from farmers

An accelerated lambing programme run by Professor Steve Morris has shown that year-round lambing can work, but falling lamb prices may mean farmers are in no rush to implement the scheme.

The three-year project investigated a system of using five breeding periods each year to produce lambs every 73 days. Funded by Meat and Wool New Zealand and the C Alma Baker Trust, the trial was run on a University farmlet.

A flock of 506 mixed-age ewes was split to form a conventional and accelerated lambing group; half the ewes high fertility composites and half medium fertility Romneys.



Some ewes in high-fertility flock were able to sustain 15 pregnancies over three years in the accelerated trial, producing 26 per cent more lambweight than the traditionally lambled ewes. Professor Morris says, however, that the decision on whether to pursue accelerated lambing is based on the economics.

"The project was proof of a concept set up in 2003 when prices were good and people were thinking about increasing production. Now prices have come back down industry may not be so keen, although people are interested in production in the early part of the year when prices are high."

The cost of producing an out-of-season lamb was found to be \$0.50/kg of weaned lamb more than the conventional system. Professor Morris found feed demand to be only slightly higher for the accelerated flock each year, but that demand was spread more.

"In the trial, almost 70 per cent of the highly fertile ewes in the accelerated system got pregnant at each mating, not matching the almost 100 per cent in the once-a-year ewes but potentially earning more income.

"The extra lamb weight produced brought in another \$234/hectare in our trial," Professor Morris says.

As well as proving the accelerated lambing concept, Professor Morris says the trial was a great opportunity to integrate scientists from different parts of the University.

"We had frequent discussion groups up there with plant scientists because people had to grow forage out of season to feed the sheep, statisticians, vet science people and others from farm management."

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science

Flagging interest in food puts older single men at risk

Many older men are at risk of becoming undernourished and suffering health problems due to poor nutrition, a Massey study has found.

Food, health and nutrition researcher Jennifer Bowden, from the Auckland campus, investigated the eating habits of older single men.

Standard fare for men now in their 70s and over is likely to have been 'meat and three veg' - invariably cooked by their wives.

For this group of older single New Zealand men who endured war, the Depression, food rations and hardship, having to suddenly fend for themselves amid modern preoccupations with 'healthy eating', food labelling, the daily bombardments of dietary information and abundance and variety of foods in increasingly cavernous supermarkets can be bewildering, if not irrelevant and meaningless.

In *Adding Life to Years: Understanding barriers to healthy eating in a group of older single-living New Zealand men*, Ms Bowden found that poor nutritional knowledge and limited cooking skills were among the barriers to older men eating well enough to maintain good health.

Many were unfamiliar with the ubiquitous '5+ a day' programme for encouraging fruit and vegetable intake.

"They don't really seem to know about this public health message, whereas they generally understand about reducing salt, fat and sugar," she says.

But as New Zealand's ageing population increases, adding pressure on health services, she says it is even more important that older men are encouraged to eat well so that they enjoy a good quality of life in their later years.

She recommended better public transport tailored to meet the needs of elderly people for food shopping, as well as willingness of workplaces to be more flexible about allowing staff to support ageing parents.

A dozen men living on Auckland's North Shore volunteered to take part in the Masters degree study, which involved a semi-structured interview as well as a nutrition knowledge and nutrition risk assessment questionnaire.

Her research identified three key factors influencing the men's food-related activities - individual circumstances of their lives, their knowledge and skills, and their food-related values.

Limited finances, lack of personal mobility and transport and lack of reliable family, social and support networks were all factors that made it difficult for older men to buy and cook what is now considered healthy food, she says in the report.

In the context of the New Zealand's growing ageing population, it was important that families as well as health agencies and social organisations interacting with elderly men were supportive in ensuring they ate well, Ms Bowden says.

Community-based education classes directed specifically at men to inform them about how to shop on a limited budget, as well as teaching basic food preparation, storage and meal planning could help, she suggests.

Some men in her study were forced to eat less for financial reasons, Ms Bowden said.

"In some cases the men were limiting their healthy food intake because they had limited income - this is a known nutrition risk factor. How do older New Zealand adults maintain a healthy diet on New Zealand superannuation?"

Families played a vital role in providing practical and emotional support by inviting older men for meals, providing transport to get to shops and helping them prepare meals in their own homes.

And social clubs - such as bowls and bridge - also provided opportunities for shared, convivial meals. Being forced to eat alone was a major disincentive for the men in bothering to cook for themselves. "They just see it as a lot of fuss for nothing," she says.

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Emergency research into Māori needs acclaimed

A Massey initiative exploring the needs and the role of Māori communities in times of natural disaster is attracting acclaim and support from government departments and agencies involved in emergency management.

The Māori Emergency Management initiative is the first study of its kind, there is a dearth of research concerning indigenous peoples and emergency management. Earlier this year the University's newly established Centre for Disaster Research highlighted the need for better understanding of the human impacts of natural disasters in the wake of the hurricane devastation to New Orleans.

The study and the subsequent recommendations from the Massey Māori research team now looks set to inform future policy as New Zealand plans for future natural disasters from flooding to earthquakes and eruptions.

Massey's Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship, Te Mata o Te Tau in conjunction with the Centre for Disaster Research presented proposals for the development of Māori emergency strategy to a meeting of senior policy analysts from Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the Ministry for Environment, Crown Research Institutes, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science and other tertiary institutions. There were also iwi representatives at the hui including Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Awa.

"It was a successful and productive initiative," says Dr Hudson. "I think the participation of the various government agencies, iwi and NGOs is a positive sign of a willingness and openness to engage and work towards some positive outcomes in this area, including smart policy."

He says a network has now been formed to ensure Māori interests will be considered in future planning.

In the aftermath of widespread flooding that hit the East Coast, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu and Wanganui, and lower North Island regions in 2004 the University's Centre for Indigenous Studies found that Māori communities had faced special difficulties and needed particular consideration in terms of future planning for emergency management.

The research found there had been communication problems with marae and civil defence groups and that there was little understanding of Māori perspectives and processes during times of natural disaster.

Led by Dr James Hudson, the research team carried out a series of projects looking specifically at the resilience and the response of marae and Māori communities.

They found they responded very effectively after natural disasters, using Māori practices and procedures.

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori



Dr Jennifer Stillman and Associate Professor Paul Merrick, School of Psychology.

Don't blame the coach, the players or the ref, blame the coin

Despite all the post-match analysis and finger-pointing, there is still no widespread agreement on what went wrong for the All Blacks in their Rugby World Cup quarter final loss to France.

Visual and cognitive science on the interplay between eye and brain suggests the change from the black jersey may have made a crucial difference.

The toss of a coin that deprived the All Blacks of their prized black jerseys no doubt disadvantaged the team psychologically, but we may have overlooked the additional perceptual consequences of this chance outcome.

Cognitive scientists know that the acquisition of competence in any skilled activity occurs over time, when actions which initially have to be deliberately planned, come to be executed automatically. The result of practice is that a sequence of repeated actions becomes established as a program in the nervous system.

Extensive practice enables skilled athletes to automatically ignore, or else select and react to, particular cues from all the information that bombards the senses. Such mental programs are constantly updated, but the initial skill attainment is more rapid than the ongoing skill acquisition that occurs with continued exercise of the skill.

In team sports, in particular, colour will be among the cues programmed for use. Team members will automatically respond to their team colours just as drivers automatically react, without conscious deliberation, to red, yellow, or green lights.

Because forward passing is not allowed in rugby, peripheral visual input must be processed rapidly to allow split-second decisions about where and when to pass the ball. It is a fact of vision that colour perception becomes increasingly poor away from the centre of vision. Thus the simple contrast of light versus dark will become more important. This is a consequence of the anatomy and physiology of the eye.

Readers can demonstrate it for themselves by extending an arm out to the side and slightly behind the body, while continuing to look ahead. Ask another person put a coloured pencil in your hand. Bring your hand slowly forward, without moving your gaze.

When you are first able to detect the movement of your hand stop and name the colour of the pencil. You will find that further forward movement is required before you can do this. The amount of further movement will depend upon the particular colour.

Through practice, the All Blacks are programmed to react quickly when they detect the movement of their darkly clad colleagues. An additional feature of the peripheral visual system is that the detection of movement is better in the periphery than straight ahead. No doubt in a game where, unusually, the opponents provided the darkest peripheral cues, precious fractions of a second could have been consumed in suppressing automatic practised reactions.

Despite the fact that the overall shapes and characteristic movements of their well-known team mates would help to identify them, precious moments may also have been lost by a tendency to suppress the act of passing the

ball to players dressed in lighter colours, normally typical of the opposing team.

What had the French to lose by opting for a dark coloured jersey for the World Cup? If they had lost the toss they would, at least, have had plenty of practice with their alternative strip because, not so long ago, it was their competition colour.

Perhaps the French have a very clever sport psychologist. After all, they deliberately shunned the name 'All Blacks', with its impressive connotations, in favour of the label "New Zealand Team".

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any



Winnie Ye

New Zealand contender for US scholarship

When solo parent Winnie Ye immigrated to New Zealand from China she soon found a job selling real estate on Auckland's North Shore but had her sights set on university education.

Five years on, the 38-year-old is a shining star in the ranks of third-year accountancy students.

She has landed a job at leading business consultancy Deloitte, and has been selected as the New Zealand contender for a prestigious Zonta scholarship. Just six of these scholarships, valued at \$US5000, are awarded annually from the Chicago-based Zonta International Foundation.

Determination and hard work have led to a string of prizes and a steady score of high grades since she enrolled as a student in the College of Business.

Before winning the nomination as the national applicant for the Zonta Women in Business scholarship, Ms Ye's most recent awards included the 2007 McGraw-Hill prizes for both macro and micro economics, and the 2006 accounting prizes from both Deloitte and the Chartered Institute of Management.

Delighted to be one of the finalists competing internationally for the Women in Business Scholarships, Ms Ye says she wants to contribute her talent to society and set up a healthy and positive image of Asian women immigrants.

As well as being a top scholar she is also a part-time tutor in information systems. Outside her academic pursuits Ms Ye shows a strong community spirit and as a volunteer for the organisation Age Concern, she is a regular visitor and supporter to a partially paralysed woman.

The School of Accountancy is proud of Ms Ye's achievements and her referee for the scholarship selection, Associate Professor Jill Hooks, says there is absolutely no doubt that she has great potential for learning and succeeding in business.

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

Poverty written out of policy

Replacing the word "poverty" with the more innocuous "income inadequacy" in a Cabinet paper on benefits reflects changes to the welfare system that threaten to disadvantage those for whom poverty really does exist, says Associate Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Dr Mike O'Brien.

It is one of the observations at the crux of his upcoming free public lecture *Reforming the Welfare* - at the Auckland campus on 23 October . In it, he will discuss significant changes to New Zealand's social security and income support system over the past two decades, along with the implications for those relying on benefits for regular income.

With Government assistance now targeting low-paid employed with the introduction from 2005 of the Working for Families scheme which provides income and accommodation supplements, there is a danger that beneficiaries are being further marginalised, says Dr O'Brien.

"From the latest set of figures from the Ministry of Social Development, we can see that poverty levels haven't fallen significantly, although Working for Families is making a difference for those in work," he says.

"One of the really fundamental changes is the focus of getting people into work, or ready for work.

"I'm not saying this emphasis is bad, but what about the people who can't work or are caring for children or dependent adults?"

Dr O'Brien says changes in terminology used in government policy documents points to a shift in emphasis, direction and priority. He was struck by a 2005 Cabinet paper outlining changes to core benefits.

"Poverty was not mentioned - there was just ' income inadequacy' or 'disadvantage' or 'low living standards'."

Dr O'Brien has written numerous articles and books on New Zealand's social and welfare systems, and has three new books launched this year, including one published in Sweden.

He co-edited and contributed to the internationally-themed volume of essays – titled *If we're so clever, why ain't we all within?* with Swedish social work lecturer from Lund University, Lars Harrysson.

With contributions from authors in different countries, the book deals with experiences of social exclusion from basic opportunities, rights and services at different stages of life.

Date: 19/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators

Sportsmen and sportswomen of the year named at Blues awards functions

Champion rower Storm Uru and rally sport co-driver Sara Randall (right) were named the Palmerston North campus sportsman and sportswoman of the year last night at the second of the Massey Sport Blues awards this week.

On Monday night, rower Juliette Haigh and yachtsman Matt Coutts were named Auckland campus sportswoman and sportsman of the year.

They were among 63 athletes of national and international ranking, from a wide variety of sports who received Blues at the two functions.

Third-year extramural business student Mr Uru is currently ranked the world's number one under-23 lightweight single scull rower, after his gold medal win at the U23 World Rowing Championships in Scotland in July. He is based at Cambridge, training for the Beijing Olympics with the New Zealand rowing team.

Ms Randall, from Masterton, is completing a Bachelor of Accounting extramurally and is rally co-driver for Richard Mason. Last year they won the New Zealand Rally Championship, the China Rally Championship and finished 10th in the world championship.

Ms Haigh, a second-year business student, was a silver medallist in the women's coxless pairs at the world championships in England in September last year and recently won gold and silver at World Cup Regattas in Switzerland (July) and Holland (June). She was unable to attend the awards.



Mr Coutts (right), a second-year business student, is currently ranked fourth in New Zealand laser and this year finished 25th in the open men's laser class at the international sailing championships in Portugal in July. He is the nephew of Russell Coutts.

Attending the function on the Auckland campus was a rare outing for top New Zealand sportswoman Anna Hamilton (Below right), seriously injured when she was knocked off her cycle during a training ride two months ago. Ms Hamilton, accompanied by her mother Katy, received a special mention at the ceremony.



Auckland Blues recipients: Athletics: Julia Hart, Charles Nicolson, Elizabeth Orchard; Flatwater sprint kayak: Scott Bicknell; Golf: Jenna Hirst; Hockey: Hamish Baron, Amanda Green, Kimberley Green, Genevieve Helliwell, Shaun Matthews; Judo: Alister Leat; Orienteering: Greg Flynn; Rowing: Juliette Haigh, Courtney Jacks; Rugby: Robert Coulhoun, Anna Richards, Ryan Wilson; Surf lifesaving: Chris Moors, Jane Moors; Swimming: Katie Bone, Helen Norfolk, Robert Voss, John Zulch; Triathlon: Anna Hamilton; Yachting: Matt Coutts, Joshua McCormack.

Auckland campus nominees for sportswoman of the year: Jenna Hirst, Kimberley Green, Juliette Haigh, Anna Richards, Helen Norfolk, and Anna Hamilton.

Auckland campus nominees for sportsman of the year: Charles Nicolson, Scott Bicknell, Robert Voss, John Zulch, Matt Coutts and Joshua McCormack.

Palmerston North and Wellington (*) Blues recipients: Alpine skiing Ben Griffin; artistic roller skating: Freyja Phillips; Athletics: Laura Roozendaal*; Badminton: Leck Sheng Tham; Barefoot waterskiing: Nick Hamblyn; Basketball: Alexander Wastney*; Beach volleyball: Rebecca Reidy; Canoe polo: Olivia Hilhorst, Hanchen le Roux, Olivia Spencer-Bower*, Joanna Wright; Canoe polo and canoe slalom: Tania Perrett; Canoe slalom: Michael Dawson, Mark Yungnickel; Cricket: Rachel Candy; Cycling: Simon van Velthooven; Equestrian: Sam Taylor, Sophie Wigley; Golf: Stephanie McKillop, Gemma Mathieson, Amy Smith; Hockey: Ricky Clark, Scott Falconer*, Catherine Finlayson, Stephen Graham, Emily Naylor, Jesse Workman; Inline hockey: Sam Beardman, Khord Kopu; Inline speed skating: Peter Homburg; Motorsport: Anthony Pedersen; Netball: Erika Burgess, Lauren Burgess, Samantha Burkhart, Lana Phipps; Rally sport: Sara Randall; Rowing: Nathan Cohen, Storm Uru; Rugby: Cameron Hayton, Louis Maxwell, Leon Power; Shooting: Robert Eastham; Soccer: Chelsea Aim, Allena Hill; Swimming: Matt Woodrow*; Table tennis: Grant Gordon; Triathlon: Alice Weaver.

Palmerston North/Wellington nominees for sportswoman of the year: Freyja Phillips, Rebecca Reidy, Olivia Spencer-Bower, Tania Perrett, Rachel Candy, Gemma Mathieson, Amy Smith, Emily Naylor, Sara Randall, Chelsea Aim, and Allena Hill.

Palmerston North/Wellington nominees for sportsman of the year: Ben Griffin, Nicky Hamblyn, Michael Dawson, Mark Yungnickel, Stephen Graham, Peter Homburg, Cameron Hayton, Louis Maxwell, Nathan Cohen, Storm Uru, Grant Gordon.

Date: 23/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation



Hon Steve Maharey

Maharey returns to Massey

▶ VIDEO Watch the news items: [ONE News](#) or [3 News](#)

The Massey University Council today announced the appointment of Hon Steve Maharey as Vice-Chancellor.

Mr Maharey is a Massey graduate and former academic staff member of the University. Current Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear will retire from the role in March 2008.

University Chancellor Nigel Gould says the Council is delighted that Mr Maharey has accepted the invitation to take up this role.

Mr Maharey is currently Minister of Education, Minister of Broadcasting, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Minister for Crown Research Institutes, Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office and Acting Minister for Social Development and Employment.

"As a previous Minister responsible for Tertiary Education, Steve fully appreciates how pivotal universities are to the development of New Zealand as a knowledge-based society," Mr Gould says. "In recognising that New Zealand's education and research capacity is a key to the successful transformation of the national economy and catalyst for community change, Steve has had a major responsibility for reforms in the university sector and has developed a clear vision for the contribution that universities must make.

"As the architect of the reforms he is now taking the opportunity to be a major player in their successful implementation."

Mr Gould says Mr Maharey has an intimate knowledge of challenges facing the tertiary sector and a close understanding of Massey's unique positioning within it. His academic background in Business and Social Sciences, coupled with his Ministerial responsibilities and his role as the Member of Parliament for Palmerston North for the past 17 years, means he has a broad understanding of the wide spectrum of the University's activities, says Mr Gould.

Mr Maharey has a BA and an MA (Hons) in sociology. He worked at Massey University between 1978 and 1990 and was a senior lecturer in sociology. He also taught business administration. He has published widely in his specialist areas of interest, media and cultural studies and social change. From 1986-89 he was a Palmerston North City Councillor before entering Parliament in 1990.

Mr Maharey will take up his position next year.

Date: 23/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Uni News

All Blacks brand will survive World Cup knockout

The All Blacks brand will endure because it is so much more than the current team and World Cup competition, says an advertising and marketing specialist.

Head of the Institute of Communication Design Dr Claire Robinson says, "The All Blacks brand hasn't been reliant on winning the William Webb Ellis trophy. It includes the aspiration to win, but we've only held it once in 20 years, so it doesn't belong to the brand."

"The brand includes the All Blacks' history, legends, and all the games they've played. It's about being ranked number one in the world most of the time - but not always because that would be boring."

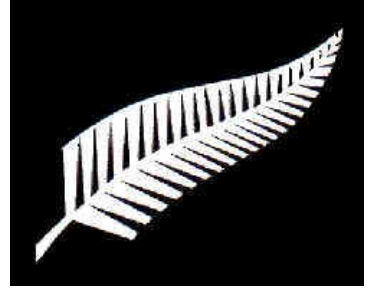
She says some sponsors will be disappointed that the team didn't go all the way to the finals, because it is good to be seen to be backing a winner, and they would have had lots of positive exposure for their own brands.

"But they've got a lot of mileage already out of supporting the team to this point. Savvy sponsors will still find a way of leveraging their brand off the loss by displaying a sense of empathy with supporters and players."

Date: 23/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts





Duck shoot: Engineering students from Wellington campus Chris Robertson, George Buurman and Guy Meuli hunt for electronic ducks.

Engineers declare open season on ducks

Engineering students are hunting electronic ducks in Wellington.

Second-year Bachelor of Engineering students from Wellington and Palmerston North campuses are competing for the "Duck for Cover" shooting trophy.

Students have to design and build electronic recognition, deactivation and communication systems.

Dr Wyatt Page from the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology says the purpose of Duck for Cover is to give students practical experience at electronics design.

Duck for Cover is a game of fighting an "enemy" while protecting "civilians". The game comprises a Gamekeeper, and numerous ducks of three breeds: Desperado, Donald, and Daffy.

Desperado Duck is the evil assassin who must be deactivated without hitting and deactivating Donald and Daffy ducks, the innocent civilians and onlookers. To make things harder some of the onlooker ducks could change their identity and become Desperados.

The students' task is to design the Gamekeeper. Each duck transmits a coded infra-red signal. The Gamekeeper must locate the duck, detect the signal, decode the identity, and if it is Desperado, transmit a signal that deactivates it.

The Bachelor of Engineering degree in Wellington offers two majors: mechatronics and multimedia systems engineering. "We call it New Zealand's most adventurous engineering degree," Dr Page says.

"There's increasing demand worldwide for engineers with integrated knowledge combining traditional areas such as mechanical, electrical, electronics and control engineering with modern areas such as signal processing, software engineering, robotics and internet technologies."

The winning team was from Palmerston North campus. Team members Bret Martin, Ben Jolly and Ben Pierce were awarded prizes from Institution of Engineering and Technology and a \$200 multimeter from RS Components Ltd.

Team Monocle from Wellington took second place. Team member Chris Robertson says the assignment was like being thrown in the deep end. "It was equally frustrating and rewarding, but it gave us a lot of practical skills like debugging."

The intercampus trophy was awarded to Dr Robin Dykstra, course coordinator from the Palmerston North campus.



Date: 24/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

Regrets, I've had a few ...

Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.
Sydney J Harris

Not taking action causes Kiwis more regret than anything else, according to new research from the School of Psychology, and confirms the oft-held belief that it is what we did not do that which causes most angst. The investigation into the psychology of regret is the first phase of a PhD study by research officer Andy Towers.

Mr Towers says the research, the most in-depth survey on regret undertaken in New Zealand, using a random sample of 3000 people from the electoral roll, and received 650 responses.

"People regret the things they didn't do, that is the inaction - both in the short and the long-term," he says. "While overseas it has been found that in the short-term people regret more actions, in New Zealand this was not the case, perhaps indicating that New Zealanders are thinking about their short-term behaviour differently. The long-term regrets are the same as other countries, however - the lost opportunities causing more regret than the mistakes made."

One surprise is the differences in regret between men and women, Mr Towers says.

"Even though we think we have moved on from traditional gender roles and stereotypes, these biases are still reflected in our regrets. For instance, it looks a bit like traditional stereotyping where, over the short-term at least, men's regrets are focused around traditionally masculine aspects such as finance and occupational decisions and completely ignore family concerns whereas women's regrets are much more varied, involving both occupational concerns and more traditionally feminine concerns such as family, parenting and health decisions."

Regrets tend to change as people age, notably the regret of not taking further education as stated by many older participants. "Time and time again the thing that came up is 'If I had stayed at school I could have had a better job and my life would be different' or 'I would not have had this manual job that has wrecked me'."

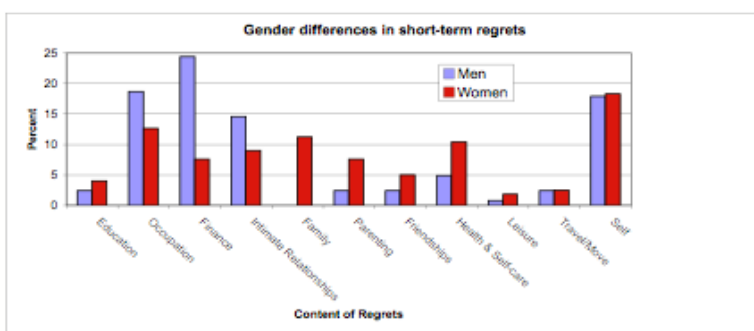
Older people were also most likely to be concerned with intimate relationships, notably the 40 to 50-year-olds. "They perhaps have a job or a career but want to build other connections," Mr Towers says. "Middle-age seems to be about who to spend your life with. I had a number of people tell me 'I wish I hadn't married this person I am married to' or 'I wish I had asked that person to marry me'."

Younger people who responded tended to regret things related to themselves, including their behaviour, whether regretting some form of behaviour or wishing they had "stood up" for themselves.

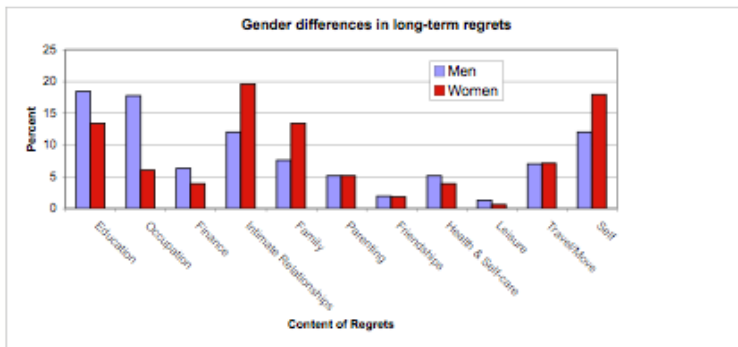
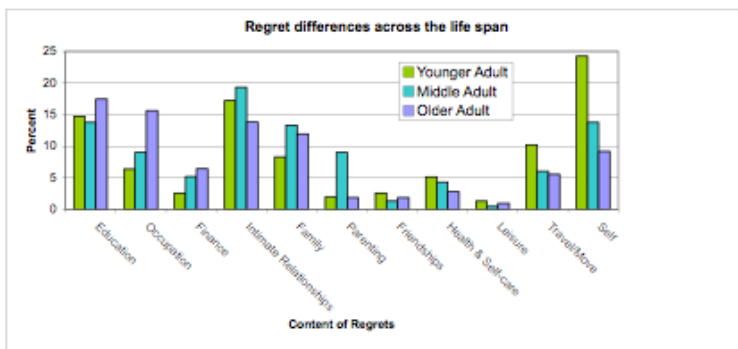
The second phase of Mr Towers' research is to look at the reasons for regret. He believes that people regret less when they can point to a reason why they acted the way they did, or a moral justification for behaviour.

"Justifying behaviour shows the world we acted for a reason, that there was method in our madness, so even when it turns out badly we will not feel the full force of regret."

However, his results also suggest that justification alone does not protect you from regret.



"It's interesting to note that a number of people that had a strong theoretical justification for their behaviour still felt a lot of regret because, irrespective of the level of justification, they felt their behaviour still did not 'fit' with the person they thought they were. Basically, whether we can justify our behaviour is less important than whether we can accept that behaviour as being 'in character'."



Date: 24/10/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



The successful Long Bay College applicants for Massey University High Achiever Scholarships, from left: Lynda Low, Frances Ferguson, Jessamy Amm, Merade Pryme,

University's High Achiever Scholarships awarded

Long Bay College students have picked up 10 of the 150 \$3000 High Achiever Scholarships the University has awarded nationally for students planning to study at Massey next year - the most received by any school.

The scholarships, awarded on the basis of general academic excellence, excellence in the arts or excellence in sports, were keenly sought, with recipients from Whangarei to Gore.

Thirty-six will study at the Auckland campus, 64 at Palmerston North and 40 at Massey Wellington. The other 10 are still to finalise which campus they will attend. Long Bay's Frances Ferguson won two scholarships, for academic achievement and arts, and was one of several applicants to win scholarships in more than one category.

https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/awards/awards_home.cfm

Date: 24/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

First Peter Snell doctoral scholarships awarded

Meihana Durie and Jackson Green are the inaugural recipients of Massey's Peter Snell Doctoral Scholarships in Public Health and Exercise Science.

The scholarships support research aimed at keeping New Zealanders healthy and provide payment of doctoral fees and an annual stipend of \$25,000.



Mr Durie (Ngati Kauwhata, Rangitane, Ngati Porou, Rongo Whakaata and Ngai Tahu) is Co-Director of Maori language studies and health and fitness programme manager at Te Wananga o Raukawa in Otaki. He is the son of Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie and Professor Arohia Durie, who heads the School of Maori and Multicultural Education Professor. He has a Diploma of Teaching and Bachelor of Education from Massey and a Master in Te Reo Maori from Te Wananga. His doctorate research explores the relationship between Maori wellbeing, activities that increase physical fitness and the role of kawa (conventions, protocols).

Mr Green, who has a Bachelor of Science in Sport and Exercise Science with first-class honours from Massey and currently teaches sport and exercise science at the Palmerston North campus, will research the relative importance of body composition and physical activity in the development of insulin resistance for his doctorate.



The scholars are based at the University's Research Centre for Maori Health and Development at both the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses, supervised by centre director Professor Chris Cunningham, Associate Professor Snell and Dr Steve Stannard of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Dr Stannard says the scholarships develop research capability at the interface between exercise science and public health and acknowledge the ongoing and active relationship between Massey and Dr Snell, who attended the award ceremony in Wellington yesterday. Dr Snell, the three-time Olympic gold medallist runner, works at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre where his research focus is on the interaction between physical activity, body composition and health status.

"One of the benefits of the scholarship is the opportunity to spend time in Peter's laboratory in Texas, and bring back to New Zealand some of his knowledge in exercise science and techniques that he has developed," says Dr Stannard.

Caption 1: Meihana Durie (left) and Jackson Green

Caption 2: Massey Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear with Mr Durie, Mr Green and Associate Professor Peter Snell.

Date: 26/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

Two fellowships for Maori doctoral researchers

Two Maori doctoral students have been awarded Te Tipu Putaiao Fellowships worth up to \$107,500 each from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

They are Whetu Simon, who is researching successful internet strategies to enhance the economic cultural and social wellbeing of Maori, and Margaret Forster, who is studying the protection and restoration of wetlands.

The foundation spends about \$460 million a year on the Government's behalf to promote and support innovation and new knowledge creation. Sixteen emerging researchers whose work draws on distinct Maori Knowledge have been awarded fellowships for masterate, doctoral and postdoctoral projects.

Mr Simon's three-year research project will also explore the potential of online digital environments to support Maori e-business and to scope online business opportunities for collectively owned resources.

He is based at the University's Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development on the Palmerston North campus. His information will be collected and analysed from existing Maori development frameworks such as Maori e-business and online whanau, hapu and iwi organisations, e-marae and e-charitable trusts.

His research acknowledges the potential of Maori resources to contribute to national development and issues of globalisation, technology change, the knowledge wave and Maori cultural and intellectual property rights. He hopes his research will bring direct gains to collectives through the use of digital development strategies and models.

Ms Forster' will explore Maori engagement in species and wetland ecosystem restoration and management. It is also three-year research project that will be carried out predominantly in her tribal area of Iwitea, Whakaki and Mahia in Hawke's Bay.

Ms Forster, from Te Putahi-a-Toi (the School of Maori Studies), seeks to identify synergies and opportunities with Maori knowledge and science. She says her project will demonstrate how Maori can engage in species and wetland ecosystem restoration and management through the innovative use of Maori knowledge, principles and concepts and Western ecological frameworks.

Date: 31/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH





Matt Chisholm. Photo credit: The Dominion Post

Journalism student wins Alex Veysey Memorial Prize

Matt Chisholm has won this year's Alex Veysey Memorial Prize, funded by The Dominion Post in honour of the late Wellington journalist.

The prize is available only to Massey journalism students. They vote for the class member who most lives up to Mr Veysey's reputation for old-fashioned journalism and zest for life.

Mr Chisholm told his classmates he was "humbled" by the award.

"Any one of you could have won it too."

The fifth student to win the prize, he plans a career as a broadcast journalist.

In awarding the prize Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst took a moment to remember his old mate.

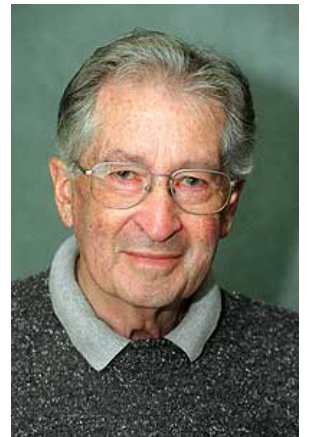
"He was a good friend and I miss him. He enjoyed life and loved music. Under the name Ash Burton, Alex recorded some classic country songs."

Mr Veysey (right) worked at both The Dominion and The Evening Post during a career that lasted more than 50 years. He was a sports and political reporter, features editor, and assistant editor. He also wrote several acclaimed books on New Zealand sporting heroes. He died in 2002.

Date: 31/10/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Weight reduction surgery won't work without counselling

Surgery alone will not achieve long-term weight loss for the morbidly obese, say clinical psychologist Kay Mathewson and obesity surgeon Dr Rob Fris. Emotions, attitudes and behaviour linked with food and eating must also be addressed.

Ms Mathewson, an obesity counsellor from the University's Centre for Psychology Services in Auckland, and North Shore-based Dr Fris work in a team that includes a dietician and nutritional expert to prepare patients for surgery and life beyond it.



She wants to dispel myths and preconceptions about the plight of seriously overweight people, and says they are often maligned and harshly judged by others.

People she counsels may have experienced years of humiliation, battled with their weight throughout years of unsuccessful dieting, drug treatment, exercise regimes and hiring personal trainers.

They are often depressed, anxious and socially withdrawn because of their obesity, can be victims of workplace discrimination and miss out on activities most people take for granted, such as travel, playing with their children, socialising and participating in sport and exercise.

Ms Mathewson says many people do not realise that being morbidly obese is a clinical condition resulting from many factors including metabolic, genetic and psychological triggers.

It puts sufferers at risk of early death, and numerous illnesses, including heart attack, hypertension, diabetes, infertility, incontinence as well as sleep disorders, depression, skin problems.

Obesity surgery, which usually involves the insertion of a lap band around the stomach restricting the amount of food that can be eaten, is not a quick-fix solution and succeeds only if the patient can also make changes to their lifestyle and eating habits, Ms Mathewson and Dr Fris say.

Dr Fris says although psychological counselling is not a not requirement, his clinic recognises that obesity is more than a purely physical, medical matter.

"No operation can separate the stomach from the brain," he says.

Ms Mathewson's input is part of the pre-surgery assessment for suitability as well as to help the person adapt to life after surgery, so that they retain the benefits of the procedure.

"One aspect of my role is looking at what will make the surgery a success, and helping clients achieve the best possible outcome," she says. "We talk about potential obstacles in terms of lifestyle and eating habits, and the role that food and dieting plays in their lives."

Although patients will have a smaller appetite following the lap band surgery, Ms Mathewson discusses their emotional needs surrounding food and other psychological issues related to their eating habits such as body image.

Dr Fris says he would like to see more research by psychologists on obesity to better understand behavioural and emotional triggers for over-eating, as well as body image issues for obese people.

At the Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand in Perth, Australia, next month Ms Mathewson will speak about how clinical psychologists contribute to a surgeon's team to achieve positive outcomes for clients.

Date: 01/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Hitting the treadmill with intelligence

Getting into shape in the New Year could be easier with an intelligent running treadmill that automatically adjusts its pace to the speed a runner sets allowing a hands-free transition.

Under development by Massey sports scientists, the treadmill's sensor system was originally designed by fourth-year Bachelor of Engineering student Michal Prestidge, and staff in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health are now in the process of testing and fine-tuning the technology.

Sports science lecturer Dr Toby Mundel says the machine's sensors pick up the slight forward displacement of the body of a runner who wants to pick up the pace, and the belt speed automatically adjusts. To slow down, a runner will straighten up and shift their weight back and the belt will again adjust.

Senior exercise scientist Dr Steve Stannard says the treadmill is ideal for laboratory-based time-trials where a participant can set their own pace, compared to previous trials which could only be done in the field.

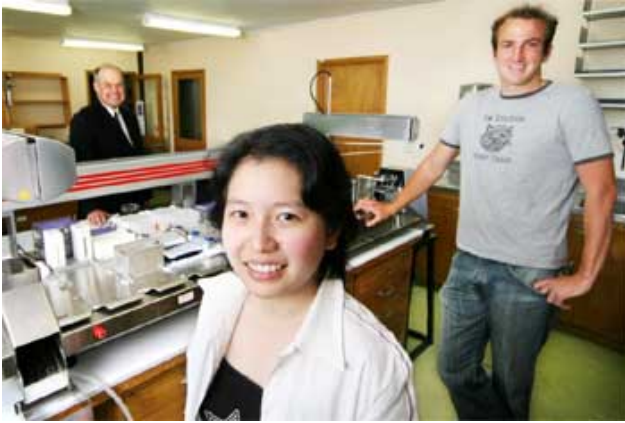
Caption: Dr Mundel tests the intelligent treadmill with the assistance of Massey student and representative squash player Sam Jack.

Date: 01/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences





Slipstream Automation CEO Mike Cook (right) and Massey University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington (left) in the lab with Kristin Sze Mei Tham, who has won a scholarship to undertake a summer project with the company.

New scholarships for technology entrepreneurs

The University is funding three new scholarships, with the support of the Bio Commerce Centre, to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of science and technology students in the Manawatu region.

Applications for the Bio Commerce Centre/Massey University Commercialisation Scholarship are open to postgraduate students undertaking a one-year, full-time research project with commercial potential at the Palmerston North campus.

The purpose of the scholarship is to promote commercialisation of technology and encourage entrepreneurial activity among Massey postgraduate students. The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington says it is critical that students are aware of the interface between research and commercialisation of emerging discoveries.

We're in a global economy and our students have to be ready to work in any environment in the world. The Bio Commerce Centre has been a very good initiative in focusing on that interface and has been critical in providing integration between the various research and tertiary institutions in the region, Professor Warrington says.

The \$15,000 scholarship is funded by Massey, and the Bio Commerce Centre will provide commercial guidance and the opportunity for the recipient to base themselves in the centre's business incubator. Students are asked to submit their application before January 31. Application forms are available from contact@massey.ac.nz or 0800 627 739.

Two Summer Scholarships have also been established to build relationships between Massey, the Bio Commerce Centre and local industry. Massey will fund two \$5,000 scholarships a year for three years, aimed at undergraduate or postgraduate students undertaking practical work experience in their summer break.

The inaugural recipients of these scholarships are Kristin Sze Mei Tham and Yin Zhang.

Ms Tham, a third-year Bachelor of Engineering (Biotechnology) student, is working with the Bio Commerce Centre resident company Slipstream Automation to finalise development of a robotic plant-DNA extraction kit to speed up DNA analysis in laboratories.

Ms Zhang recently enrolled in a Masters of Technology and will work with contract beverage-manufacturing company Xenos, another Bio Commerce Centre resident company, on bottle-sterilising technology.

Date: 01/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Scholarships

Optimisation of Services' Delivery Project Update

The review of financial services is progressing satisfactorily, with interviews and workshops underway.

The approved terms of reference for the review of student administration are to be distributed on 6 or 7 November, with interviews and a workshop to commence soon after.

Updates are to be undertaken on all campuses on the reviews of financial services and student administration. The first update is on 7 November in the Japanese Lecture Theatre at Palmerston North, with Auckland on either the 19 or 20 November, and Wellington on 29 or 30 November.

Campus-all e-mails will be sent out advising staff on times and venues.

The updates are to appraise staff affected by the reviews of progress and future intentions of the reviews. While the emphasis of the updates will be on financial services and student administration, all staff are welcome to attend.

The timeframe for the reviews due to commence next year have had to be amended. The review of information, communication and technology services has been pushed back, to commence no earlier than May, with human resources services now planned to commence in June.

The review of infrastructure services has also been affected, with it likely to commence in August. The review of marketing and communications remains unaffected.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Uni News



Members of the Massey University Drama Society, Matthew Walden, Erin Matthews, Cassie Rowe, Adam Dodd.

Clubs, societies and arts winners

The University's Palmerston North campus netball club has been named the club of the year, the Underwater Hockey Club the best new club, the Omani Students Association the most improved society and Fair Trade Day was the event of the year for 2007.

The awards were announced along with Student City arts awards in Palmerston North on 16 October.

Club/society individuals of the year went to Meredith Love of Massey netball, Robert Krebs of the Massey Surf Club and Erin Matthews of the University Drama Society.

Student City awards for theatre went to Matt Waldin (performer of the year), Cassie Rowe (newcomer) and to Erin Matthews, Sofie Welvert, Kimberley Gerritson, Mara Tait Jamieson and Lana Skleners (outstanding achievement).

Student City awards for music were won by Chris Vaelua and Imran Mohammad; for literature by Royna Fifield (fiction writer of the year), Terence Woods (non-fiction writer), Leigh McLennon and Claire Williams (outstanding achievement); for visual arts Robert Charles; and for outstanding contribution to the arts Adam Dodd (individual) and the Drama Society (group).

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



At the function for the Palmerston North and Wellington campus scholarship recipients on 31 October are, from left: (front) Renee Pedley, Myoungjoo Park, Aaron Steele, Anita Darrah; (centre) Noveline Gali, Uttara Samarakoon, Anwasha Sarkar, Margaret Hartnett, (rear) Andrew Thomas, Jevon Wright, Rashmi Kant, Helen Dollery and Professor Margaret Tennant.

University scholarship recipients share in \$3.7m allocation

Massey's main scholarship recipients for this year were presented with certificates at functions at the Auckland and Palmerston North campuses over the past fortnight.

The scholarships include nine Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarship, of \$27,000 each, 33 University Doctoral Scholarships (\$22,000), 20 University Masterate Scholarships (\$15,000), two University Māori Masterate Scholarships (\$15,000), Goodman Family Scholarships of \$10,000 and three Lovell and Berys Clark Scholarships (discretionary amount ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each).



At Palmerston North, the Dean of the Graduate Research School Professor Margaret Tennant congratulated the recipients, describing them as an elite group embarking on an activity at the core of what universities do - research.

At Auckland, College of Business Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Larry Rose paid similar tributes. Both wished the students success in meeting the challenges their work would present.

Each year the University allocates more than \$3.7 million in scholarships, many of them funded by private bequests, family donations and industry contributions to promote educational and research excellence.

Last month the University allocated \$450,000 High Achiever Scholarships to secondary school leavers who will study at the three Massey campuses next year.

The main higher value scholarships, usually allocated at the start and middle of each year, are to support postgraduate students.

Shirley Morris, of the Scholarships Office in the Graduate Research School, says the doctoral scholarships, have a total value of nearly \$1 million a year and are keenly contested. "They're all A students," she says.

"Berys Clark and her late husband Lovell from Papakura district set up a scholarship in 2002 for students undertaking postgraduate studies," Mrs Morris says.

"The money was invested and each year the interest enables us to award three \$10,000 scholarships. To date, Mrs Clark has very generously topped up each scholarship by a further \$5000."

There is a huge range of scholarships in all fields of study. Some are specific to courses but many are open, yet every year some of the scholarships are not allocated because no one applies for them.

Caprion right image: At the function for the Auckland campus scholarship on 26 October, from left: (front) Sarah Kennedy-Merrick, Margaret Sandham, (centre) Haina Ding, Matthew Harris, Nicole Backhouse-Smith, Juan Chen, Gang Xie, Mark Lowe, (rear) Christopher Wedding, Haydn Cooper, Shuk Fan Choi and Hanshin Li.

For further information on scholarships: https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/awards/awards_home.cfm

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

\$50,000 boost for business start-ups

The Cable Car Challenge, sponsored by the College of Business, was a competition for up-and-coming Wellington businesses with the potential to bring substantial economic and other benefits to the region.

Judging took place on Wellington's Cable Car. Finalists had just eight minutes to present their business plans to a panel of judges including Trade Me founder Sam Morgan, while the Cable Car ascended Kelburn hill.

First prize of \$50,000 of cash and business advice went to Eyemagnet, who make interactive screen technology using text messaging and motion detect technology.

HireThings.com's managing director Peter Torr Smith says they entered not just for the prize pool, but also for the publicity and contacts the competition generated.

HireThings.com is an online rental and hiring marketplace. Mr Torr Smith organises the "Summer of Code" internship programme for IT students.

Funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, it provides 28 IT students from Massey and Victoria universities the opportunity to work over the summer break with top Wellington technology companies.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



BBS third-year sport management students, from left: Nick Hawkings, Troy Thurston, Pip Gueorgieff, Alex Nixon, Sarah Grant, Stephanie McKillop, Megan Nitschke and Nick Crocker.

Sport management students still raising the bar

The College of Business sport management group held a lunch at the Palmerston North campus recently for the organisations and businesses that have supported the Bachelor of Business Studies sport management practicum paper.

The practicum involves placing third-year students with organisations, where they can put into practice the theory they have learnt, doing things like organising sports events and devising and managing sponsorship and promotional activities.

Professor Claire Massey, the new head of the Department of Management for Palmerston North and Wellington, told the lunch that the sport groups were easily the most active in the department.

"This a genuinely evolving programme with a group of really dedicated lecturers and researchers who are both active and visible in the community," Professor Massey said. "I couldn't hope for more, coming in as a new HoD."

Dr Andy Martin, on behalf of the sport management programme, paid tribute to each of the students and thanked the organisations that had helped train them - Sport Manawatu, the Manawatu Rugby Union, Basketball New Zealand, the Palmerston North Basketball Association and Wellington City Council.

Massey business graduates who specialise in sport management are now working throughout the world, many of them with major roles for international sport events and sport organisations.

"We try to raise the bar each year and the standard this year has been exceptional," Dr Martin said.

One of the students, Stephanie McKillop, who did her practicum with Manawatu Rugby and helped organise the Turbos calendar, promotion and merchandising, has already been employed as the Manawatu-Wanganui Golf Association's executive officer.

Ms McKillop says the new position was offered to her before she had even completed the practicum and she hopes to complete her final three papers over summer so she can graduate in May.

Also one of Manawatu's top golfers, she said the job involved being an administrator, treasurer and events organiser.

She had enjoyed the course and learnt a lot. "It really did provide me with the skills to do my job, and the confidence."

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Sport and recreation

Regional awards grow capability in organisations

College of Business staff have had intensive contact with a wide range of the country's top small and medium businesses through sponsorship and judging of regional business awards.

The Wanganui Business Awards this month were the last in the series of regional awards across the country for the year that the College supports and fields judges for. The business awards are held in Northland, Auckland's North Shore, Manawatu, Rangitikei, Wellington and Wanganui.

In Wanganui, a family business that relocated from South Africa five years ago was judged Best Business for 2007. The winning company, Quality Safety, manufactures a range of safety and medical equipment.

The Massey judging panel for the Wanganui awards, which included Lindsay Hawkes (School of Accountancy) and Barrie Humphries (Department of Management), had visited every entrant to prepare reports on all competing businesses.

Their judging criteria examines companies entering the awards for: capacity for strategic management, governance, internal processes, external engagement and marketing, performance, contribution to the community and compliance.

College of Business Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor, Executive Education, Dr James Lockhart says the awards are much more than a celebration of success. He says the process of entering helps companies focus on their structures and strategies, which has an impact on performance.

"That really is what we are about - building capability in organisations and helping grow the New Zealand economy."

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Dr Tweed is pictured graduating with his PhD at Newcastle flanked by the University's Chancellor Professor Trevor Waring (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Nicholas Saunders (right).

Thesis hailed as year's best work

A toast was made to Massey's Dr David Tweed at the annual dinner for Newcastle University postgraduate students last month.

They were celebrating the Australian university's top PhD projects across all disciplines and the Faculty of Business and Law hailed Dr Tweed's thesis on small businesses as the best work of the year.

Dr Tweed is based at Palmerston North in the Department of Management. He has been commuting across the Tasman on a regular basis for nearly a decade, pursuing his PhD at Newcastle while teaching and contributing to Massey's research on small and medium enterprises.

The work for which Dr Tweed was recognised by his Australian academic supervisors and peers this month has already had widespread acknowledgement at home. His thesis probed how New Zealand's small and medium enterprise owners evaluated the performance of their businesses. His findings overturned beliefs that 80 per cent of small businesses fail within five years.

The research began with a nationwide survey of SMEs in 1997 and was completed with a second investigation in 2004. Dr Tweed said the researchers took issue with methods of measurements that had previously been used to calculate the success or failure of small businesses.

His research indicated that the true picture with small businesses in New Zealand was a success rate of around 80 per cent taken over a five year period of the life of the business - rather than an 80 per cent failure rate.

Dr Tweed says a desire for diversity and a strong concentration of academics with an interest in small business research, led him to choose Newcastle University.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Postgraduate hui a step forward for Māori students

The first hui for Māori postgraduate students enrolled at the Auckland campus was a significant step forward for the Māori Strategic and Development Unit.

There are 90 postgraduate students attached to the campus - 12 of them doing PhDs. They are scattered far and wide with many north of the campus but some as far south as Invercargill. They are studying across a broad range of options from business to social work, health and psychology.

Twenty students came to the hui along with Māori staff and community members. Feedback was very positive says Māori Learning Adviser Lily George.

The hui marked the launch of the University's postgraduate Māori programme, Te Rangahau Taura, which will soon be offering workshops targeted at the needs of postgraduate students.

"This was the first of more events of this kind," Ms George says. We plan to offer a total service to Māori students from school to their career path."

She says the hui was another step towards the development of communities of learning for Māori students by highlighting the Māori presence on campus.

This will help create and extend external networks.

"We are reaching outwards to our postgraduate community but we also want to build a feeling of whānau on campus for all Māori who are thinking of studying here."

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar

Students choose top lecturer

Pharmacology lecturer Dr Felix Ram has been voted Lecturer of the Year by students at the Auckland campus.

Dr Ram took the honours from a total of 94 teaching staff who were nominated by students at the campus. The event, organised by the Albany Students Association, was established two years ago. Last year 73 staff were nominated.

Dr Ram, is from the School of Health Sciences, received wide-ranging praise for the many attributes that saw him selected.

Association advocacy co-ordinator Penny Lyall says the award benefits both students and staff.

"Our aim is to provide a quality event that reflects the respect, esteem and appreciation that we believe staff deserve," she says.

"I have received a huge amount of feedback from teaching staff.

They say this form of affirmation from students goes a long way in increasing their level of job satisfaction and that it serves to reinforce the reasons why they have chosen to teach."

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



Teaching coaches better game tactics

Education lecturer Dennis Slade is attracting wide attention for his research on effective teaching practices for sports games.

Mr Slade has had accepted for publication in the Australian Sport Coaching Journal, Sports Coach, an article based on his research that explores the 'teaching games for understanding' (TGFU) methodology as a means of capturing novices to sport.

He has recently presented workshops for teachers and coaches on a tactical approach to games instruction in Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and with Hockey New Zealand's regional and national coaches.

Mr Slade believes the approach encourages a mind-shift that more effectively allows coaches to put their knowledge of their sport into practice.

"It is a little bit of a risk for coaches to move away from the traditional coaching approach," he says. "Skill in games, especially team games, is not just about technique but a product of technique and tactics. Coaches seldom disagree with this, and once we get to this point, the rest of the workshop is really quite straightforward."

Mr Slade's text Teaching Attack and Defence in Team Games: A TGFU Approach sold out after a presentation of his work at the annual Physical Education New Zealand conference in July, and had a favourable review commissioned by the physical education division of the New South Wales Education Department. It is now being promoted by their library service as a valuable addition to teachers' resources for games instruction in schools.

Mr Slade has a manuscript due for publication early next year, with the American publishing company Human Kinetics, for aq sole-authored text on teaching tactics and fundamental movements in physical education classes.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Teaching



Palmerston North's Student Centre.

Student Centre and Hopkirk win building awards

Palmerston North campus' Student Centre has won two awards from the Institute of Architects Western Branch - one for architecture and a Resene Colour award - for designers Opus International.

The Hopkirk Research Institute, also on the Palmerston North campus, received the same awards earlier in the year. It was designed by Australian firm S2F.

The awards will be presented at a function in New Plymouth on Friday.

Construction firm for both buildings, McMillan and Lockwood, also received a silver award for the Student Centre from the local Master Builders' Federation annual awards to go with the gold it received for the Hopkirk.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Services; Uni News



Glen Tupuhi.

Songs and stories a tool for iwi business success

As a proud baby boomer, Glen Tupuhi (Ngāti Paoa) welcomed the chance to take up management study in his early 50s as part of the University's Te Rau Matatini programme - one of two key Massey projects aimed at expanding the development of the Māori health workforce.

Before enrolling in the one-year Graduate Diploma in Business Studies two years ago, Glen, a father of two and grandfather of six, had accumulated lengthy experience working in justice and health-related fields - from parole officer for the Corrections Department and youth justice coordinator in Invercargill, to managing a residential violence prevention programme and now as assistant general manager for the needs assessment service of Hauora Waikato - New Zealand's largest Māori mental health provider.

Having withdrawn from previous tertiary management study, the prospect of returning to university was a little daunting at first, he admits, but he is full of praise for the Te Rau Matatini and Te Rau Puawai Māori workforce development programmes.

The schemes were initiated by a team led by Professor Mason Durie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), and Dr Annemarie Gillies from the College of Business Department of Management as a partnership between the college, the Ministry of Health and the Mental Health Commission.

Glen says the study support, mentoring, collective spirit, and networking between students and staff smoothed the way to meeting the demands of assignment deadlines while continuing his day job with a supportive employer, Te Runanga ō Kirikiriroa.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this educational environment," he says. "It enabled me to examine the dovetailing of Māori tikanga and paradigms with modern management disciplines and practises."

Glen's formidable energy and passionate commitment to Māori development has been spread across a range of work and community activities, particularly in his role as chairman of the Ngāti Paoa Trust.

"The challenge is to lead the tribe into the most advantageous position to enter into treaty settlement negotiations. Consequently the need for integrity at tribal governance and corporate level is what stimulated me to undertake academic study.

"Ngāti Paoa have traditional influence over a corridor of land and coastal resources stretching from Morrinsville in the south, traversing Waikato and Hauraki, to Mahurangi in the north," he says.

He is now considering further postgraduate management study at Massey, and wants to explore, in a Māori-focused academic environment, the application of ancient kōrero, including waiata, as foundations for health treatment guidelines and business auditing tools.

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: Features

Categories: College of Business

Teaching excellence focus of VC Symposium next month

This year's Vice-Chancellor's Symposium will focus on teaching and the role of teachers in the University. Guest speaker will be Professor Iain Hay of Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia.

Professor Hay, a Massey alumnus and former staff member, won the Australian Prime Minister's award for university teaching last year.

Massey Academic Development and e-Learning Director Gordon Suddaby says the symposium will highlight the critical importance of teaching. "It aims to celebrate both the scholarship and the magic of teaching, showcase why individual teachers are still at the heart of university education and why teaching still matters."



Mr Suddaby says the symposium will highlight not one "best way" of teaching but demonstrate the many ways to teach better.

Staff will have opportunities to participate and hear about practical, successful and innovative ideas for adding extra dimensions to their teaching.

The symposium will run from 9am to 3.30pm at Auckland campus in the Study Centre staff lounge on 3 December, Wellington in LT100 on 4 December and Palmerston North in the Social Science Lecture Block on 6 December

To register and get programme details:
<http://vcymposium.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 02/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar; Internal Communications; Teaching; Uni News



Public relations lecturer Kane Hopkins

Public relations students win national award

A campaign created by public relations students to get more people riding bicycles has won the Cycle-Friendly Award for Best Cycling Promotion sponsored by Sport and Recreation New Zealand.

Transport Minister Annette King presented the award to the Massey team at a cycling conference in Napier last Thursday for their "On Ya Bike" campaign designed for Palmerston North.

The Massey team, from the Department of Communication and Journalism, beat entries from the Auckland City Council and Sport Bay of Plenty for the stylised bicycle bell shaped trophy.



Mrs King says the students' campaign sent an important message. "One of the most important aspects of meeting New Zealand's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is to initiate behaviour changes and cement the message that leaving the car at home and instead cycling, walking or taking public transport is usually a better and realistic alternative."

"On Ya Bike" was designed as part of last year's course work. The students were responsible for all aspects of the campaign, including research, planning and finding funding.

Public relations lecturer Kane Hopkins says the win is a "stunning achievement" resulting from a really solid campaign. "It is great for the team to be recognised for their hard work," Mr Hopkins says.

"The award is really a testament to some great ideas, hard work, and the ability to address the challenge as a local problem that needed local solutions. What the campaign also demonstrated was how green issues need to be dealt with locally, as national pro-cycling campaigns don't always offer practical or relevant suggestions."

The students' three key messages - fitter, faster and free - highlighted that cycling is an alternative to driving. They developed eye-catching and innovative tactics to gain media attention. These included taking over a downtown car-park and installing bike stands to show that cycling is more convenient than driving, and organising a race from the Square to the Manawatu River bridge between local sportspeople and a radio station car, to show that cycling is faster than driving.

The SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand) Cycle-Friendly Awards acknowledge and celebrate some of the most notable achievements that are helping to promote cycling and to create a cycle-friendly environment.

Date: 05/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Virginia Jamieson

Massey student-staffer wins phonebook art award

Massey University Foundation project analyst Virginia Jamieson has won the Manawatu Yellow Pages Group Art Award with her etch *Manawatu Alphabet*, which also took out \$5000 third place in the national telephone book art awards.

The etch will feature on the cover of next year's Manawatu telephone book.

Ms Jamieson, who is also studying public relations part-time at Massey, has a Bachelor of Architecture from Victoria University. The foundation is a charitable trust that funds and supports projects enabling excellence in the delivery of teaching and research at Massey.

Ms Jamieson is also an artist, specialising in print making. Her winning entry is currently exhibiting at Hang Ups Gallery in Russell St, Palmerston North, in an exhibition based on the life of Wilkie Mardon and his sister Winifred, Virginia's grandmother.

Exhibition images include a family flaxmill at Rangiotu, the local school and local marae Te Rangimarie. Ms Jamieson says she imagined the lives of the Mardon youngsters at Rangiotu and reflected on the past eight years when she has been resident in the Manawatu.

Ms Jamieson spent seven years working with exhibitions and special projects in the museum and art sector, including at Te Manawa from 1999 to 2005. A printmaker since 2004, she is an active member of the Central Print Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, recently being involved in the 'Endangered Species' poet-printmaker project exhibited and auctioned at Bowen Galleries, Wellington. She illustrated Greg O'Brien's poem 'Where You Stand'.

An etching involves zinc metal plates covered in a waxy substance called hard ground, into which the artist draws a reverse image. After being dipped in an acid bath the zinc reacts, forming grooves in the surface of the plate. Ink is then applied to the surface and cleaned off leaving residue in the grooves. The image is transferred to paper through a printing press.

Ms Jamieson believes hers is the first etching to feature on one of the 18 regional telephone books. The Yellow Pages Group Art Awards is one of New Zealand's largest original art competitions and has been held annually since 1990.

To see all the winners of the regional awards and the national top three: <http://www.ypgartawards.co.nz/>

Date: 07/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; College of Business



Smoking up in drug, tobacco and alcohol trends

[Download the survey results \(PDF\)](#)

Smoking among young New Zealanders has risen slightly in the latest survey of household drug use carried out by Massey researchers for the Ministry of Health. Overall, the data from last year shows more people are drinking than in 2003 while the numbers who report using cannabis and amphetamine declined slightly.

The survey is led by Dr Chris Wilkins, from the University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation, who analysed data collected from national household surveys carried out to survey drug use in 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Dr Wilkins presented his findings on changes in trends this week to the combined Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs and Cutting Edge Addiction conference in Auckland.

Falling smoking trends were reversed by the 15 to 45-year age group where 35.8 per cent said they had smoked at least once in the previous year compared with 31.1 per cent in 2003. Overall a lower proportion of the population smoked tobacco last year (57.6 per cent) compared with 63.9 per cent in 2001 and 64.4 per cent in 1998.

Other key findings were an increase in the proportion of the population that had drunk alcohol last year 2006 which rose to 85.1 per cent compared with 82.2 per cent in 2003. The researchers say this increase in the number of people drinking alcohol is consistent with the liberalisation of the country's drinking laws.

Fewer people reported using cannabis last year - 17.9 per cent compared with 20.3 per cent in 2001. The number who reported using amphetamines had dropped but current users report they are using more. Researchers say that although use of amphetamine peaked in New Zealand in 2001 it is still high by international standards.

The survey sample size was 5475 in 1998 (with a 79 per cent response rate), 5504 in 2001 (80 per cent), 3042 in 2003 (68 per cent) and 1902 last year (69 per cent).

Date: 07/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Textile design industry fetes top students

Top graduating textile design students were recognised this month with awards from the industry.

Senior Lecturer in textile design Dr Sandy Heffernan says the awards are an opportunity for the textiles industry to celebrate the achievement of outstanding fourth-year students.

Esther Bryant-Lindsay (pictured) collected three awards.

The students' work is on show at Exposure, the College of Creative Arts' annual design exhibition in the Museum Building on the Wellington campus.

Awards:

Purfex Excellence in Textile Design for Apparel Award - Esther Bryant-Lindsay, \$500.

Bernina Excellence in Embroidery Award - Phillipa Cowdrey, Bernina overlocker.

Woolyarns Limited Jim Wood Memorial Scholarship for Innovative use of woollen yarn in viable commercial application - Kate Neeley, \$2500.

Blue Print Imaging Excellence in Textile Print Award - Cara Hunt, \$500.

Resene Best Use of Colour Award - Esther Bryant-Lindsay, Colour Match Pencil Set.

John Rainger Textile Interlining Award - Cate Busby, \$250.

Big Image Print Portfolio Award - Madeline McGregor, \$200.

MSO Design and Art Production Best Portfolio Presentation Award - Esther Bryant-Lindsay, \$250.

Digitex Most Innovative Digital Design Award - Louise Young, \$750.

Date: 14/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts





New book opens the wardrobe on New Zealand clothing

A fresh look at the role of clothes in New Zealand history proves that clothing reveals as much as it conceals, says a cultural researcher.

Studying clothes and how they are worn provides a pathway into our history and culture, says co-editor Dr Bronwyn Labrum, a senior lecturer at the School of Visual and Material Culture.

"Despite a reputation for being wary of "looking flash", New Zealanders have not always been dowdy dressers," says Dr Labrum.

Looking Flash, Clothing In Aotearoa New Zealand examines what we wear and what we have worn - from shrinking swimming togs to the black singlet - over the past three centuries.

It is the first edited collection on clothing in New Zealand history and brings together a range of writers, both academics and those in museums and other institutions, to talk about a broad and surprising range of topics.

Dr Labrum says the book is full of unexpected stories.

"The shearer's wool singlet was originally a simple work garment, but was later adopted by cartoonists as shorthand for the good Kiwi bloke. Fred Dagg made it an icon in the 1970s; then women in the 1980s turned it into a fashion item. It now appears in gay nightclubs as dancewear."

The richly-illustrated essays span the clothing of pre-colonial Maori society, marching girls and castaways, and include 18th-century heirloom dresses, hand-me-downs, and wartime garb. There are also extraordinary stories about the fate of a Maori cloak and an Otago farmer's remarkable collection of 1970s high-fashion garments.

The book, published by Auckland University Press, will be launched at 5.30pm on Thursday (15 November) in Massey's Museum Building foyer, Buckle St, Wellington.

The School of Visual and Material Culture, part of the College of Creative Arts, is a centre of teaching and research excellence that seeks to develop new perspectives between people and things in the images and objects that shape everyday life.

Cover image: Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh chatting with champion shearers and brothers Godfrey and Ivan Bowen at McLean Park, Napier, 1954.

Archives New Zealand F19828

Montage image captions

1. Mr and Miss New Zealand, 1940, in the latest Jantzen suits.

Alexander Turnbull Library

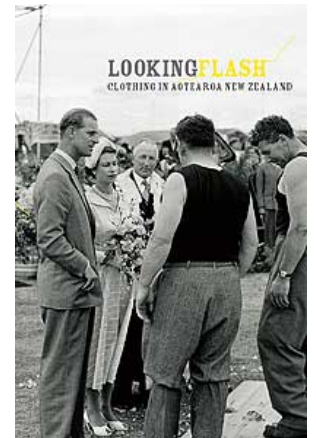
2. Two male models in Auckland, 1956.

Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd, Auckland Museum

3. George Ivimey in sealskin attire at Bluff, November 1907.

E. Phillips/Elmsley Collection, Canterbury Museum

Date: 14/11/2007



Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Creative Arts



Dreams of better work-life balance prompted Craig Watson (left), John Sadler and Stephen Brady to quit well-paid jobs and train at Massey as primary school teachers.

Mid-career males turn to teaching in greater numbers

The prospect of having more fun on the job and better work-life balance - despite the drop in pay - has been enough to motivate several men with well-paid professional careers to throw caution to the wind and go teaching.

A quarter of this year's post-graduate primary teaching diploma graduates at the University's Auckland campus College of Education post-graduate primary teaching diploma are men - the highest number of men in one intake to date. This compares with the estimated 10 per cent of male teachers currently found in primary school classrooms nationwide, with some schools having no male teachers at all.

Three of the nine men from this year's class of 36 who are about to join the teaching workforce have bucked the trend and ditched well-paid careers in engineering, law and telecommunications in exchange for the demands of the classroom.

John Sadler, aged 52, a drummer and former telecommunications technician who completed a music degree at Otago University before enrolling at Massey, believes teaching is one of the few "honourable" professions because to teach means you are not driven by money.

With a son aged 30 and daughter aged 29 (a teacher), Mr Sadler feels older teachers - male or female - have the life experience to better equip them for the demands of school. Teachers, above all, need plenty of patience - an attribute that tends to be well-honed with years, he says.

Craig Watson, a 35-year-old Briton who worked as an engineer for 15 years, agrees that experience outside teaching is an advantage when entering a classroom. "There a lot of pressures on kids these days," says Mr Watson, a father of two preschoolers. "I think when you go in with a bit more life experience you have a lot more empathy towards the students. You know things aren't straightforward in life and you know some of the problems they have aren't their fault."

Stephen Brady, a 36-year-old former chef who completed a law degree in England before moving to New Zealand with his wife and two children, says he always swore he would never become a teacher. He jokes that his wife and his parents are teachers, and he objected to their "teacherly tones" outside the classroom. But the experience of mentoring students at a high school in England made him rethink his opposition.

The men say a drop in pay will be compensated for by having more time with their families after school and during school holidays. None of them are complacent that the man drought in primary schools will mean they have an automatic advantage when it comes to job seeking.

"It doesn't matter what sex you are," says Mr Sadler. "If you're a good teacher, you're a good teacher."

And they are all aware of, but not deterred by, social anxiety regarding child abuse. Fear of sexual abuse accusations is widely thought to be one of the reasons men are reluctant to become teachers.

The rule of thumb is to ensure they are never alone with a child.

Job satisfaction, they agree, will come from seeing students progress and evolve over the course of a year, with getting to learn new things themselves as they are teaching, and contributing to children's overall learning.

Mr Watson: "We've learned from the course that teaching is not just about English and maths, it's about teaching kids' classroom management, respect and life skills.

"Coming from my career, although it had an interesting side to it, I could almost predict what my day was going to be like. Teaching isn't like that - that's the beauty of it. It keeps you on your toes. There might be some frustrating times, but you have to be flexible and ride with it. Training to be a teacher has been a breath of fresh air for me."

Michael Irwin, senior lecturer at the Auckland College of Education and expert in boys and education, says many of the men who opt to go teaching later in life have "had teaching in the back of their minds for long time."

It was vital to have a balance of good male and female teachers in schools, he says. And it is crucially important for girls and boys to have male teachers as positive role models and "to see men enjoying reading, enjoying learning. Men tend to get out into the playground a bit more - kids love that," he says.

Date: 14/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Teaching



The automated system provides detailed data on every fruit packed.

Kiwifruit packer bolsters industry capability

 [Watch the ONE News item](#)

An automated kiwifruit packing system developed at Massey University means buyers will receive exactly the grade of kiwifruit they require at the right stage of ripeness.

The system, designed by Dr Rory Flemmer of the School of Engineering and Technology, has been developed with kiwifruit marketing organisation Zespri, after recognition that a lack of labour to pick and pack kiwifruit was impacting upon the industry. Predictions earlier this week suggest that off-shore fruit loss has accounted for a \$19 million reduction in returns to growers and service companies.

Dr Flemmer says the new machine can grade to within 0.1 gram, use artificial vision to grade to Zespri standards, including blemishing, determine soft spots, label and pick and pack complex orders.

"The robot will not only reduce packing costs but will inspect and pack more consistently for 24 hours every day. It will also collect data that will enable coolstore operators to decide which fruit to market and at what time."

Information gathered can be used to provide custom-packed fruit for each market, and also to provide data on the kiwifruit as picked.

"For example we will know how many fruits are coming in too large or small, too ripe or too blemished," Dr Flemmer says.

Dr Flemmer and students from the School custom-designed and built the machine, drawing from Dr Flemmer's international experience automating production at companies including Bausch & Lomb, Nissan and GM. One lane is being used at present, although the plant can run up to four lanes in each machine, packing 250 to 400 trays per hour. The next step is production of an automated robot, which will be able to pick the kiwifruit, Dr Flemmer says.

"We expect to have the picker robot running in a couple of months. It will be able to follow instruction to which part of the orchard to pick and will also store data - adding a whole new dimension to the traceability trend we are seeing. We also hope to use that robot for pollinating in the future, ensuring the robot is fully occupied in the different picking and pollinating seasons, and of course in different hemispheres as demand grows."

The kiwifruit packer is adaptable to pack almost any type of fruit or vegetables, Dr Flemmer says, and will be operated by about 1.5 staff each shift. He believes that a return to the 'number eight wire' attitude in building tools to suit the environment may enable New Zealand to better compete and perhaps stem the flow of manufacturing plants heading offshore.

"Automation can substantially reduce labour costs to the point where New Zealand manufacturers can outperform Chinese manufacturers in terms of quality and cost and beat them at their own game. However bringing in automation consultants or buying off-the-shelf machines are at best stop-gap measures - everyone can benefit from the advantages offered by systems freely available.



"The solution is to develop in-house capability to build intelligent machines with highly sophisticated vision systems working in conjunction with robots that can perform complex tasks very accurately and reliably. By increasing the technical level of a company, it will just keep winning."

Caption 1: The automated system provides detailed data on every fruit packed.

Caption 2: Automation specialist Dr Rory Flemmer watches as the kiwifruit packing system picks fruit.

Date: 14/11/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Sciences; Research; Video Multimedia

Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards 2008

Massey University teaching staff are invited to apply for the 2008 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and for consideration for nomination for the New Zealand Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

The Vice-Chancellor will grant up to four Massey awards of \$10,000 each to an individual or to a team. The awards will be judged within the following categories and according to the national criteria available on the Ako Aotearoa website: <http://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz>

- Sustained Commitment to Teaching Excellence
- Excellence in Teaching First Year Teachers
- The Darrylin O'Dea Award in the Field of e-Learning

To be eligible for nomination for both a Massey and a New Zealand Award, applicants will need to meet the criterion that they must make clear that they have practised and developed their skills, predominantly in New Zealand, over a minimum period of six years. However, for the Massey awards for categories two and three a minimum period is not required.

The University is entitled to submit up to three nominations for the national awards, which will be submitted within the criteria of Sustained Commitment to Teaching Excellence.

Applications for all awards will be by teaching portfolio. Portfolios must be submitted in the first instance to the Massey Teaching Excellence Awards Nominations Committee, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) no later than 5pm, Monday 25 February.

This will enable the committee to make its recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor and for national award nominees to respond to committee feedback prior to their portfolios being submitted to Ako Aotearoa by 28 March. There will be up to nine national awards of \$20,000 each and a Prime Minister's Award of \$30,000.

Applications for both the Massey and the National awards will be considered in the first instance by the Massey Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards Nominations Committee.

Application process

Teaching staff wishing to be considered for a Teaching Excellence Award are required to prepare and submit a portfolio that demonstrates the ways in which the relevant award criteria have been met. Six copies of each portfolio should be submitted and, with respect to the Vice-Chancellor's Awards, must state the category of award being sought.

The Massey nominations committee will make its selections by the second week of March. It is anticipated that the portfolios selected for national award consideration may require further work including desktop publishing before they are submitted by the Vice Chancellor to the national selection panel. TDU will provide the national award nominees with the support required to undertake this work and engage a desktop publisher.

Please note that the timing of this process is very tight. Staff interested in submitting an application and portfolio should begin to assemble these immediately.

Those seeking further information on the awards scheme or assistance in preparing their portfolios should consult Gordon Suddaby, Director: Academic Development and eLearning (8805); any of the TDU consultants; by contacting the TDUs administrator on ext 8822; or emailing: tdu@massey.ac.nz.

TDU staff are willing to provide advice, support and resource material to assist in the development of teaching portfolios.

There will also be workshops on Portfolio preparation held on each campus and staff should visit the TDU website (<http://tdu.massey.ac.nz>) to register for one of these sessions.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Teaching



Printery Design Studio Manager Fiona Brown, with Printery Manager Rob Roberts with Printery's two Gold Awards.

Printery wins top Australasian awards

The University Printery has won top Australasian awards for excellence - one of only two New Zealand institutions to be recognised.

More than 100 people attended the Network of In-house Print Professionals Australasia awards recently held in Sydney, where The Printery received the Best in Category (Digital Print) Award, and also the Gold Award, which was presented to the highest scoring submission over a range of seven categories.

Printery manager Rob Roberts accepted the award on behalf of staff, saying the awards not only recognise the high level of quality produced by the in-house sector of the printing industry, but also demonstrate what can be achieved by a motivated team.

The Network of In-house Print Professionals Australasia was established in 1993.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Services

Scientists win chemistry award

Associate Professor Eric Ainscough and Professor Andrew Brodie of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences have been jointly awarded the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Prize for Excellence in the Chemical Sciences. The prize is \$1000 and a plaque.

Dr Ainscough and Professor Brodie have collaborated for almost 40 years in the area of transition metal chemistry, with recent work focusing on the interaction of metals with phosphazenes. This prize will be presented at the Royal Society of New Zealand 2007 Science Honours in Dunedin on 20 November.

Professor Brodie has also been named as the recipient of a New Zealand Science and Technology Medal.

These medals were instituted by the Royal Society at the request of the Government, which funds them, to recognise and honour those who have made exceptional contributions to society and culture through activities in the broad fields of science, mathematics, social science, and technology.

They are awarded for conspicuous, continuing contributions to the promotion and advancement of science, mathematics, social science or technology over an extended period, or for an outstanding specific contribution to the advancement of science, mathematics, social science, or technology.

Professor Brodie's award is in recognition of a significant contribution to the promotion of science, in particular through his far-reaching activities at the secondary-tertiary interface. The medal will be presented in Wellington next month.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Lecturer spreads word on maths

Watching her Cook Island mother making traditional tivaevae quilts prompted an early interest in patterns and a lifelong passion for maths for senior mathematics lecturer Bobbie Hunter.

She has just been named the Bevan Werry Memorial Speaker by the Association of Mathematics Teachers at its biennial conference to one of its members in recognition of her contribution to maths teaching.

Mrs Hunter was one of the keynote speakers at this year's event in September in Auckland. She is the first primary school maths teacher to receive the award. She says her love of numbers and mathematics was partly stimulated by her mother's tivaevae patterns.

"I'd always loved playing around with numbers and patterns," she says. "The tivaevae patterns are very symmetrical and complex."

Her penchant for numbers led to a primary school teaching career starting in Auckland and taking her to England and Papua New Guinea as well as schools throughout New Zealand.

She has been a senior lecturer in education at the College of Education in Auckland for the past four years and is currently completing her doctorate, in which she examines how teachers developed a community of mathematical inquiry to encourage students from diverse backgrounds (Māori, Pacific Islands and other cultures).

The award funds travel throughout New Zealand for two years to enable her to speak to maths teachers and maths associations.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences





Survey shows corporate commitment to sustainability

Auckland's bulk supplier of water and wastewater services, Watercare, leads the way in environmental responsibility in a survey of New Zealand's top companies by a University researcher.

The annual survey of corporate environmental and social responsiveness is carried out by the University's College of Business through its Programme for Business and Sustainable Development

The results show a greater awareness of sustainability issues and an increasing commitment by corporates to environmental management, says survey leader Dr Delyse Springett. She launched the first survey in 1999 to raise awareness of environmental issues and to set benchmarks for corporate responsiveness in New Zealand.

This year 15 companies that had been identified in previous years as wanting to improve their performance against sustainability criteria took part in Dr Springett's Leadership Survey - a measure of how top companies perceive environmental management as a strategic planning issue.

The participating companies provided data on their policies and practices relating to corporate governance, environmental targets, employee education, environmental objectives, environmental management systems and environmental supplier programmes.

A strategic approach to environmental responsibility forms the basis of the survey and provides guidance for those who are unclear about the processes that make up an environmental management system.

The results from this survey shows progress has been made and sets new goals for conducting business in sustainable ways, says Dr Springett. Watercare Services came out top in the survey.

Next in the survey's ranking order based on environmental parameters were: Downer EDI Works, Vodafone NZ, Mighty River Power, Coca Cola Amatil NZ, Toyota NZ, Solid Energy, Mobil Oil NZ, Ravensdown Fertiliser Cooperative, ASB Bank, and Sanford (equal ranking), ANZ Bank, Ballance Agricultural Nutrients, Fulton Hogan, British American Tobacco.

"These companies have shown a willingness to be accountable for their actions by taking part in this survey. They should be congratulated for helping to pave the way to a more sustainable New Zealand," says Dr Springett.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Representatives of the Len Lye Foundation Evan Webb and Roger Horrocks.

Creative festival winds up

The fresh winds of creative arts blew through Wellington and Auckland this month at the College of Creative Arts' inaugural festival, Blow - Ngā hau e whā.

Creative artists and designers from around the world took part in 24 exhibitions, screenings, fashion shows, public lectures and symposia.

Head of the College Professor Sally Morgan says the college acts as an ideas factory, producing some of New Zealand's best-respected artists and designers.

"Many of these have been instrumental in shaping our national identity through iconic imagery, or contributing to economic growth through the creation of original and desirable designs," she says.

Head of the Institute of Communication Design Dr Claire Robinson says she was delighted at the success of Blow, starting with the Hall of Fame dinner. Three distinguished graduates of the School of Design were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

They were Richard Taylor, Director of Weta Workshop; New York-based fashion designer Rebecca Taylor; and (posthumously) sculptor and filmmaker Len Lye.

"It was well attended by senior members of Wellington's design and arts community, local and central government and friends of the College of Creative Arts," says Dr Robinson.

The evening featured a screening of Mr Lye's first movie *Tusalava* (1929). Ms Taylor, sent a video from New York accepting the honour. Roger Hart, a past teacher of Mr Taylor, showed an image of a magazine cover created by Mr Taylor while at Design School in 1986.

Mr Taylor said that coming to Design School was the best decision he could have made. He dedicated his award to another of his former teachers, Ron Burt, who recently died. Dr Robinson says Blow was a great opportunity to put the work of talented students and staff in front of a wider audience.

"We are really pleased at the public's response, as indicated by enthusiastic attendance at events."

The festival wrapped up in style at Wellington's Museum Building last weekend with the Inno/vision fashion show, where fashion and textile design graduates showed their best.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show

Secondary teacher pay ratification brings benefits

College of Education academics have welcomed the recent news of a pay ratification for secondary teachers that will give them a four per cent pay rise annually over the next three years.

Director of Teacher Education Dr Mary Simpson says it is pleasing to see settlement of the Post Primary Teachers' Association pay claim.

"Teaching is a challenging profession and the demands on teachers are increasing. It is important to support teachers in all sectors and at all stages of their careers as well as attracting and retaining quality teachers.

"A quality education system where teachers are well-regarded and adequately rewarded for their work benefits everyone."

Dr Simpson says the move will benefit more than just the secondary sector.

"Primary school teachers will also benefit from this settlement because of pay parity. Combined with the recent announcement of new scholarships from the Government, it helps enhance teaching as a rewarding and attractive career option."

Dr Simpson also says that with the need to enter more teachers into the teaching profession, comes a need to ensure that teachers are best prepared for the demands of the modern classroom.

While the pay settlement reflects the challenges teachers face, Massey academics believe it's vital that their preparation does too. A new four-year programme has been launched by the University, that combines a dual qualification and recognises that graduates will enter a specialist profession which brings many challenges.

"The programme is designed to ensure beginning teachers develop depth in key areas such as literacy and numeracy as well as future-focused skills in ICT and understandings of biculturalism and inclusion," Dr Simpson says.

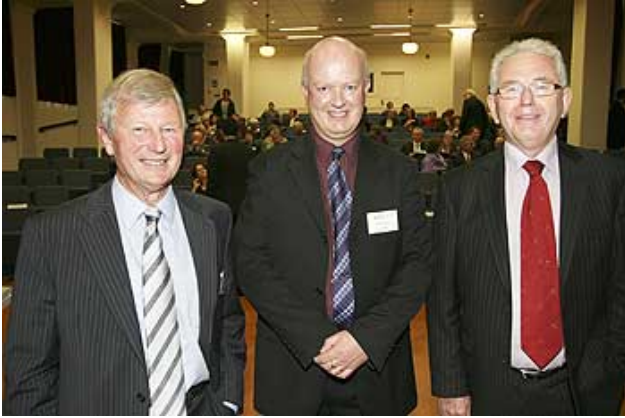
"These are some of many key areas identified by researchers as being priorities to enhance and grow the education standards in New Zealand."

The new programme will be available internally at Palmerston North and Napier and extramurally by distance education from next year.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Government Policy commentators



Chair of the Board of Ako Aotearoa Professor Bryan Gould, Director Dr Peter Coolbear and Minister for Tertiary Education Dr Michael Cullen at the launch of Ako Aotearoa this month at the Wellington campus.

Ako Aotearoa launched

Ako Aotearoa, the \$20 million national tertiary teaching excellence centre headed by Massey, was formally launched on the Wellington campus on 1 November.

Centre Director Peter Coolbear says the centre's cross-sector approach to boosting teaching quality includes all tertiary teaching and training - at universities, polytechs, wananga, private training businesses, in workplaces and in the community.

Speakers at the launch included Dr Karl Dodds of Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, winner of the Prime Minister's supreme award for teaching excellence last year; and Joey Randall, co-president of the national University Students' Association.

The launch was followed by a public lecture by Dr Coolbear on fostering the best possible educational outcomes for learners in the tertiary education sector.

"Good teaching is often hidden," says Dr Coolbear. "Ako Aotearoa aims to get good teaching out of the closet and grow New Zealand's educational capability. Our vision is the best possible educational outcomes for all learners and we look to achieve this by working in partnership with all those interested in enhancing the effectiveness of tertiary teaching and learning."

The launch followed a powhiri and site blessing on 4 July.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Nutritionists debate what to eat

What to eat, how much and why are issues to be addressed at major nutrition conference at the Auckland campus next month, where a key question will be whether having an abundant food supply is in fact a health hazard.

With an emphasis on questioning how much of a good thing is too much, the joint New Zealand and Australian Nutrition Societies' conference and annual scientific meeting from 5 - 7 December will bring together a host of international nutrition experts to share their latest research on everything from vitamin D and omega-3 to lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

About 300 nutritional scientists, academics and practitioners from throughout the world are attending.

The conference theme, *Is the Quest for the Idyllic Lifestyle Killing Us?*, will see many of the presentations explore contradictions between the popular perceptions about the idealised healthy lifestyle of New Zealand and Australia and the reality of health statistics on obesity, heart disease and cancer.

"Both New Zealand and Australia are sold overseas to prospective immigrants and visitors as having the 'idyllic lifestyle' for living and bringing up children," says conference co-chair Welma Stonehouse, an Associate Professor in Nutrition at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Research from both countries reveals that the image is not altogether true, she says.

"Although we have a bountiful supply of fresh foods and excellent opportunities for physical activity, these are not accessed by everyone."

As well as research on diseases, food and body chemistry by scientists from here, Australia and the United States, issues relating to the marketing of food and lifestyle as well as the psychology of healthy eating are also on the agenda.

Keynote speakers include Associate Professor Lynn Moore, from the Boston University School of Medicine, and Professor William Harris, from the Nutrition and Metabolic Disease Research Institute, University of South Dakota.

Dr Moore will discuss the role of diet and activity during childhood, and Professor Harris will present the latest evidence on omega-3 health claims.

Food insecurity and its relationship to obesity is the theme of a presentation by Dr Cate Burns, of Deakin University, Melbourne.

Fellow Australian Heidi Auman, University of Tasmania, reveals whether seagulls scavenging on leftover junk food are fatter and unhealthier than gulls living off more natural fodder.

Massey Professor of Health Psychology Kerry Chamberlain takes an adversarial role in pondering the complexities of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle in the context of gender and culture, as well as within in medical framework, suggesting that the term "healthy" has a range of interpretations.

Other recent research projects from Massey include studies on the nutritional value of packed school lunches in New Zealand primary schools (see page 9), vitamin D deficiency and its health implications for South Asian women in New Zealand, women's beliefs about diet and health in the pre-conception period, and iron levels of young New Zealand women.

The conference offers special master classes for students and young researchers to network with experts in their field, including a breakfast where participants can discuss specific topics of interest with senior scientists.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar

Key British agriculturists briefed on climate change

A return invitation to brief a key group of British influencers on impacts and opportunities around climate change saw Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington visit historic St George's House at Windsor Castle last week.

The session was probably best described as a "think-tank", Professor Warrington says. St George's House was built as a retreat for British clergy, with the modern church now allowing the venue to be used by others to address contemporary issues in a retreat environment operating under Chatham House Rules.

As well as senior British Government officials, major commercial interests and Sir Donald Curry, chairman of the British Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food, attended the session.

"It's a chance to pick up on a topic of considerable concern to the sector," Professor Warrington says. "For them to get their heads around what it means in order to provide a vision, a strategy and scope for moving forward."

Professor Warrington was first asked to present in 2002, when he spoke at the briefing titled Establishing a Future for Agriculture: Reconnecting Agriculture with its Public.

The group then wanted to learn of the New Zealand experience of the removal of subsidies.

A former chief executive of Hort Research, Professor Warrington was able to give an overview, including talking about the transformation of the sheep industry, the emergence of horticultural industries including wine and the growth in diversity in the apple and kiwifruit sectors.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

New fellows to Royal Society

Two of 10 new fellows elected to the Royal Society of New Zealand are Massey professors.

Professor Peter Lockhart, of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences and the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, and Professor Paul Rainey of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study were formally elected at the annual general meeting of the Academy of the Royal Society in Palmerston North earlier this month.

Professor Lockhart has research interests including plant species radiation, Pacific biodiversity, endosymbiosis and organelle evolution and evolutionary properties of DNA and protein sequences. He is in England until Christmas, a Microsoft research fellow at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge.

Professor Rainey, who joined the NZIAS at the Auckland campus earlier this year, has interests in ecology and evolution, particularly, but not exclusively, evolution by natural selection.

His team makes use of microbial populations in order to observe and dissect evolution in real time.

Professor Rainey says he has a growing fascination in the evolutionary origins of multicellularity.

Other interests include the ecological significance of diversity in natural microbial populations; evolutionary processes determining patterns of diversity in space and time; and the genetics and fitness consequences of traits that enhance ecological performance in populations of plant-colonising bacteria.

Professor Marston Conder, president of the Academy of the Royal Society, says election as a Fellow is a mark of high distinction, reflecting many years of dedication, creative thinking, and world-class research and innovation.

"The Fellowship selection process is comprehensive, involving discipline-specific selection panels and independent international review, and only a small number of those nominated ever get through."

Three new honorary fellows were also elected.

The society now has 340 fellows and 48 honorary fellows.

Fellows are involved in providing expert advice, promoting scientific best practice, and disseminating scientific information.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any



Tony Vitalis

Award honours ergonomics expert

The New Zealand Ergonomics Society has honoured Professor Tony Vitalis for his services to the advancement of ergonomics with a special award.

If New Zealanders are all sitting a little more comfortably these days they may have Professor Vitalis to thank for it.

He started the University's ergonomics programme in the early 1980s and has supervised many of the postgraduate students now putting ergonomics into practice in industry. He has also taken an active role in the industry organisation.

Professor Vitalis came to Massey in 1980 with a PhD in ergonomics from London University. For more than 20 years he has headed what is widely acknowledged as the country's premier programme in this field and established the only dedicated programme available at postgraduate level.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Another record number for November graduation

A record number of doctorates will be awarded in November graduation ceremonies this year, with a total of 26 to be conferred on 30 November in Palmerston North.

Of the 26 new Doctorates, 20 will be awarded during the morning ceremony, the highest number awarded in a single ceremony.

Twenty-three will be new Doctors of Philosophy, two Doctors of Education, and one Doctor of Business Administration.

The morning ceremony will also see six doctorates awarded to College of Education graduates, the largest number awarded in a single ceremony for the college, which has a total of seven doctorates this month.

Three of those are staff, bringing the total percentage of academic staff at the college who have completed their doctorates to 80 per cent.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor James Chapman is delighted to see the number increase, and says it reflects the maturity of the college's merger into the university sector.

He also says it strengthens the quality of research and teaching.

"The feedback we receive from staff is that they find the experience of completing their doctorates incredibly valuable for their teaching," Professor Chapman says.

"Linking research to teaching leads to better results for students, and success in research for staff, particularly during PBRF."

Unlike the May ceremonies which are campus-specific, November graduation is nationally-focused and will see more than 470 graduates converge in Palmerston North for two ceremonies on Friday 30 November, and a ceremony for graduates of Te Aho Tatairangi at Hokowhitu on Saturday 1 December.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Graduation

Virtual Eve: first in human computer interaction

 [Watch the 3 News item and Intro video of virtual Eve \(.MOV 2.2mb\)](#)

The near-human performance of a virtual teacher called Eve created by Massey researchers has drawn the attention of scientists across the computing world.



Eve is what is known in the information sciences as an intelligent or affective tutoring system that can adapt its response to the emotional state of people by interaction through a computer system.

The system "Easy with Eve" is thought to be the first of its type.

The ability of virtual Eve to alter her presentation according to the reaction of the child facing her at the keyboard has been hailed as an exciting development in the \$25 billion e-learning market.

The Massey scientists, led by Dr Hossein Sarrafzadeh at the Auckland-based Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, tell the story of creating Eve and the teaching system in the latest issue of the leading international journal on information sciences, Elsevier.

Because one-to-one teaching is known to be the most effective teaching method, Dr Sarrafzadeh says the researchers wanted to create a virtual teacher that could pick up body language and facial expressions - like a real teacher - to interact and to ensure they are holding the attention of students.

He says the realisation that software systems would significantly improve performance if they could adapt to the emotions of the user has spawned research and development in the field of affective or intelligent tutoring systems.

"With rising demand for long-distance learning and online tutoring, a computer programme capable of detecting human emotions may become a critical teaching tool."

Although Eve was developed for one-to-one maths teaching with eight-year-olds, she is a significant new character in the future of human computer interaction and could be a personalised virtual tutor by any name.

Linked to a child via computer, the animated character or virtual tutor can tell if the child is frustrated, angry or confused by the on-screen teaching session and can adapt the tutoring session appropriately.

The animated Eve (with a human-sounding voice) can ask questions, give feedback, discuss questions and solutions and show emotion. To develop the software for this system the Massey team observed children and their interactions with teachers and captured them on thousands of images.

From these images of facial expression, gestures and body movements they developed programs that would capture and recognise facial expression, body movement, and (via a mouse) heart rate and skin resistance.

The system uses a network of computer systems, mainly embedded devices, to detect student emotion and other significant bio-signals.

"When we interact with people we expect them to take note of our feelings and reactions. Soon we will be able to expect the same from a computer," says Dr Sarrafzadeh.

Date: 16/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Teaching; Video Multimedia

Research shows few children receive a healthy lunch

 [Watch the Campbell Live story](#)

Only one in 10 school lunch boxes contains food that meets nutritional guidelines for children, new research has found. And bad news for parents who do make the effort to provide healthy food is that the study found 80 per cent of the food thrown into school rubbish bins is the sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt children should be eating.



A survey of more than 900 lunchboxes was carried out by a team of Massey academics specialising in marketing, health sciences and human nutrition. Researcher Dr Emma Dresler-Hawke says that the packed lunch policy at most schools means that the content of the lunch box is a significant proportion of a child's nutritional uptake.

"One lunchbox had no fruit, no sandwiches, no yoghurt, just three packets [containing convenience snacks]. We don't know why, if it's because children are making lunch themselves, perhaps parents aren't seeing lunches as important?"

The research was undertaken at six Manawatu primary schools, covering both the most and least deprived as determined by the Education Ministry's decile rating. Dean Whitehead of the School of Health Sciences and Jane Coad of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health joined the project to work on policy recommendations and nutritional analysis.

Contents of lunchboxes were photographed at the start of the day to accurately capture contents and to ensure the children were anonymous. The contents were categorised by portion size and food group according to guidelines. While fruit or vegetables were present in 70 per cent of lunchboxes, only 32 per cent contained the recommended two servings. Most food found was moderate to high fat, salt and sugar, with 15 per cent including sweets and 57 per cent containing potato chips. The typical lunch box contained three items of junk food.

Dr Dresler-Hawke reported that there was no significant difference in the lunchbox content from different decile areas. Sandwiches were most common, found in 71 per cent of lunchboxes, with 37 per cent containing dairy items and protein items were found in five percent. Almost half (44 per cent) of the children had been given cakes, biscuits or muffins, while 45 per cent had muesli bars of varying nutritional value. The average lunch contained a white bread sandwich, a packet of potato chips and a biscuit or chocolate bar.

Worse news was to come after lunchtimes, when Dr Dresler-Hawke emptied all the rubbish bins in the schools to assess what was actually being thrown away. More than 80 per cent of the unconsumed items were sandwiches, fruit and dairy products.

"We collected all the unconsumed food, spread it out - it was incredible, the amount of healthy food like sandwiches, not even unwrapped. Good, nutritious fillings including tomatoes, cucumber and cheese sandwiches. Bananas never peeled, yoghurt not even opened - a real waste."

One class from each year (one to six) was assessed for the study. A follow-up with one school last week showed little had changed, Dr Dresler-Hawke says, but she hoped to be able to assist by developing some policy recommendations which would provide guidance for parents and caregivers.

"A question raised here is 'how do well-meaning parents ensure the healthy lunch they prepare does not get thrown into rubbish at school?'. One option would be a zero-waste policy, whereby parents can monitor what their children consume."

Improving nutrition in children is one of our most pressing public health challenges, Dr Dresler-Hawke says. She suggests that a partnership approach is needed, between schools, parents and children, in order to develop a healthy lunch and overall food policy, within the school environment.



Caption 1: Dr Emma Dresler-Hawke investigates a healthier lunch option.
Caption 2 and 3: Lunchbox contents photographed during the research.

Date: 19/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH

National roles for Massey student leaders

Massey University Students' Association president Paul Falloon and long-serving Extramural Students' Society president Liz Hawes have been elected co-presidents of the national Union of Students' Associations.

Mr Falloon and Mrs Hawes will take up the full-time positions, based in Wellington, in January.

Both will also step down next month as members of the Massey University Council, a role Mr Falloon has held for the past year; and Mrs Hawes since she became president of EXMSS in 1999. She is the longest-serving of the current councillors.

Mr Falloon graduated with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry last year. Mrs Hawes has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and education (1989) and postgraduate diplomas in arts and business administration. She is working on a PhD in political communications.

One of the co-presidents they will replace, Josh Clarke, is also a former Massey Council member and was president of the University's Auckland campus students' association last year.

The new EXMSS president, when elected, will automatically have a seat on council, while the Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington students' associations share a representative, usually one of their presidents.

Date: 19/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural; Services



Gunhild Litwin and Adele Scott with copies of the New Zealand Curriculum. Second language learning is now a compulsory offering for schools.

Stepping up to curriculum changes

The new national Curriculum was launched recently and brings new challenges for schools with the inclusion of second language learning as a new learning area.

All schools with students in years 7-10 will offer students the opportunity to learn a second language, but it will not be compulsory for all students to learn a second language.

Schools are expected to be working towards offering students opportunities for learning a second or subsequent language as it is likely that the requirement to offer languages will become mandatory, and in the longer term, the range of years in which languages are to be offered may be increased.

College of Education staff say that better support across the education sector is needed to effectively implement the changes nationwide.

Adele Scott, senior lecturer in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy says a significant challenge lies ahead to up-skill teachers in schools and raise awareness of the curriculum changes to ensure students and teachers include language learning in their range of abilities.

"People should have the opportunity to learn a second language," Ms Scott says. "Regardless of their academic ability, the learning of a second language develops new skills that can aid in other curriculum areas."

Gunhild Litwin from the Centre for Educational Development is one of two languages advisers who support schools with the development of languages programmes, working with schools providing support for in-service teachers and principals. She says that with schools now working towards offering second language learning, where previously there may have been none, there is a need to ensure the new curriculum is adopted thoroughly and that quality education standards are met.

"While second language programmes will not be compulsory for schools from 2008, there is a clear expectation from the ministry of Education that schools with students in years 7-10 should be working towards including a quality second language programme when designing their school curriculum," Ms Litwin says.

"We effectively have the next two years to ensure professional development opportunities are made available right across the country."

The Massey staff acknowledge that it is not only the schools that will need to rise to the challenge and say that for the first time all sectors from primary to tertiary will need to support each other in the decisions that are made about the teaching of second languages at school level.

Ministry funding for these initiatives is inadequate, the pair say.

"The support at a national level isn't ready yet," Ms Scott says. "This is why there has been a two-year period set before the second language programmes are made compulsory."

At Massey, the School of Language Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and College of Education staff have been working together.

"It gives us an opportunity to ensure a quality adoption of the new curriculum can be made, Ms Scott says.

For the primary school level in particular, the College of Education offers a paper entitled Teaching and Learning Languages up to Year-10. It provides an overview of the theory and practice of teaching a second language at years 1-10 in the context of the New Zealand Curriculum Framework.

Other programmes provide opportunities for teachers in training to enhance their skills in the teaching of languages. The Graduate Diploma of Teaching Secondary programme has papers aimed at those wishing to teach languages at Years 9-13 and the Bachelor of Education Teaching (Primary)/Diploma in Education Studies has already incorporated the new learning area next year.

The College also has two languages advisers who support schools with the development of languages programmes. It is one of a number of initiatives offered to support school staff and enhance professional development.

Date: 19/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Government Policy commentators

University to honour Tuwharetoa chief

Paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa Tumu te Heuheu is to receive an honorary doctorate from the University on Sunday, 25 November. At the request of Ngati Tuwharetoa, the ceremony will be held on the Waihi marae, Turangi, so iwi can participate.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie says Massey is privileged to confer this degree on a man whose contribution to Maori and to the nation has been outstanding. The award of Honorary Doctor of Literature recognises his efforts to promote conservation in New Zealand, his international contribution to the preservation of worldwide heritage and his work for the advancement of Maori education.

"We are especially mindful of the hui taumata matauranga held in Taupo between 2001 and 2006 and the efforts of Ngati Tuwharetoa to bring together Maori and government to explore options for better educational outcomes for Maori learners," Professor Durie says.

Minister of Maori Affairs Parekura Horomia will give the graduation address and members of the University Council and academic staff will join Ngati Tuwharetoa at the graduation.

Mr te Heuheu is chair of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's World Heritage Committee. He succeeded his father Sir Hepi te Heuheu as paramount chief in 1997.

Caption 1: Tumu te Heuheu, paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa.
Caption 2: Professor Mason Durie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori).



Date: 20/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Graduation; Maori; Uni News



Noisy toys damage children's hearing

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ONE News item](#)

An environmental health specialist says noisy toys that could damage children's hearing are still being imported into New Zealand and sold in shops despite a warning seven years ago of the danger.

Stuart McLaren, a senior lecturer in the at the Wellington campus, says many toys on the market are potentially damaging to sensitive little ears.

"Parents and childcare workers should stop to think about the noise that toys make, and how this noise could be causing injuries to babies and toddlers - those who don't or can't automatically pull away from a painful sound," says Mr McLaren.

"New toys come on the market every year. To test the container loads that pour into New Zealand in the lead up to Christmas is impossible without a huge increase in resources."

Mr McLaren says another issue is that many toys default to the loudest volume every time they are turned on.

"You have to manually reduce the volume every time the toy is turned on. When it is turned off you are back to square one."

Mr McLaren says the worst toy he ever tested was an air horn toy for toddlers that produced more than 112dB at a distance of half a metre.

While these have not been seen in shops recently, he says a request to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs will be lodged if they or any toys like them return to the shelves.

A 30-second exposure to such noise amounts to the legal limit at an industrial site over an eight-hour day.

Toys in Mr McLaren's "bag of shame" include toy ghetto blasters, toy musical instruments, cap pistols, whistles, clackers, clickers, toy cell phones and some train sets.

He says the squeaks, bangs, ringing, whistles and clicks these toys produce could all be dangerous. Loud music and sirens could also cause problems. Toys producing sharp, impact sounds are potentially the most hazardous.

"Parents and child care-givers are buying such toys in good faith, with the belief that they are safe. I suspect many are unaware that these toys could be damaging to young ears.

"If parents think a toy is too loud, then it probably is."

Exposure to excessive or unwanted noise affects our health and well being. The result may be significant hearing loss, with the accompanying trauma of social isolation later in life.

An estimated 6-10 per cent of children are suffering hearing damage by the time they reach school.

Mr McLaren says there is no legislation specifically covering noisy toys, nor is there mandatory testing of toys prior to going on sale.

Date: 21/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Four Claude McCarthy fellowships for Massey

Four postgraduate researchers at Massey have been awarded 2008 Claude McCarthy Fellowships. The fellowships, announced this week by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors Committee and the Public Trust, enable graduates to undertake original research in literature, science or medicine.

At Palmerston North campus Kathryn Hay has received a fellowship for her study on governance in the Pacific. Spencer Lilley has received funding for his study on the information-seeking behaviours of Maori secondary school students.

At Auckland campus Associate Professor Diane Brunton has won a fellowship for her research on reptiles and birds. Joanne Peace has received a fellowship for her study on the role of pine plantation invertebrates in the diet of native birds.

The late Claude McCarthy graduated in 1913 from Canterbury College with a BA and after the First World War, completed his masters degree in 1919. He lived and worked abroad for many years and died in Spain in 1978. The fellowship fund he established is managed by the Public Trust and fellows are selected by the Vice-Chancellor's Committee.

Date: 22/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships



Tuwharetoa leader receives Honorary Doctorate

Paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa Tumu te Heuheu received an honorary doctorate yesterday from Massey University.

The ceremony was held at Waihi marae at the request of Ngati Tuwharetoa, and more than 50 University staff travelled to the shores of Lake Taupo. Under a cloudless blue sky, the University party was welcomed to the marae, before returning in gowns for the formal graduation.

Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear acknowledged the contribution that Dr Te Heuheu had made to conservation, both nationally and internationally, and the role he had taken in developing educational pathways for Maori, including the key role he had played in bringing together Government, education and Maori for the Hui Taumata Maturangi held between 2001 and 2006.

"Being a champion for heritage, for education, and for the environment requires a level of dedication and leadership that is worthy of the highest recognition and conferring an honorary degree is one way we can respond to the contribution made to knowledge and wisdom," Professor Kinnear said. "Massey University greatly values the opportunity to acknowledge those qualities on this marae today."

The citation, read in Maori and English by Professors Tairahia Black and Arohia Durie noted the contributions of Dr Te Heuheu to the nation.

"His contribution to his people, to Maori, to Aotearoa and to the world beyond Aotearoa encompasses many dimensions and for all those reasons he deserves to be fully recognised. As a leader, advocate, mediator, thinker and instigator, he has been at the forefront of change at a time when the economic, social and cultural foundations of New Zealand have undergone radical reform.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie, who nominated Dr Te Heuheu for the honorary doctorate, says Massey is privileged to confer this degree on a man whose contribution to Maori and to the nation has been outstanding. The award of Honorary Doctor of Literature recognises his efforts to promote conservation in New Zealand, his international contribution to the preservation of worldwide heritage and his work for the advancement of Maori education.

In the Graduation address, Minister of Maori Affairs, Hon Parekura Horomia acknowledged the major contribution of Dr Te Heuheu to New Zealand and especially his leadership in the protection of national and international heritage.

Mr Te Heuheu is chair of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's World Heritage Committee. He succeeded his father Sir Hepi Te Heuheu as paramount chief in 1997. The graduation was attended by Dr Te Heuheu's whanau, including his wife Sue, his brother Timoti and his wife, MP Georgina Te Heuheu.

Date: 26/11/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Awards and appointments; Maori



Roving spycam opens up a world of possibility

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ONE News item](#)

▶ VIDEO [Watch the 3 News item](#)

You're on holiday but wondering if all is well at your home, or you want to check if the bach has weathered a storm. Technology developed by engineering graduate Tom Yu Guan means you now have an extra pair of eyes when you can't be there, able to move anywhere you choose, with distance no object.

Mr Guan designed and built the Smart Eyes robot for his honours engineering project. An off-the-shelf remote control rally car has a cellphone-capable phone video mounted on the roof, modified so it can be operated via cellphone, feeding footage to a video-capable cellphone anywhere in the world.

Mr Guan says he had always planned to manufacture a surveillance product, and after he realised there were no products on the market that allowed the camera to move, he knew what he wanted to create.

"Visual data is very valuable to people and this thing captures visual data very easily – one picture paints a thousand words, they say! I hope it could be used for fun, or for security – even for entertaining pets while you're at work."

Mr Guan, who starts work in March for a major global technology company, purchased the remote control car off the shelf. He then designed and built the upgrade, putting additional technology "on top" and getting the system working in a matter of weeks. The Ford-modelled rally car proudly displays the Chinese flag, a gesture acknowledging Mr Guan's homeland, and displays 'Guan' as the driver in the style of the World Rally Car flags.

Mr Guan has tested the car around the university and in his Palmerston North home, using the video to scout around his property. He is also planning to operate the car in New Zealand from Europe. "So long as the cellphone is in range it should work," he says.

School of Engineering and Technology lecturer Amal Punchihewa supervised the project, impressed with the concept.

"My wife and I have her mother at home and one day when we phoned there was no answer – wondering what was happening we had to get a friend to go home and see what was going on. If we had something like this we could just have dialled in and known she was fine."

Mr Punchihewa says the standard of fourth-year projects was very high this year, with others including smart home monitoring and control systems.

"It's a chance to apply what they have learned in theoretical papers to practice, and to learn how to manage a



Tom Yu Guan



project.”

Mr Guan has won several competitions so far with Smart Eyes, and will be competing in Australia soon to see if he will represent the South Pacific at the global IET competition in Europe, where Massey engineering graduate Stephen Irecki took second place last year. In the meantime, Mr Guan is working at the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology at Massey to build one more Smart Eyes robot.

“And I have an idea of putting a video system into a model helicopter, controlled robotically, to see if we can do that and avoid things like furniture or obstacles,” he says.

Massey's Professor Janina Mazierska says the engineering programme at Massey University is oriented toward industrial innovation and wealth creation.

“As such, the students' learning process includes several projects to acquire hands-on experience and problem-solving skills, which makes them very sought after by industry. Students usually get several job offers before they even graduate.”

Massey University has the third-largest engineering and technology faculty in New Zealand, with many staff acknowledged internationally as experts in their fields. The research output of engineering staff, as ranked by the Tertiary Education Commission is 4.5, exceeded only by the University of Auckland on 4.8 and the University of Canterbury on 5.1.

Date: 26/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Research; Student profiles; Video Multimedia

New building for Massey Chaplains

Did you ever have occasion to seek the company or advice of one of the Chaplains based on the Turitea Campus in Palmerston North? After several years' planning, a fundraising campaign will be launched this month to raise \$1.45 million to build a Christian Centre on the Palmerston North campus.



Currently 2 Chaplains are full-time, another four to six are part time, and they also are available to staff and students at UCOL and the International Pacific College. Their faith base is widely spread and they are a great ecumenical team.

Anyhow they deserve better surroundings than they have at present; they are crushed into a small, old house opposite Colombo Hall. I am Chair of the Massey University Community Christian Centre Trust (as well as your Alumni Convener for this area) and my fellow trustees are Harry Lampen-Smith, Ken Milne, Charles Andrews, Julia Budd, Terry McGrath and John Marquet, another great bunch of good workers. We have come together to facilitate fundraising for the building of The Centre as a new home for Chaplaincy Services, to be sited behind the Science Towers alongside the new traffic hub area, on a foot traffic path from hostels to the Cafés and the Library.

The Centre will be a place where staff and students of whatever belief system can call in for a chat, take time out to reflect, ask advice, just socialize (there is a small kitchen planned). The flexible spaces can cater for group gatherings big and small, from weddings or memorial occasions to one-on-one discussions. It could be used for worship, but is not a church as such. A multi-purpose building is what the Chaplains want, and what McMillan and Lockwood are to build for them, probably starting in April/May 2008.

We have to have \$1.45 million in the bank before construction of The Centre can start. So far we have about \$500,000 pledged, and a major fund raising campaign has just been launched.

If you would like to help us reach the \$1.45 million target, or would like to know more about The Centre, do get in touch with me or one of my Trustees, or one of the Chaplains. The Trust's Box Number is PO Box 5358, Palmerston North for donations.

Morva Croxson,
Chair Massey University Christian Centre Trust.
M.O.Croxson@massey.ac.nz
(06) 357 3818
175 Amberley Avenue,
Palmerston North

Date: 28/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Music and campus life; Palmerston North

Zonta honours top designers

Industrial design student Amy Robinson has been awarded this year's Zonta Design Award of \$5000.

Ms Robinson finishes her four-year design degree at Massey's Wellington campus this year and plans to further explore micro-architecture, interiors and environmentally-neutral living by completing a one-year Masters programme in 2009 in Europe.

Until then she is looking for design work in Melbourne.

"Seeing the world, experiencing different cultures and exploring new methods of design will be of great benefit when I return to New Zealand", she says.

Ms Robinson, who attended Nelson College for Girls, beat four other finalists for the supreme award.

The runners-up were: Jo-Ann Harris, who specialises in visual communication design and was sponsored by Saatchi and Saatchi, Lauren Skogstad (interior design, Limited Editions Interior Design), Mira Stanton (fashion and textile design, Rembrandt) and Shelley Jacobson (photographic design, Image Lab). Each received \$1000.

Zonta is an international club of businesswomen. The annual awards honour the top women graduates from the University's School of Design. The overall award recipient is asked to develop and implement a proposal that assists young women who are thinking about design as a career or who are already studying design.

Securities Commission chairwoman Jane Diplock presented the awards.

Date: 28/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Wellington shoppers get to strut their suburb

Americans might talk in zip codes but Wellingtonians could prowl the shopping aisles displaying their suburb if an anti-plastics campaign by design graduate Melissa Sherlock catches on.

Ms Sherlock has designed reusable shopping bags with unique images based on six of the city's suburbs. She chose Island Bay, Newtown, Mt Victoria, Lambton, Karori and Churton Park to present a range of typographic styles.

"I based my composition on a map of the suburb and used street names and landmarks. I aimed to create a sense of space and place through spacing, typeface, size and colour."

She hopes her bags will catch on because they promote a sense of community pride and ownership as well being environmentally-friendly.

"I used a classic serif typeface for Karori to match its history and upper class status, while for crowded Mt Victoria I selected a condensed typeface."

She wants to reduce the waste associated with plastic shopping bags. New Zealanders use a billion a year at a cost of about \$25 million to shoppers. "Plastic bags are a major environmental concern. They take thousands of years to decompose, threaten wildlife and, if burnt, produce toxic gas emissions.



She studied sustainability as part of her Bachelor of Design with Honours degree.

"New Zealand is supposed to be clean and green, so I thought we should be doing more to reduce waste.

Towns in Australia have become plastic bag free, so why can't Wellington do the same?"

She used an old-fashioned woodblock printing method, taught in the University's type workshop to achieve the hand-made aesthetic.

Caption: Design graduate Melissa Sherlock has created a range of suburban shopping bags in a campaign to reduce waste. Island Bay New World's Carol Poduje loads the mandarins.

Date: 28/11/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Women mayors more team oriented than heroic individuals, study finds

A study of New Zealand's women mayors found marked differences in leadership style compared with men.

A strong theme in the findings of PhD graduate Marianne Tremaine is that of "mayors as mothers", putting community good ahead of their own needs. Exhibiting less personal ego than male mayors was also a key finding of the study.

Ms Tremaine, a lecturer in the University's Department of Communication, Marketing and Journalism and a research associate in Te Au Rangahau, the Maori Business Research Centre, surveyed 18 of the 19 women mayors in office from 1998 to 2001 for her study of women's leadership in New Zealand local government. She also carried out a case study of Palmerston North's mayor during the same period, Heather Tanguay, and an in-depth interview with three mayoral candidates in the 1998 elections.

The women mayors were asked to consider the requirements of exemplary mayoral leadership. Ms Tremaine says her findings "challenge the heroic model of an individual leader" and instead suggest a model of working with and through others as being what women mayors regarded as at the core of being an exemplary leader.

"Although there are volumes written on leadership theory, I thought looking at leadership in a different setting might generate new understanding of how leadership works," says Ms Tremaine, whose PhD will be conferred in Palmerston North tomorrow.

"As the number of women mayors in New Zealand increased, there were signs of a difference in their approach."

She says four interconnected aspects of exemplary mayoral leadership were identified by the participants: Being at the centre of webs of people rather than at the top of a hierarchy; having less concern for ego than for working towards change; being committed to making a difference in the community and/or the council; and being prepared to sacrifice their own interests for the good of the community.

"There was strong evidence of the mother metaphor. The way that these mayors saw their task as mayor involved an expanding of the mother/carer role to encompass the whole community. Thus the community became a very large family with the mayor as its mother. Their desire to meet every need, to be available to everyone, shows how much they have internalised the mother metaphor as a leadership model.

"Alongside the ability to chair a meeting efficiently and to make a speech, there was recognition of the need to get out into the community. There was recognition of the need to get alongside people and empower the community.

"These women showed that they do not have the same egos as men in the same roles. As one of them said, they do not have the same sense of maintaining their own importance. They would be more inclined to attend the school pet day or volunteer fire brigade gathering than a flashy corporate event.

"When it came to talking about difference in male and female leadership styles, some of the points made included women's less combative style, which can encourage a diversity of views. Women mayors were seen as being able to listen to alternative ideas, without trying to shout or talk people down. Participants considered that women were focused on the need to do the job and to do the job well, so that they had a desire for the right outcomes. They thought men were more driven by money.

"Unfortunately the low key nature of women's leadership does make it all too easy for those who expect leadership to be heroic, to dismiss women's ability to involve others as being simply what women do in their everyday lives, rather than a leadership-related activity."

Date: 29/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Shirley Barnett, Annemarie Gillies and Marianne Tremaine with other Te Au Rangahau staff, from left: Dr Farah Palmer, Noreen Mako, Rawiri Tinirau, Tania Jahnke and Tracey Hepi-Eparaima.

Maori staff PhDs a boost for College of Business

Te Au Rangahau, the Maori Business Research Centre, based in the College of Business management department, last night celebrated the completion of doctoral studies by three staff members.

Director Annemarie Gillies and research associate Marianne Tremaine will graduate at the ceremonies in Palmerston North tomorrow, while another Te Au Rangahau research associate, Shirley Barnett, has just passed her PhD oral examination and will graduate during the May graduation week next year.

The trio were presented with korowai (cloaks) specially designed to reflect their personalities.

Dr Farah Palmer, a former Director of Te Au Rangahau and now research associate, says the three new doctorates double the number of Maori staff with PhDs in Massey's College of Business, New Zealand's largest business school.

"One of the objectives of Te Au Rangahau was to develop the capability of Maori staff within the college and to provide opportunities to advance research skills and writing," Dr Palmer says. "The successful completion of three PhDs is a significant achievement for Te Au Rangahau and a resounding success for the centre and for the individuals involved."

Ms Gillies (Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Awa, Te Whanau-a-Apanui, Te Arawa) completed a PhD called *Kia Taupunga te Ngakau Maori - Anchoring Maori Health Workforce Potential* last year. Ms Tremaine (Kai Tahu) also completed her thesis, *Her worship the mayor: Women's leadership in New Zealand local government*, last year. Shirley Barnett (Ngati Tuwharetoa) submitted her PhD thesis in management on *Understanding guest retention: An examination of New Zealand accommodation establishments* this year.

Dr Palmer says it was celebration for friends, colleagues and whanau of a milestone achievement. "Our wahine Maori have overcome many personal and professional challenges to get to this point, and all three of them give new meaning to the word 'multi-tasking'. We are very proud of them and will enjoy this time to reflect on what they've accomplished."

Dr Palmer, Dr Manuhua Barcham and Dr Guy Scott are the other Maori staff of the college with PhDs.

Date: 29/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Graduation; Maori



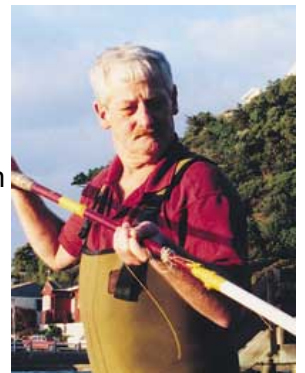
Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health technician Megan Thorburn takes a water sample at Massey University's Roof Water Research Centre.

Benefits outweigh the costs of rainwater harvesting

With a long, hot summer forecast and drought conditions already in some regions, New Zealanders will increasingly depend on collecting their own rainwater as the effects of climate change become more apparent, says roof water researcher Stan Abbott.

Mr Abbott, Director of the Roof Water Research Centre at Massey's Wellington campus, predicts the number of New Zealanders either partly or fully reliant on water collected from their home's roof will increase.

Currently 400,000 - or one in 10 of us - rely on roof water for drinking. Most live in rural areas, beaches and offshore islands. The trend towards coastal living and lifestyle blocks will increase that percentage closer to that of rural Australia, where three million people rely on roof water as their sole source of water.



"The use of alternative water sources such as roof-collected rainwater is definitely part of the solution to diminishing water resources," Mr Abbott says.

Local authorities are now encouraging householders in urban areas to install domestic rainwater tanks, not only as a mains-water saving measure but also to reduce the adverse effects of storm water runoff and to reduce flood risks.

City Councils such as Waitakere, North Shore and Rodney offer rebates to householders who retrofit rainwater tanks to existing houses. Rainwater can be used as a secondary source for toilet flushing, washing clothes or in water heating systems, and outdoors for garden watering, car washing, or filling swimming pools, spas and ornamental ponds.

In Australia, which has been plagued by worsening droughts, there is huge demand for roof-collected rainwater, Mr Abbott says.

"Rainwater is becoming an important supplement to mains water supplies in urban areas. Authorities are encouraging more Australians to use rainwater, and in the past 18 months 147,000 rainwater tanks have been installed in Queensland alone.

"In some parts of Australia building consents for renovations or new houses are issued only if rainwater tanks are installed."

Although the microbiological quality of rainwater collected in tanks will generally be poorer than that of many public mains water supplies, the health risks associated with contaminated roof-collected rainwater consumption are not well defined or quantified, Mr Abbott says.

"While occasionally there are reports of illness, the risk of disease arising from roof-collected rainwater consumption can be low, providing that the water is visibly clear, has little taste or smell and, most importantly, the storage and collection of rainwater uses a properly maintained tank and roof catchment system.

"Over the past decade there has been considerable research into how to keep rainwater safe. There is a wide range of products on the market that can prevent rainwater from contamination. These include devices such as gutter guards, downpipe debris screens, first flush diverters and filtration systems."

Mr Abbott says design and installation preventive measures are vital, as well as ongoing maintenance. "Well-designed systems are low maintenance and will generally prevent problems."

Preventive measures and corrective actions for safe rainwater harvesting include:

- Use a clean, impervious roof made from non-toxic material. Keep roof clean and clear of moss, lichen, debris and leaves.
- Remove any items containing lead products, such as paints, flashings or nails. Replace with approved materials.
- Keep roof clear of overhanging vegetation, as branches provide roosting points for birds and can provide access for rodents, cats and possums.
- Inspect gutters regularly and clean if necessary. Disconnect the pipe(s) that feed the water tank before cleaning the gutters, or install downpipe diverters. Be careful when cleaning gutters: make sure the ladder is secure and avoid going anywhere near overhead power lines, or better still have the power disconnected before cleaning the gutters.
- Install gutter guard screens to prevent gutters becoming blocked with debris or leaves.
- Ensure that chimneys near roof water collection areas are sufficiently high to minimise the settlement of ash or residues.
- Use a downpipe debris screens (rain heads) and first flush diverters to prevent contaminated water entering the tank.
- Clean gutter, tank inlets and screens every three to four months.
- In the event of any weed or chemical spraying nearby, advise the contractor that the roof is used to collect drinking water, and that there must be no over-spraying. Obtain a guarantee from the contractor that persistent organochlorine pesticides will not be used.
- Prevent access by animals, birds and mosquitoes into rainwater storage tanks by screening all tank inlets as well as overflows. Keep access hatches closed.
- Prevent entry of surface run-off from areas other than roof catchment into below-ground tanks. Tank roofs must be secure and the sides and bottom of the tank should be sealed.
- Inspect tanks annually. If necessary have tanks cleaned out professionally.
- If tank contamination is apparent the water may have to be disinfected or boiled before consumption and food and drink preparation.
- Ensure that tank taps or draw-off pipes are at least 100 mm above the tank floor. Alternatively use a floating arm draw off valve.
- Depending on the circumstances, additional water purifying equipment may need to be installed. These include a 20 µm washable cartridge filter, a UV steriliser, and a 1 µm activated carbon under-bench filter.

Date: 29/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Role of childhood activity and diet in adult obesity

The director of an internationally renowned United States study on child health will talk to New Zealand nutritionists at a major conference next week on the role of childhood diet and activity in developing adult obesity.

Dr Lynn Moore, director of the Framingham Children's Study, is a keynote speaker at the New Zealand and Australian Nutrition Societies' Conference, being held at the University's Auckland campus next Wednesday to Friday.

Dr Moore will focus on the effects of childhood eating patterns on the development of metabolic syndrome - a term referring to a cluster of conditions including obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

Professor Lynn Moore, Boston University School of Medicine, will present her paper Preventing metabolic syndrome: the role of diet and activity during childhood at 2.30pm, Wednesday 5 December at the Neil Waters Lecture Theatre.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Record 26 new doctorates capped in November

Beverley Judith Edlin - Doctor of Business and Administration

Dr Edlin examined a board of directors who were perceived by business professionals as being an effective decision-making group. Using directly observed board deliberations, her thesis provides a descriptive view of board activity. The thesis challenges currently held theoretical perspectives of board behaviour by advocating that pooling and sharing information transcends opportunism. It advocates that board effectiveness reflects the role that the board adopts for itself.

Timothy Angus Burgess - Doctor of Education

The school mathematics curriculum is undergoing significant changes with regard to the teaching approaches being advocated, and consequently little is known about what knowledge teachers need and actually use while they are teaching statistics. Dr Burgess' research explored teacher knowledge needed for teaching statistics through investigations at primary school level and has important implications for both initial teacher education and professional development of practising teachers.

Cynthia Margaret Prince - Doctor of Education

Dr Prince investigated the creation of a community of learners, comprising teachers, children and parents, to integrate environmental education within an early childhood curriculum. Her research found that the creation of a community of learners resulted in the participants creating their own environmental knowledge and gaining a heightened awareness of the importance of environmental education as an integral part of an early childhood curriculum.

Judie Alison - Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Dr Alison studied government and teacher union documents, and interviewed policy-makers, academics, union activists and 13 teachers who had taught throughout the 1980-2002 period. Her research explored the shift from norm-referenced to standards-based assessment for New Zealand school qualifications during this time. Among its findings, the research showed that qualification reforms that might have easily been welcomed by the education profession were instead, largely rejected by teachers.

Ee Kheng Ang - Doctor of Philosophy in Social Policy

Dr Kheng investigated why New Zealand mothers who have returned to paid work typically have jobs with fewer career prospects and lower pay than they had before having children.

Dr Kheng conducted interviews with a sample of returning women, and undertook a nationwide questionnaire survey of employers, also assessing government assistance to help women return to full-time work. Findings included that returners found it difficult due to employers' views about their suitability for careers. Dr Kheng also found that government support was insufficient and policy recommendations about types of assistance that would help mothers combine parenthood and continue a career conclude the thesis.

Janet Lorraine Bashford - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Dr Bashford addressed the absence of an empirically-verified screener for reliable and opportunistic detection of current and potential harmful cannabis use. Her research also provided information on the nature, prevalence, severity and history of cannabis-induced problems in adolescent and adult New Zealanders.

Dr Bashford assessed participants' responses to the cannabis use problems identification test, with two primary subscales emerging and demonstrating a highly significant ability to discriminate diagnostic subgroups on the problem severity continuum. After 12 months Dr Bashford found highly significant longitudinal predictive ability for diagnostic group membership. It is now feasible to develop a predictive opportunistic screening and early intervention approach to cannabis use problems pervasive among users.

Margaret Anne Brown - Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Dr Brown's research focused on how schools implement the middle schooling concept. The research arose from a need for New Zealand-based information on the formation of new middle schools, as a growing number of communities consider the middle schooling option for years 7-9 students. Findings showed that implementing such a concept would involve challenges of a nature and scale presented by few other innovations.

Janis Lindsay Carroll-Lind - Doctor of Philosophy in Education

A national representative survey of more than 2000 children aged 9-13 years examined children's perceptions of the prevalence, incidence, and impact of violence expressed or witnessed by them and explored factors that might reduce its impact. Results showed emotional violence had a greater impact on children than physical violence. Witnessing violence was more prevalent and, except for sexual victimisation, also had a greater impact than direct violence.

Aurelie Rose Jeanine Marie Castinel - Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Pathology

Dr Castinel investigated causes of neonatal mortality in the New Zealand sea lion, which is an endangered species endemic to New Zealand. The research used necroscopy and clinical data collected on the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands from the 1998/99 to 2005/06 breeding seasons.

Dr Castinel's research focused on two major aspects: parasitic infection of the pups with intestinal hookworms and bacterial epidemics that caused high pup mortality for two consecutive seasons. The work provided the first taxonomic description of the hookworm *Uncinaria*.

The two bacterial epidemic seasons were caused by a strain of the opportunistic bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, with findings that showed all the New Zealand sea lions had antibodies prior to the epidemic but the pups were not receiving immune transfer against the pathogen. Dr Castinel's work greatly contributes to the management of this endangered species.

Rogério Cichota - Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science

Dr Cichota studied the effects of ion-pair adsorption involving sulphate and calcium on the dynamics of sulphur in two New Zealand soils. Results showed that sulphate adsorption is significantly enhanced in the presence of calcium, especially in soils dominated by variable-charge components such as allophane.

An adsorption model, containing three mathematical approaches for quantifying the amount of sulphate retained was proposed, with the model performing well for describing the observed data from both experiments and some literature data. The work showed the extent of ion-pair adsorption is appreciable in allophonic soils and significantly affects sulphate movement.

A pot trial in a glasshouse with intermittent irrigation showed, however, that the effect of ion-pair adsorption on sulphate transport might be restricted to only a few days after fertilisation.

Jean Raeburn Douche - Doctor of Philosophy in Midwifery

Dr Douche explored the discourses constructing women's choice for a caesarean section in the absence of clinical indicators. Data came from the talk and texts of women, midwives, an obstetrician, professional journals and media.

The study affirmed that inscriptions surrounding choices around childbirth are shaped by a multiplicity of discourses. Whether caesarean, as an optional extra, can be explained in terms of a libertarian imperative, an embodiment of lifestyle, the satiation of desire, the attenuation of fear or the avoidance of risk, democratising this choice has exposed a pathologising paradox.

The paradox is where the normal emerges as the abnormal, and the abnormal emerges as the normal.

Annemarie Gillies - Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies

Dr Gillies explored Māori health workforce development as a positive determinant for Māori health. An examination of the Māori health workforce programmes in a medical school (Vision 20/20), a well child programme (Tipu Ora), a mental health tertiary bursary scheme (Te Rau Puawai) and a health protection programme provided baseline data that was supplemented by an analysis of historic and contemporary policies and experiences.

Dr Gillies concluded that critical success factors for Māori workforce development include effective Māori leadership, application of Māori values to workplace practices, levels of resourcing compatible with training and development, critical mass and targeted policies and programmes.

The thesis has implications for health and education policies and provides a rationale for a workforce to effectively engage with Māori communities.

Marcus Kirchberg - Doctor of Philosophy in Information Systems

Dr Kirchberg investigated the integration of traditional database concepts, database query languages and object-oriented programming languages into a uniform database programming language. While existing languages mainly adopt an embedded approach, integrated approaches are superior in performance, resource consumption and usability.

Dr Kirchberg developed an intermediate-level database programming and query language, and a suitable run-time environment, permitting an efficient and effective evaluation of an integrated language in a distributed database environment. The results are likely to impact on the practice of future database management systems.

Adrian Peter Knack - Doctor of Philosophy in Electronics and Communication Engineering

Dr Knack investigated if, and under what circumstances, high temperature superconductivity technology improves cellular communication. By developing a cryogenic receiver Dr Knack was able to analyse field tests to investigate the performance of superconducting filters.

A code-division multiple access uplink model was developed to analyse diverse environmental situations and compare different front-end technologies.

Findings suggest that high temperature superconducting filter technology can be useful in current day cellular networks, however due to its high cost it is only justified in certain locations. High temperature superconducting filter technology may be of great importance in the design and implementation of future spectrum-friendly wireless communications systems. Dr Knack proposed novel applications of his work in his thesis.

Hayden George Lawrence - Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Engineering

Dr Lawrence investigated the adoption of precision agricultural technologies for fertiliser placement, beginning by examining current statistical validity of fertiliser spreader systems.

A GIS methodology was developed to map levels of field nutrition from spreading vehicles, then the economic effect of spreading fertiliser with and without use of precision technology was evaluated. Dr Lawrence highlighted the difficulties in achieving accurate field nutrient application.

He found that by developing the ability to quantify field performance economic opportunities could be evaluated. There was a strong economic and agronomic case for implementing precision agricultural technologies in New Zealand, but the agronomic and economic benefits would be difficult to deliver given the current equipment used within the agriculture industry.

Tai-Yu Lin - Doctor of Philosophy in Information Systems

Dr Lin's thesis led to the development of a cognitive trait model, which offers an innovative student modelling approach. The model is a domain-independent and persistent student model suitable for the practice of lifelong learning and student-oriented learning systems.

Working memory capacity, inductive reasoning ability and divergent associative learning are the three cognitive traits used in the model, which uses online learning behaviours to investigate these traits. The model can be used by adaptive virtual learning environments to tailor the learning materials to the cognitive traits of students. Evaluations using psychometric tools proved the effectiveness of the modelling and revealed important insights about the three traits.

Jeremy Stewart McLeod - Doctor of Philosophy in Bioprocess Engineering

Dr McLeod focused on the nucleation and growth kinetics of alpha lactose monohydrate. Lactose represents about one-third of the solids in cows' milk, and is recovered using crystallisation.

A model has been produced that can predict the changing concentration profile as lactose crystallises from an industrial solution. The primary nucleation of alpha lactose monohydrate was investigated, including identifying the changing relationship as lactose nucleation moves from being dominated by the heterogeneous mechanism to homogenous mechanism.

The effect of mixing was studied using a Rushton turbine and a Venturi to agitate the system. Increasing agitation increased the frequency of activated molecular collisions, but the critical nucleus size remained constant. A strong correlation was found, for both mixing systems, between the nucleation rate and the frequency of vortex shredding.

Hasmukh Ambalal Patel - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Technology

Dr Patel investigated the effects of heat and high-pressure treatments on the interactions of individual milk proteins. Many foods, such as pasteurised or sterilised milk, are traditionally preserved using heat treatments, which can often damage vitamins, denature proteins and change the flavour and taste. In contrast, non-thermal technologies have minimal effects on sensory and nutritional quality.

Dr Patel showed that heat and high pressure have different effects at a molecular level. This knowledge can be applied to modify functional properties of food, and these outcomes can be used to create new products with specific advantages including texture modifications in yoghurt.

Peter Leslie Charles Rawlins - Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Dr Rawlins' research investigated the formative potential of New Zealand's new secondary school assessment system, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement. This thesis used a case-study approach to examine students' perspectives of assessment practices in three Year 12 mathematics classrooms.

The thesis offers practical and theoretical suggestions to improve the integration of formative assessment practices within classroom communities of practice.

Uwe Remminghorst - Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology

Dr Remminghorst investigated the requirement of two proteins, Alg8 and Alg44, for alginate biosynthesis in the opportunistic human pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which infects cystic fibrosis patients coinciding with fatal prognosis.

In these patients, production of the alginate by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a major factor contributing to high patient morbidity with the secreted alginate matrix allowing formation of extensive biofilms in the lungs resulting in a highly-persistent infection.

Dr Remminghorst showed that both proteins are required for alginate production, and he was able to characterise their membrane topology, subcellular location and catalytic regions. The results of this work were used to generate a model describing a multiprotein complex involved in alginate polymerisation, modification and export.

Jagrati Singh - Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science

Dr Singh studied the impact of urease and nitrification inhibitors applied alone and in combination with cattle urine and urea fertiliser, investigating the impact of these on herbage production in pastures, nitrogen losses from ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions, and nitrate leaching losses.

While application of urease inhibitor was ineffective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and application of nitrification inhibitor increased ammonia emission, combined applications reduced nitrogen losses from both ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions.

Effectiveness of the nitrification inhibitor in controlling nitrification varied with the nature and amount of organic soil matter and clay content. The research also demonstrated that a process-based model could be adapted to simulate the effect of nitrification inhibitor on greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Rochelle Rosemary Stewart-Withers - Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies

Dr Stewart-Withers studied the development experience of female-headed households in Samoa through a feminist post-development framework and participatory methodologies.

The research showed that female-headed households are not always socially isolated, stigmatised, lacking in agency and the poorest of the poor, contesting many of the ways that female-headed households have been problematised in development scholarship and practice.

This study highlights the importance of culture when attempting to frame the development experiences of female-headed households in any part of the world, and the overall importance of contesting development categories. Shifting beyond a desire to uncritically categorise and label provides a space for envisioning development as a culturally specific, imaginative and opportunistic experience. This shift provides a space for truly seeing the ways that people struggle, often successfully, to create and pursue opportunities.

Marianne Gaye Nicol Tremaine - Doctor of Philosophy in Management

By researching the women mayors in New Zealand, this study examined leadership and leadership theory through their eyes.

The researcher found that the women mayors saw leadership as a process of working with the community to achieve mutually desired goals.

The female mayors were asked to consider the requirements of exemplary mayoral leadership in four areas: being at the centre of webs of people rather than at the top of a hierarchy; having less concern for ego than for working towards change; being committed to making a difference in the community; and being prepared to sacrifice one's own interests for the good of the community.

Dr Tremaine says her findings imply that being concerned to make a difference with and through others, is at the core of leadership.

Binh Trinh - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Engineering

Dr Trinh examined the flow behaviour of milk concentrates, an intermediate product during the manufacturing of milk powder. His research provided new understandings into this vastly complex problem, and showed that it is possible to manipulate the flow behaviour of milk concentrates and thus affect product quality as well as production efficiency. The findings have practical and business implications across the food industry.

Andrea Selena Vosslander - Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Dr Vosslander investigated methods of instruction to aid the reading comprehension of year 4 primary school students. Students were trained to implement particular cognitive strategies in order to better understand what they read.

After six months of instruction, trained students were found to be superior to control groups, in their understanding of reading comprehension strategies and in their confidence to perform various reading tasks. The research adds to current understandings of the teaching of reading comprehension.

Martin Woods - Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Dr Woods investigated mobile and transitory discourses at play in instances of resistance between parents of seriously ill children and doctors and nurses within healthcare institutions.

The qualitative study provides alternative ways of perceiving and understanding these disagreements.

Information was obtained from established literature, media and legal sources, and interviews with parents, doctors and nurses. It was argued that paternal resistance is an omnipresent but transitory occurrence that affects many interactions.

Seeds of this resistance are sown in critical decision-making situations and everyday occurrences. It was proposed that parents who resist treatment for their child illustrate how normative healthcare relationships are codified, constructed and crafted through everyday discourses and practices within healthcare settings.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Uni News



Rare snub-nosed monkeys found in China.

Researchers to China in search of rare monkey

Tracking an elusive troop of endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys through rain-drenched forests in central China's Qingling Mountains was one of the highlights of a research and lecture tour for two Massey academics recently.

Associate Professor Dianne Brunton, who heads the Institute of Natural Resources' Ecology and Conservation Group in Auckland, and fellow researcher Dr Weihong Ji, did not catch up with the rare primates due to bad weather. But by communicating on a walkie-talkie to two villagers who were with the monkey troop, they were only a few hundred metres away from the animals at one stage and were forced to exit the forest on foot down steep mountain tracks, as heavy rain had rendered tracks too dangerous for the four-wheel drive they came in.



Professor Brunton, an expert in animal acoustics, had hoped to record the monkeys' vocal expressions using state-of-the-art digital equipment as well as to observe mating and social behaviour.

The monkeys are listed as a first priority endangered species in China. Destruction of their natural habitat through commercial logging ended in 1998, and since then, the population has remained stable at around 15,000, says Dr Ji.

Professor Brunton and Dr Ji ventured into the mountains (also home to endangered panda) during a six-week research trip to China in September and October.

They also gave seminars at several universities on their research and conservation in New Zealand.

Dr Ji, who came to the University in 2005, first began studying the snub-nosed monkeys 20 years ago at Northwest University after completing her masters study at the same university, in the city of Xian.

She and her colleagues have written a book and numerous papers on the monkeys, and she continues to collaborate with Chinese scientists and doctoral researchers on the social behaviour and breeding habits of snug-nosed monkeys.



Professor Brunton, who has carried out ground-breaking studies on the bellbird and other New Zealand native species, says Chinese scientists and ecologists are increasingly interested in New Zealand conservation and ecology research as they struggle with the impact of intensive industrial development on their rivers, air, land and animal species.

They were accompanied by Department of Conservation scientist, Ron Moorhouse, who spoke to Chinese scientists and students about his work with the kakapo, New Zealand's endangered native parrot.

The trio visited Northwest University, Lanzhou University, Gansu Agriculture University and the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing. Professor Brunton and Dr Ji plan to return to China next year in the hope of locating the monkeys to do further research and vocal recordings.

Their trip was organised and partly funded by the Research Centre for Sichuan Snub-nosed Monkeys, and is part of ongoing collaborative research between the centre and Massey's Ecology and Conservation Group at the Institute of Natural Resources in Auckland.

The institute now has 19 doctoral researchers from New Zealand, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, Canada, and America, a significant increase from five in 2004.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues

Martin speaks at Outward Bound

Dr Andy Martin, a senior lecturer in the College of Business management department, has been involved in research related to Outward Bound over the past 10 years.

His presentation at a recent international conference held at Outward Bound New Zealand headquarters, Anakiwa, in the Marlborough Sounds, focused on transcending boundaries and enhancing courses.

The conference had delegates from more than 30 countries.

Much of Dr Martin's research, including his PhD, and book *Outdoor and Experiential Learning*, has focused on the experiential educational processes of Outward Bound in the Czech Republic, where he presented a keynote address to their 30th anniversary conference in April this year.

"The courses are a catalyst for significant personal learning and change. The challenge is to provide educational opportunities that challenge more people in more ways, more often," he says.

Outward Bound New Zealand celebrates 45 years of operation this year which have involved more than 45,000 New Zealanders.

It has also impacted on the lives of people throughout the world, who have worked for the organisation or attended its courses.

Dr Martin said Outward Bound has demonstrated it is prepared to walk the talk when it comes to creating a high-performing and satisfied workplace, and was recognised as the best workplace in awards two years ago.

School director Steve Hall also received one of this year's Sir Peter Blake Emerging Leader awards.

Also attending the conference from Massey was Bob Maxwell whose PhD research is focusing on the effects of motivational intervention programmes offered by Outward Bound for the long-term unemployed.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business





Swimmer Helen Norfolk is Sportswoman of the Year in the 2007 Massey University North Harbour Sporting Excellence Awards.

Top sportspeople recognised

Massey students made a great showing among the top contenders at this year's Massey University North Harbour Sporting Excellence Awards.

The University's swimming stars, Helen Norfolk and Moss Burmester, were Sportswoman of the Year and finalist for Sportsman of the Year respectively.

Other top Massey swimmers, Corney Swanepoel, John Zulch and Cameron Gibson, were members of the men's relay team that won Team of the Year.

The University is sponsor of the awards for the second year and has a strong presence at the event, which is a highlight on the sporting calendar in the region.

The awards attract sportspeople and teams from the highest ranks of many sporting codes to junior teams, referees, administrators, sports clubs and community organisations.

The awards were presented at a gala dinner for around 400 people.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Music and campus life; Sport and recreation

Avoiding sun a health risk for South Asians in New Zealand

South Asian women intent on avoiding skin cancer by staying out of New Zealand's harsh sunlight are at risk of suffering diseases caused by vitamin D deficiency, according to a new study.

Doctoral researcher Pamela von Hurst, from the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, found that 85 per cent of the 189 South Asian women living in Auckland taking part in her study were vitamin D deficient - a condition usually caused by lack of sunlight.



Comments from women who took part in a questionnaire revealed that many had avidly followed widespread public health warnings about staying out of the sun to prevent skin cancer.

While some of the women said they stayed out of the sun to avoid darkening their skin for cultural reasons, many were anxious about getting skin cancer due to intensive public health campaigns with catchy slogans such as "slip-slop-slap", which urged people to use sunscreen, wear sunhats and cover their bodies when in the sun.

Many of the women - who come from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan - said they could not tolerate New Zealand's intense, glaring sun.

"They say the sun is too strong," says Ms von Hurst. Some of the women complained of rashes and itchy skin from sun exposure, and said their skin burned quite easily here.

There is a growing body of evidence internationally that people deficient in vitamin D are at greater risk of developing diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and other auto-immune diseases as well as cardiovascular disease, says Ms von Hurst.

Researchers are finding there is a strong correlation between lack of exposure to sunlight and the incidence of Type 1 diabetes.

Ms von Hurst's study began earlier this year with the aim of investigating the impact of changes in diet and sunshine hours on South Asian women living in New Zealand.

The latest census shows the Indian population has risen from 60,000 in 2001 to more than 107,000 last year. As part of the study she is monitoring the impact of vitamin D supplements on the women's health to establish what doses are effective. One Auckland GP reported to her anecdotally that many of her Indian women patients aged over 60 had developed some form of auto-immune disease, from lupus to rheumatoid arthritis.

Ms von Hurst will present her findings at the joint New Zealand and Australian Nutrition Sciences Conference at the Auckland campus this week.

Date: 30/11/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Dr Emma Dresler-Hawke at the Palmerston North veggie market. Although many communities are able to buy cheaply from local growers, others do not have the transport or markets available.

Fruit and veg costing families a packet

Where and when you shop has a huge impact on the price you pay for fruit and vegetables, a University researcher has found, with produce at the most expensive stores costing up to 50 per cent more.

Dr Emma Dresler-Hawke researched the cost of meeting the recommendation to eat 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables each day, with the results being presented at Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy conference in Dunedin tomorrow (Monday). She surveyed at five supermarkets - New World, Pak'N'Save, 4 Square, Countdown and Woolworths, at four points through a year, once in each of the four seasons. She found that the cheapest time to buy was summer, with costs varying from \$1.13 to \$1.98 per person, while winter was most expensive at \$1.64 to \$2.12 per person. Spring prices ranged from \$1.40 to \$1.97, and autumn from \$1.37 to \$2.

Dr Dresler-Hawke says that while the pricing appears relatively cheap, a family of two adults and two children could be spending \$59.36 on fruit and vegetables during winter.

Debate around the cost of a healthy diet has been controversial, she says, especially issues relating to the socio-economic groups intake of fruit and vegetables. Less wealthy people have tended to consume less fruit and vegetables.

"Some studies have found that higher fruit and vegetable consumption was associated with higher diet costs," she says. "Low income groups generally have a more restricted food budget so fruit and vegetables may be overlooked in favour of more energy-dense foods."

A key recommendation from Dr Dresler-Hawke is that GST should not be charged on fruit and vegetables. She also believes that investment in providing free fruit to all schoolchildren would pay off.

"There is also considerable public support for both these measures," she says. "The International Social Survey Programme role of Government survey in 2006 found that 87.5 per cent supported removal of GST on fruit and vegetables, and 82 per cent supported providing fruit to schoolchildren."

The costings were based on excluding exotic items including bok choy, guavas and lychees for example, and buying the most common fresh fruit and vegetables. She also excluded potatoes and other root vegetables, because most countries do not include these as servings of vegetables.

In summer, fresh fruit and vegetables were often cheaper than frozen, while in winter, canned tomatoes and beans, and frozen corns and spinach were found to be cheaper.

In summer, fruit prices ranged from 10c per serving for bananas to \$1.20 per serving of strawberries. Vegetables ranged from 4c per serving of cabbage to \$1.77 per serving of asparagus. In winter, fresh fruit prices ranged from 7c per serving of kiwifruit to \$1.33 for strawberries, and vegetables ranged from seven cents per serving of pumpkin to 95c per serving of beans. Only four fruits (plums, strawberries, nectarines and apricots) and four vegetables (asparagus, beans, brussel sprouts and green peppers) cost more than the weighted-average price.

The prices for the 10 different types of canned vegetables ranged from 20c per serving of beetroot to \$1.06 per serving for peppers. Frozen vegetable prices ranged from 22c for peas to 93c for spinach. Prices for canned

fruits ranged from 19c per serving for pineapple to 77c per serving for blueberries. Three types of frozen fruits ranged from 69c per serving for raspberries to \$1.08 for blueberries.

The 5+ a-day campaign has been run since 1994 in New Zealand. It recommends a minimum of two servings of fruits and three servings of vegetables, but does not promote including processed - for example tinned or frozen - fruit and vegetables.

"The consumer can meet the 5+ requirement for less if they include selected items of processed food because they are cheaper," Dr Dresler-Hawke says. "In fact, research has indicated that fresh, frozen and canned [fruit and vegetables] are nutritionally comparable."

Date: 03/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH

Security warning for medal collectors

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ONE Breakfast item](#)

Collectors and museums holding valuable medals and memorabilia should be reviewing their security in the wake of the theft of Victoria Crosses and other medals, Associate Professor Glyn Harper says.

Dr Harper, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, says the theft from the Waiouru Army Museum bears the hallmarks of a professional burglary.

"The thieves were only there for a short time and whoever took them knew which medals to take - those most valuable to New Zealand."

Markets do exist for the stolen medals, Dr Harper says.

"There are people whose life revolves around collecting these things and they do come up for auction. These medals however will never be sold publicly, as all have the names of the recipients on the back. There is still a black market however - some people have a lot of money and not all have the ethics which preclude them from buying something stolen."

The loss of the nine Victoria Crosses, two George medals and an Albert medal is a violation of the museum and to New Zealand as a nation, Dr Harper says.

"These medals are a vital part of New Zealand's military heritage."

The stolen VCs are those awarded to Charles Upham, Samuel Frickleton, Keith Elliot, Clive Hulme, John Hinton, Leslie Andrew, Stanley Judson, John Grant and Henry Laurent. The Albert Medal awarded to Randolph Ridling was also stolen, as were the George Crosses awarded to Murray Hudson and David Russell.

Dr Harper is the author of several critically acclaimed books on New Zealand's military history, including *Dark Journey*, accounts of the three critical battles during World War I: Massacre at Passchendaele, Spring Offensive and Bapaume, the third major battle of the Somme. Dr Harper recently returned from the Passchendaele where he delivered lectures at the Passchendaele 90th commemorations.

Date: 04/12/2007

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Pictured above: Professor Judith Kinnear with a group of Chinese visitors who attended the Women Presidents Leadership Forum at Massey on 16 November. From left are: Professor Liu Guangling, Madam Ma Yanjun, Zhou Lina, Professor Lui Jinan, New Zealand's Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Dr Judy McGregor, Professor Kinnear, Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy, Professor Chen Naifang, Professor Wei Sui, Professor Kinnear's personal assistant Kerrie Simonsen, and Massey library staff member and interpreter Tian Li Shi.

Reflections

From the Vice-Chancellor

This has been an excellent year for Massey University as demonstrated through the outstanding achievements of staff, students and graduates and as recognised through many honours and awards.

On the teaching front these included the annual Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards, which recognised four staff for their commitment to innovative teaching, two of whom went on to win National Teaching Excellence Awards, namely Dr Bryan Walpert, School of English and Media Studies, and Dr Tracy Riley, School of Curriculum and Pedagogy.

Professor Iain Hay, a Massey alumnus and former staff member, who won the Australian Prime Minister's award for university teaching last year, is guest speaker at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium 2007, "Teachers Still Matter: The Magic of Teaching", held on each campus this week.

Our commitment to excellence in teaching was acknowledged in the success of various initiatives, for example: Massey became the host institution for New Zealand's first Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence, Ako Aotearoa; and received re-accreditation from professional bodies for teaching programmes including the Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences, the Bachelor of Nursing, and the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science.

Our ongoing commitment to focused excellence in research and research-teaching has been acknowledged through the latest national Performance-Based Research Funding (PBRF) round, in which we achieved the third highest number of research active staff in the sector, ranked in the top three in 13 subject areas, and ranked first in Design, Nursing and Veterinary Studies and Large Animal Science. Primarily it is the quality of our academic staff that has enabled us to achieve this outstanding result.

The quality of our staff has also been reflected in the awarding of five internal promotions to professor in 2007 and the appointment of renowned historian Kerry Howe, School of Social and Cultural Studies as a Distinguished Professor of the University.

In addition, our research reputation was enhanced by the international recognition accorded to Massey staff, such as the receipt of the prestigious Dahlquist Prize by Professor Robert McLachlan and international recognition for disease surveillance and modelling through our EpiCentre. We celebrated our Excellence in Research and Teaching Awards at a Gala Dinner at the Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, with Research Medal awards made to outstanding researchers, individual, team and supervisor, in their particular disciplines.

In the 2007 round for Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs) it was pleasing to note that the Allan Wilson Centre was re-funded for a second term and the only new national CoRE was Massey's Riddet Centre: Advancing Knowledge in Foods and Biologicals.

Investment in infrastructure in support of research during the year included: the Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre; and the Solexa Genome Analysis System, commissioned by the Allan Wilson Centre.

Further investments in capital development included: the Massey University Equine and Farm Service wing of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences; the renovated Student Centre building; and the Hopkirk Research Institute, a collaborative venture between AgResearch and Massey University.

Massey is part of an international community of scholars. This year relationships were maintained and advanced with numerous universities, research institutions and government organisations across the world including, but not limited to, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Mexico, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Thailand, Samoa, and India.

Highlights of our international relationships included: a second tripartite agreement between Massey University and the prestigious Peking University, this time with the University of Inner Mongolia; a memorandum of agreement with Mexico's Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco de Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (UJAT); and, a student exchange agreement with Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England. In addition, we also hosted a number of international conferences in 2007, including: 49th International Association for Vegetation Science Conference (February); Evolution 2007 (June); Chief of Army Seminar "Warfighting in a Contemporary Environment" (August); Symposium on Insulin Resistance, Diabetes and Vulnerable Populations (October); Second International Conference on Sensing Technology (ICST'07) (November); and, Fourth International Conference on Computational Intelligence (CIRAS'07) (November).

Again, I am grateful for the efforts and contribution of staff, both the front line academics and the range of general staff providing essential administrative, technical and other support. I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season.

- Professor Judith Kinnear

Professor Nigel Long
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)

The past year has offered many highlights in research and teaching worth reflecting upon.

Among those are significant investments in facilities to enable and encourage researchers, recognition of the quality of our teaching staff at national levels, numerous awards and prizes for research staff and the input of significant research funds from government and private sources.

Specific highlights worth further mention include the results of the 2006 PBRF quality evaluation, announced in May, when the University's share of the PBRF funding pool increased by \$2 million to \$34.7 million. This was due to a 45 per cent increase in our quality evaluation score, a 27 per cent increase in A, B and C-ranked researchers and a 52 per cent increase in the number of A-ranked researchers and is a testament to the hard work of many staff and the centralised planning adopted for internal quality assurance.

The opening on the Wellington campus of Ako Aotearoa, the Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence headed by Massey under a \$20 million five-year government contract, is another highlight. Dr Peter Coolbear was appointed as director.

Another important appointment was the secondment of Associate Professor Mark Brown to the position of Director of Distance Education, making him responsible for Massey's extramural programme delivery. Dr Brown's specialist knowledge of e-learning is particularly apt, with Massey's overall integration of e-learning throughout its programmes a key initiative.

Our commitment to growing our research capability has been recognised in the University's Investment Plan, with three key initiatives focusing on research and commercialisation. Over the next three years the University is committed to extending its research focus on business and land-based disciplines and continuing to build capability in areas that contribute to New Zealand's economic and social growth.

We will be looking to establish and develop centres for research excellence in areas such as children's literacy and finance, while the Institute for Advanced Study, launched in Auckland in October, is an example of our commitment to enhancing the research environment for staff at Massey.

Optimising commercial activities for the benefit of the University and the nation is another goal defined in the Investment Plan. Massey is involved in a variety of business activities such as commercialisation of intellectual property produced by our research.

The inclusion of these initiatives in the University's strategic planning documents provides guidance and direction for the coming years.

Professor Mason Durie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori)

The most significant activity for the Office of the DVC (Māori) during 2007 was the development of KIA MAIA (Key Initiatives for A Māori Academic Investment Agenda). The agenda forms part of the University's Investment Plan and was developed by senior Māori staff from the three campuses.

In brief, KIA MAIA provides a way forward for Massey University so that quality academic outcomes for Māori can be realised, Māori professional capability can be extended, research can benefit Māori communities and engagement with Māori individuals and groups can be strengthened.

A range of initiatives will be implemented over the next three years including more systematic course advice for first-year students, the development of learning communities and postgraduate forums, the establishment of a Centre for Māori Professional Advancement, and the formation of research consortia built around whanau and land and environmental management.

During the year the Pasifika@Massey strategy was further developed and has now been released in a number of Pacific languages.

As part of the strategy, Professor Sitaleki Finau has established a wide range of contacts with Pacific communities in New Zealand and has also entered into discussions with several Pacific nations to explore the possibility of a Pacific Research and Development Centre. Meanwhile a strong Pacific presence on each campus has laid foundations for a distinctive Massey contribution to Pacific tertiary education and research.

In February, Dr Te Kani Kingi was appointed Director of Te Mata ō te Tau, the Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship. Te Mata ō te Tau initiated a professional development programme for Māori academics in semester two, funded through the Innovation and Development Fund.

The programme, MANU-AO, includes a nation-wide weekly seminar delivered through the BRCSS video network and involving all eight universities.

Finally, in November, the University was pleased to be able to confer the degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris causa) on Tumu te Heuheu at the Waihi marae, Turangi. It recognised his contributions to Māori education, world heritage protection, and environmental sustainability.

Professor Lawrence Rose Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Business

This year has seen significant developments in the College of Business. With the assistance of many of our academic and administrative people, the college has realigned its structure to better reflect the needs of its stakeholders, both internal and external.

We have also considered and adopted a detailed Strategic Plan, which will guide our focus for the near term - a truly exciting development. A re-energised vision has been developed, which is now shaping our mission.

Our engagement with the business community has been enhanced considerably through the establishment of the College Advisory Board. Chaired by Business New Zealand's Phil O'Reilly, this group reflects a wide representation of the New Zealand business sector and has been quite active offering advice around mission, strategic initiatives and other actions being considered by the college.

The college has also taken a leading role in building business capability by supporting and providing academic judges for a number of business awards events ranging from Northland to Wellington.

Our priorities for the coming year include meaningful progress on accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), enhancing our delivery of executive education, strengthening our international linkages and partnerships and enhancing our extramural capability.

To this end the college has appointed Associate Pro Vice-Chancellors for Executive Education, Quality and International and Extramural. An Associate PVC-Research will also be appointed soon. With many of the structural issues completed, 2008 will also see further diversification of our funding base, progress on a distinctive college focus at each campus and addition to our wholly research student numbers.

The culmination of these efforts will see Massey's College of Business continue to be recognised for its successes in creating leaders and transforming New Zealand business.

Professor Sally Morgan Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Creative Arts

Just as the Royal College of Art describes itself as a "very special ideas factory", so too can we at Massey's College of Creative Arts. We have been at the creative heart of Wellington, and indeed the nation, for 122 years, and have been impacting on the cultural and economic well-being of New Zealand through our innovative thinking ever since.

This has been an excellent year for the college. Our PBRF results confirmed us as the nation's leading, research-led, art and design institution.

Our staff and students achieved numerous national and international awards. For example, industrial design student Stephen Smith won the Dyson Product Design Award for his "Arctic Skin", which featured on national television, and Ben Thompson won the Design Institute of New Zealand's "Best" award for his all-terrain in-line board. Professor Anne Noble was invited to exhibit in the National Museum of Photography in Paris and works of other of our academics were seen in prestigious collections across the world.

This year also saw the inauguration of our annual creative arts festival Blow: Nga hau e wha. This has brought together a whole range of cultural events emanating from the college, including exhibitions, public lectures, performances and master-classes.

Thousands of people attended and many events were covered in the national media. As part of the festival three extraordinary New Zealanders, all alumni of the college through its past iterations as the Wellington Schools of Art and Design, were honoured in our Hall of Fame.

We were proud to be able to bestow this honour on Richard Taylor, founder of Weta Workshop; Rebecca Taylor, fashion designer to Hollywood stars; and (posthumously) Len Lye, one of New Zealand's acknowledged, truly world-class artists.

This is a great place to be building from for the coming years, and it's wonderful to note that our enrolments remain buoyant, and our graduates are still leading the way as the thinkers, artists and designers of the future.

Professor James Chapman
Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Education

The College of Education continues to build on its national and international reputation for excellence and this year hosted a number of overseas delegations who visited the college to share in research and expertise.

The highlight of the year has been the Committee on University Academic Programmes and the Teachers' Council approval of our new four-year Primary Teacher Education programme, which will commence next year.

This innovative teacher preparation programme has many unique features, including compulsory literacy and numeracy courses in each year of the programme, integrated curriculum and subject studies, a significant bi-cultural dimension, and increased time for school-based teaching practice experiences.

This programme will be unique in New Zealand, in its delivery, qualification, and reputation - ensuring our graduates are among the nation's best.

A significant number of academic staff in the college have recently completed or will soon complete doctoral qualifications. By the end of next year, approximately 80 per cent of our academic staff will be doctorally qualified.

More Doctorates in Education have been awarded this year than in any other year in the history of the University. These advanced qualifications will place our staff as the most qualified, academically and professionally, of staff in any New Zealand college of education.

Our staff are well qualified to be leaders in linking research with teaching and professional practice.

In terms of international linkages, the college has been successful during the past 12 months in recruiting international doctoral students.

The college will increasingly be seen by international students as an excellent place for postgraduate study.

I extend my congratulations and thanks to all staff and students for their hard work and look forward to the challenges and success the year ahead will bring.

Professor Barrie Macdonald
Pro Vice-Chancellor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Looking back on 2007, I am struck by the achievements and contribution of staff; not just the exceptional performance of key individuals, but of staff overall.

In research, for example, the college was again prominent in the University research medals, with Professor Neil Pearce awarded the medal for individual research, the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development winning the team medal, and Dr Glen Pettigrove an emerging researcher medal.

Professor Kerry Howe's outstanding career in the field of Pacific history and prehistory was recognised externally, when Vaka Moana, a study of Polynesian origins, won the history section of the Montana Book Awards; and internally when he was made a Distinguished Professor of the University. Professor Cluny Macpherson was invited to deliver the MacMillan Brown Lectures, a nationally recognised series in the social sciences.

The college performance in the last PBRF round was also a success, with a significant increase in the number of research-active staff, and the number of A researchers. College staff, and especially those in the research centres, attracted increased external research funds, with the rollover of the Health Research Council programme grant in Māori health a major achievement. Postgraduate enrolments remain strong, with more than 10 per cent of all college students enrolled in research-only (thesis) degrees.

In teaching, the college exceeded all targets for the evaluation of teaching by our students, as well as for retention and completion rates. Dr Bryan Walpert and Dr Sharon Stevens won Vice-Chancellor's Awards for teaching, with Dr Walpert also receiving a National Tertiary Teaching Award as well as the Royal Society of New Zealand Manhire Prize for creative science writing.

The college also concluded a review of its arts qualifications, leading to significant changes to the BA in particular. These include the introduction of a compulsory requirement in written communication, the option of a minor (as well as a major), and changes to the requirements for a double major.

Programme and qualification reviews, and financial pressures, have led to a reassessment of priorities and programme consolidation in some areas. In Humanities, programme changes are being accompanied by a project to explore new ways of promoting and raising the profile of humanities and demonstrating its usefulness in a range of employment areas.

Professorial appointments in Humanities are being made to give a higher profile to key disciplines. Elsewhere in the college, applied and professional programmes, including nursing, midwifery, social work and rehabilitation, have been brought together in a new School of Health and Social Services, which will operate on all three campuses.

While the college faces significant challenges - in the area of distance education, for example - the demonstration of increased research performance, and excellence in teaching, provide positive signals for the future.

Professor Robert Anderson Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Sciences

It has been a particularly busy year for the College of Sciences, and it is appropriate to acknowledge the many significant successes we have enjoyed.

To first address a key issue for the University, that of providing a quality education. The Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science has been re-accredited until 2012, while the Bachelor of Veterinary Science has been accredited until 2014 by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The Graduate Diploma in Quality Systems has also received new accreditation, from the UK Chartered Quality Institute. Further recognition came when a bid led by IVABS saw the University awarded \$2 million to enhance veterinary and science capability, allocated in the latest round of the Building Research Capability in Strategically relevant Areas fund. In order to provide more effective organisation and profile of the engineering and technology platform, a new School of Engineering and Advanced Technology was established.

The PBRF data released in May showed a significant improvement in research capability, with 63 per cent more college staff rated A than in 2003, 43 per cent more rating B and 20 per cent more rating C. The overall college score increased by 43 per cent, which, given the 455 portfolios involved, is an impressive improvement.

Announcement of the University's Riddet Centre as the only new government-funded Centre of Research Excellence was a superb achievement, while the renewal of the Allan Wilson Centre's CoRE status is testament to the inspired work the centre is producing.

Further evidence of the commitment to research was the launch of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study, which provides a unique environment to allow elite scientists space to pursue the fundamental scholarships which provide truly innovative answers, and questions. A key research partnership has also been created with the opening of the Hopkirk Institute, a collaborative venture with AgResearch.

In the fundamental sciences, the Allan Wilson Centre launched the new Solexa genome analysis sequencer and the new Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre was opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark. The centre provides a key resource for the University, other institutions and Crown Research Institutes, ensuring we remain at the centre of the growing biological sciences hub that has evolved around the Palmerston North campus.

Finally, it is also worth noting the projects that have become fully-fledged commercial ventures. A spin-off company has been established with the aim of designing bionanoparticles for future commercialisation. The technology developed at the Riddet Centre has enabled Speirs Nutritionals to open a plant at Marton producing an Omega-3 emulsion to be used in products around the world.

Let us look forward to the further successes that 2008 will bring.

Professor John Raine
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland)

This year the Auckland campus continued to plan for developments that will further consolidate its position as the primary university presence north of the Harbour Bridge.

While first-year international enrolments fell, reflecting the decline in student numbers from China, domestic enrolments continued to grow.

A highlight of the year was the opening on 3 October by the Minister of Research Science and Technology, Steve Maharey, of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study, which will host some of New Zealand's top theoretical scientists and will underline the strong research focus of this campus, which has 27 per cent postgraduate students.

Another outstanding 21st Century Career Pathways in Technology Programme for school students was jointly undertaken with Smales Farm Technology Office Park, with major financial support from Smales Farm and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Community and business relationships have continued to develop well and our support through scholarships and for events such as the Westpac Enterprise North Shore Business Excellence Awards underline Massey's commitment to the region.

The annual Schools Science Symposium hosted by Massey's Sports Science and Management staff was a great success. The e-centre continued to develop its CMCTEC business export development operation with CMC in India.

The e-centre relationship with Enterprise North Shore is now stronger with a number of jointly-run events, such as the hosting of ICT Cluster meetings and other technology innovation events.

It is pleasing to finalise the contract to redevelop the space under the Recreation Centre as a bistro-bar premises, and it is expected this facility will open for semester two next year.

Planning was completed on the Library, which went forward in November for approval for commencement of construction. In January tenders close on the 250-bed accommodation village, to be located behind the Recreation Centre.

These facilities will be vital next steps in providing full student facilities on this growing campus.

Priorities for next year will be business case developments around further campus facilities and academic programmes, further efforts to raise Massey's profile in teaching and research in the region, and a continuing focus on student services and satisfaction.

Professor Ian Warrington
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North)

It has been particularly pleasing to see the culmination of a number of important building developments on the Palmerston North campus this year.

These included the redeveloped Student Centre, opened by the Prime Minister Helen Clark, on 22 February; the Equine and Farm Services building, opened on 27 February by Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton; the new look

Wharerata, launched with a garden party on 11 March; the Hopkirk Research Institute, opened by Research, Science and Technology and Crown Research Institutes Minister Steve Maharey on 23 March; and the Manawatu Microscopy Imaging Centre, also opened by Helen Clark, on 28 August.

Indicative of the high standards of the new environments which have been created, the various building projects have received a number of architectural design awards.

The unlimited access bus scheme achieved a highly commended award in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority "Energywise" awards.

The wider campus environment has also received attention through the Massey Hill beautification project.

The campus has had a number of significant events to celebrate during the year: Graduation ceremonies saw honorary doctorates conferred upon Associate Professor Peter Snell, Paul Dibble and Tumu Te Heuheu.

The University was the major sponsor of the highly-successful Da Vinci Machines exhibition at Te Manawa, which broke attendance records and provided an excellent opportunity for the university to link with its community, particularly schools.

The biennial Manawatu Standard Business Awards, held on 4 September, showcased Massey as one of the region's major players.

Services to our students were also enhanced. Our many student-focused activities started with the "Let's Get Going" programme for first-year and halls of residence students, and 1100 people took part in the Commencement Ceremony and Dinner on 19 February.

Mid-year saw campus Open Days attract more than 1500 visitors. The Academy of Sport, launched for the year on 14 March, has been successful in supporting elite and emerging athletes.

Next year we will continue to enhance the attractiveness of the campus, provide appropriate physical infrastructure, to improve the campus experience for students, and to work with local agencies to achieve a credible "Student City" focus.

Warm wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing festive season.

Professor Andrea McIlroy
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington)

This year we have welcomed increasing numbers of school leavers and postgraduate students to the Wellington campus.

We now have some 66 doctoral students and a 27 per cent increase in postgraduate students overall.

The growing research reputation of the campus is underpinned by world-class research centres such as the Centre for Māori Health and Development, which won the University's team research award and the Centre for Public Health Research whose head, Professor Neil Pearce, won the individual researcher award.

Health research and practice has been a real focus this year, with the visit of Dr Peter Snell, the announcement of the first two Peter Snell doctoral scholars and the enthusiastic participation of campus staff in the 10,000 Steps programme in which a local RFM team took top honours for the University.

I recently hosted 27 regional secondary school principals on campus. This was the high point of a year of increased interaction with schools, during which I visited 21 principals and established four school-leaver scholarships for schools in the Porirua Basin. Te Tumatukuru O'Connell, who was appointed Te Kaiwāwao at the beginning of the year, has increased our interactions with the Māori community.

Our engagement with the region has also been fostered by the increased number of campus events, culminating in the College of Creative Arts Blow festival which blew the minds of all of us. Another initiative was the introduction of Uniguides at Orientation.

The New Zealand School of Music, our joint venture with Victoria University, increased its EFTS by 12.5 per cent and received a big boost when it was granted \$11.15 million by the Government and \$1.5 million from the McCarthy Trust for its new building.

This is to be located on the Illot Green and will complete the Civic Square complex of buildings.

Another significant event was the official opening of Ako Aotearoa, the national tertiary teaching excellence centre, a government-funded consortia of seven tertiary institutions centred on our Wellington campus.

The most visible project has been the removal of a number prefabs and construction of stage one of the Information Services Centre. We look forward to the start of stage 2, the new Library.

Other important developments include the opening of the Pasifika room and the relocation of the Whanau room and the room for students with disabilities.

Following last year's refurbishments for the College of Sciences, this summer's upgrade focuses on enhancing College of Business facilities on levels D and F in Block 5, which should be completed for the start of semester one, 2008.

Seeing the calibre of the nearly 40 staff nominated for our inaugural Service Excellence Awards, reminds me what a great bunch of people we work with on the Wellington campus.

Date: 04/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Journalism under the microscope

Contrasting news reporting of the so-called "terror" raids by New Zealand police, news media freedom of speech in Fiji, and how old-fashioned journalism helped break broke the United States Enron scandal are topics for analysis at a journalism conference in Wellington next week.

Final registrations are being accepted for the three-day Journalism Education Association conference, to be hosted by the University's Department of Communication and Journalism and opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark on Monday.

High profile speakers include TV3 Political Editor Duncan Garner, Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst, NZ Listener's political correspondent Jane Clifton and Radio New Zealand Mediawatch host Colin Peacock.

Keynote speaker is Bethany McLean, a New York journalist who played a key role in exposing corrupt energy company Enron.

Ms McLean was the first journalist to raise doubts about Enron in a national publication, triggering one of the great financial scandals of recent times. Covering the story for Fortune magazine in 2001, she challenged the energy giant over its accounting practices and questioned whether it was the powerhouse many people assumed it to be.

She co-wrote the book *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*, later made into an Academy Award-nominated documentary, in which she appears.

For registration and more information: <http://communication.massey.ac.nz/jeanz.html>

Date: 05/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Fat cats under dietary spotlight

Just like people, cats will overeat if they get the chance. New research into cat food suggests overindulgence in popular dry cat biscuits may be to blame for fuller feline figures.

The ease and convenience of dry cat biscuits heightens the risk of owners perpetually topping up the dish and overfeeding their pet, says researcher Dr David Thomas, director of the University's Centre for Feline Nutrition in Palmerston North.

Dr Thomas says cats are naturally designed to eat several small, protein-packed meals a day.

The study, which set out to establish whether there is any link between dry food consumption and weight gain in cats, found that those fed solely on dry biscuits got plumper but lost weight once they changed to a wet, or canned food diet.

Sixteen adult cats bred at the centre and normally fed canned diets were split into two groups. After an initial period during which both groups were given just dry food, one group changed to canned meals and the other continued with dry biscuits. Those eating only dry food put on weight, while the group fed canned food lost weight.

Cats ate less and felt fuller more quickly eating canned food because it contained more water. "It's harder to overfeed wet food than dry," says Dr Thomas.

But well-meaning cat-owners tended to feed them dry food on demand, rather than in accordance with any measured portions, Dr Thomas says.

He says cats were first domesticated by the ancient Egyptians to keep mice away from grain stores. They obtained most of the water needed for survival from eating fresh meat in a similar way to other desert carnivores.

But some of the modern dry food cat diets have been shown to result in lower water intakes. Dry food has around four times the energy content of canned food.

"Obesity levels in companion animals frequently mirror that of their owners." Other studies have estimated that between 25 and 40 per cent of pets worldwide are overweight.

His findings will be presented at a major nutrition conference at the University's Auckland campus, which will be held on December 5-7.

Most of the 300 papers from New Zealand and overseas researchers attending the joint New Zealand and Australian Nutrition Conference deal with human nutrition. A session on animal nutrition includes the latest studies on nutrition for goats, calves and sheep.

<http://nutritionsoc-conference.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 06/12/2007

Type: Research



Low-fat milk 'for chicks' say Kiwi blokes

Low-fat milk may be better for health, but many Kiwi men view it as too feminine, according to a new study.

In a survey of what determines milk choices among men aged 19-24, low-fat milk was viewed as "for chicks, not guys", says researcher Dr Carol Wham from the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health.

She recommends marketers try to give low-fat milk a more "macho" image for the sake of men's health.

Standard milk, either so-called "full cream" or homogenised (known as "blue top") was preferred by 35 per cent of the 86 men who responded to a survey, organised jointly by Massey and Otago University's dietetic department.

Standard milk contains 3.3 per cent total fat compared with low-fat milks, which range between 0.1 and 1.5 per cent total fat. Dr Wham says the desire to "bulk up" with extra muscle was the main motivation for young men choosing standard milk, and men aged 19-24 are big milk consumers compared with most other sectors of the population.

But to prevent chronic heart disease men should ideally drink only low-fat milk, which contains the same nutrients as standard milk but not the higher levels of saturated fat.

Although most of those surveyed drink low-fat milk, Dr Wham says the 35 per cent who drink standard milk can achieve abs without flab by switching to low-fat milk. Their long-term health will benefit too.

"Once they overcome their perception that low-fat milk is a watery beverage for waif-like women, they will get used to the lighter taste," she says.

"The primary influences in choice of standard milk are taste and habit," she says. "Consumers of standard milk do not perceive the lower fat alternatives to be 'healthier' or 'more refreshing'. Lower fat milk choices are viewed to be feminine - for chicks not guys."

At the other end of the spectrum are young women, many of whom will avoid even low-fat milk for fear it will make them fat, and in doing so risk becoming calcium deficient.

Dr Wham is presenting her findings at the New Zealand and Australian Nutrition Societies' Conference at Massey University, Auckland, this week.

Date: 07/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH



Journalists master statistics

Two out of three Statistics New Zealand writing awards have been won by Massey journalism graduates.

Both are from Gisborne and completed the Diploma of Journalism course last month at Massey's Wellington campus.

Jannah File (right) is now a radio host in Hamilton and Bronwyn Torrie is a reporter at the Upper Hutt Leader. They receive \$500 and \$200 respectively along with a data stick each.



The annual awards are open to students enrolled in a recognised journalism course. Stories may be of a general nature but must use official statistics.

Ms File won second place with an article she wrote for the Levin Daily Chronicle. She used the just-released Census figures to develop a profile of the region, which showed the population had much lower internet usage than other regions.

Ms Torrie's third place was for an article she wrote for The Wellingtonian newspaper, reporting on new multi-language automatic teller machines and detailing the number of people whose main language is not English.



Lecturer Cathy Strong says the awards reflect the increased level of statistical ability required of journalists.

"Journalists need to be able to analyse figures and bring to a story more than a few quotes," Ms Strong says. "These two did just that."

She says the journalism course includes segments on statistical assessment and business writing. "This prepares our new journalists to go that extra distance in their reporting."

First place was awarded to John Hartevelt from the Canterbury University School of Journalism, who won \$800 and a data stick.

Date: 07/12/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

New papers in communication launched

The University's Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing is launching three new papers to meet the rising interest in communication.

A paper in International Case Studies in Public Relations prepares communications graduates for a range of international roles and a new Communication Internship paper will give eligible students the opportunity to extend communication learning in the workplace. There will also be a new paper on Speech Writing.

Communication lecturer Dr Heather Kavan, says she is already receiving student inquiries for about the Speech Writing paper.

"People are aware of the power of words. Speech writing is one of the most effective ways of making our ideas irresistible. Great speeches change the world," Dr Kavan said.

The creator of the International Public Relations paper, Dr Elspeth Tilley says the new paper will interest anyone seeking to understand communication in a global context. She says it would be of particular interest to international students planning to return home after study and to any students planning to travel or work overseas.

Further information on the three new communication papers is on http://communication.massey.ac.nz/fileadmin/CJ/Course_Outline_Files/PDF/219310_outline.pdf

Date: 10/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business

Men more optimistic than women on economy

Men are more optimistic than women about the economic outlook, Massey finance researchers say. Using consumer confidence data from 18 countries, they have identified a difference in outlook between sexes.

Men were found to have more positive expectations for economic growth, interest rates, inflation and stock market performance and the findings hold true even when the personal circumstances of the sample - including wealth and employment - are taken into account.

Professor Ben Jacobsen, head of the Commerce Department in the College of Business, says differences found between genders in risk aversion and optimism may explain why women on average hold less risky investment portfolios than men.

Professor Jacobsen conducted the study with Dr John Lee from Massey and Dr Wessel Marquering from Erasmus University, Rotterdam. He says the researchers were surprised to find that they are apparently the first to study the difference between men and women in their levels of optimism about the future economic and financial outlook - given the amount of research devoted to other aspects of differences between the sexes.

In data from 17 of the 18 countries, women were less optimistic. Germany was the only exception. For instance, in the United States they found that since 1978 there had been only one month (March 2000) when consumer confidence of women was higher. They report that this gender difference had persisted over time in both the general economic outlook and in the personal outlook.

They argue in their paper, called "Are men more Optimistic?", that these differences could impact on the investment portfolios women build, leaving them worse off in retirement.

"Our finding may explain why women invest on average less in risky portfolios than men (women invest less in the stock market as opposed to more safe assets). Two investors may have the same risk aversion, but if one is more pessimistic about the future performance of the market or perceives the future market risks to be higher, then the asset allocation of the two investors may differ."

They point out that the observed differences in portfolio allocations between men and women do not have to be large to have a big impact on their future financial prospects.

"A 1 per cent difference in expected return might already explain observed difference in portfolio holdings and therefore may have a large effect at retirement."

In order to study the differences in confidence, they analysed used monthly consumer confidence data from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The large sample size was to ensure results were not country specific or culture specific.

For the full research paper 'Are Men more optimistic?' see:
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1030478

Date: 11/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Journalists lack general knowledge, says PM

Prime Minister Helen Clark says many journalists lack general knowledge and some are so young they cannot recall historical events such as the death - in 1974 - of former Prime Minister Norman Kirk.

Speaking at the Journalism Education Association conference at the University's Wellington campus yesterday, Ms Clark said of the current crop of New Zealand journalists: "Few have studied history, geography, sociology and economics."

She said politicians had to put up with a lot of attack stories, critical cartoons and editorials, but there was no point in complaining. "You say, that's life, get on with it."

She argued the Government was more open to scrutiny by the news media than in the past and recalled former Prime Minister Robert Muldoon ejecting journalist and cartoonist Tom Scott from a Parliamentary news conference. "Can you imagine that happening today?"

Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst spoke at the same conference today, discussing the future of print journalism in the age of the internet.

Mr Pankurst said coverage of stories such as the Clint Rickards rape case, former Act MP Donna Awatere-Huata's fraud trial and the police "terrorism" raids had far more impact in print than if they had been published solely on-line. He said 3500 additional newspapers were sold the day the newspaper published its report of the police evidence as "the Terrorism Files".

Fairfax, which owns the *Dominion Post*, expected most of its profits to come from printed newspapers for at least the next 20 years, he said.

"Expect the news to be delivered in many different editions to many platforms: mobile phone, web pages, web television and print."

The Journalism Education Association conference is hosted by the University's Department of Communication and Journalism until tomorrow.

For more information: <http://communication.massey.ac.nz/jeanz.html>

Date: 11/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Enron lessons unheeded in New Zealand



The lessons of the Enron financial scandal have gone unheeded - and the same potential for fraud exists in New Zealand, says the journalist who first broke the story.

New York journalist Bethany McLean told the Journalism Education Association conference at the university's Wellington campus, that the Enron collapse is a symbol of what is still wrong with corporate America.

"In corporate America, things haven't changed since Enron's bankruptcy in 2001."

She says there is a belief among some businesses that the rules don't apply to them.

"Accounting systems are only as good as the people who use them. Where there is greed, there is potential for abuse."

She says that American banks use the same secret off-balance sheet transactions that led to Enron's collapse.

Last month it became public that Citigroup is involved in the Terra Securities scandal, which involved speculative investments by seven Norwegian municipalities in hedge funds in the United States bond market.

"The Enron story is about a company that twisted the rules to falsely inflate its earnings. Where financial innovation gets ahead of regulation, some will take advantage and stretch the rules."

She says the key lesson for journalists is to keep asking "why?"

Ms McLean says that despite not having journalism training, her degree in maths allowed her to analyse Enron's finances and not to be intimidated by Enron executives who sought to stop publication of her work.

Keynote speaker Bethany McLean is generally regarded as being the first journalist to raise doubts about Enron in a national publication. Covering the story for *Fortune* magazine in 2001, she challenged Enron over its accounting practices and questioned whether it was the powerhouse many assumed it to be. In fact, the company was heading for collapse, going bust a few months later.

Ms McLean co-wrote the book *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*, later made into an Academy Award-nominated documentary, in which she appears.

The Journalism Education Association conference is hosted by the University's Department of Communication and Journalism.

For more information: <http://communication.massey.ac.nz/jeanz.html>

Date: 11/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Professor Iain Hay

Sharing ideas the best part of teaching excellence symposium

The key principles of good university teaching are engagement, enthusiasm and organisation, Professor Iain Hay told staff at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium held on the three campuses this month.

The symposium theme was the role of teaching in universities.

Professor Hay, from Flinders University in Adelaide, won the Australian Prime Minister's award for university teaching last year. A Massey staff member from 1983-85, he completed his MA while lecturing in geography after joining the University from Canterbury, where he gained a BSc (hons). He completed a PhD at the University of Washington (Seattle) with the support of a Fulbright scholarship. He also holds a Master of Educational Management from Flinders .

The main points for his discussion, which was directed mainly at relatively new academics - although the well-attended symposium sessions were open to all staff, were the various dimensions of engagement, how to support and sustain enthusiasm, and the role of being organised.

"There's multifaceted dimensions to what engagement is about," Professor Hasy says. "There is engagement with students, with the research in your discipline area, engagement with a broader community and the role of the university in that, engaging students with other students so that they have shared learning experiences.

"University teaching isn't just about standing around and giving a lecture. There's a whole lot of other dimensions to what constitutes good teaching. If you look at the different ways different lecturers present material, there's a multitude of possibilities and they can all be enormously effective."

He praised the symposium concept and programme, organised by the University's Training Development Unit, for its variety, which included a debate at each campus, a discussion about funding opportunities for teachers wanting to learn new skills and gain broader experience.

"I think the best part is the sharing of what goes on across the university. Typically academics they go and they teach and it's pretty much an individual enterprise.

"Teaching's sometimes like sex. People do it in private behind closed doors and there aren't that many opportunities to share what we're doing, to learn from one another. And sessions like this symposium and, more particularly, the things where people are talking about the innovations they're adopting are an opportunity to learn.

"Research helps keep teaching evolving and moving as does the changing nature of students and their demands. If you're teaching the same material, if you're going to maintain your enthusiasm for teaching you have to change it.

"The kind of geography that I learned as an undergraduate in the 1970s and 1980s is not the same. Some of the physical processes might be the same but discipline of human geography is radically different.

"I'm a human geographer and I look mainly at things like oppression, so marginalisation, exploitation, violence, imperialism; and I'm starting a project on geographies of the super-rich. That's my new project for the next year or so."

Date: 12/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Conference/Seminar

Academics named in New Zealander of the Year Awards

Two University academics are named in the North & South New Zealander of the Year Awards.

Professor Neil Pearce, Director of the Centre for Public Health Research, is given an honourable mention in the overall award.

Professor Pearce is described as a "hero in public health, ground-breaking researcher and sleuth", the magazine says.

"Believing socio-economic factors such as housing, nutrition and work stress, largely determine the state of New Zealanders' health spurred Pearce on to become an epidemiologist ... He now picks up the mantle of president of the International Epidemiological Association (the first to be elected from the Southern Hemisphere)."

Professor of Applied Mathematics Robert McLachlan is cited in the IT and communications category for his "stellar mathematical brilliance" and "revolutionary new means of making computer simulations of systems in motion".

In 2007 Professor McLachlan became the first person in the Southern Hemisphere to win the prestigious international Dahlquist Prize.

Date: 12/12/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

Meanings make stolen medals irreplaceable

Reaction to the theft of medals from the Waiouru museum has been dramatic because of their power as symbols of sacrifice and service, says a cultural researcher.

Associate Professor at Massey's School of Visual and Material Culture, Tony Whincup calls the medals "mnemonic objects".

"The medals are valuable because of the special meanings we attach to them. They symbolise outstanding military acts, but also our sense of who we are as New Zealanders."

Professor Whincup says personal objects help define us, both as individuals and as a community.

"If my stereo gets stolen, I can easily replace it. But if I lost my wedding ring I would be devastated because of the memories I attach to it."

"In the same way the loss of these medals diminishes us as a nation because we are defined by our heritage, which includes notions of bravery, sacrifice and service."

"It's a reciprocal arrangement, because we choose which parts of our heritage are most important to us."

War memorial specialist and senior lecturer at the School, Kingsley Baird, asks why we are so devastated over what could be seen as objects made of cheap metal and ribbons?

"It's because these medals are about the maintenance of memories. If we value them as objects, let's look after them," he says.

The School of Visual and Material Culture, part of the College of Creative Arts, is a centre of teaching and research excellence that seeks to develop new perspectives between people and things in the images and objects that shape everyday life.

Date: 13/12/2007

Type: Features

Categories: Any





Shirley Crothers, inaugural recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's award for outstanding service, is flanked by Professor Judith Kinnear and former Massey University Chancellor Morva Croxon. Immediately behind them, from left, are Mrs Crothers' husband, Brian, Janet Milne, daughter-in-law Anne Crothers and Jenny Chu. In the next row are Robyn Anderson, Professor Nigel Long, Emeritus Professor Ken Milne, Anne Walker and grandson Shane Crothers. At rear are Professor Robert Anderson, Gary Goodman, Jocy Goodman, Wayne Edwards, Judith Edwards and Associate Professor Alex Chu. The photographer was Mrs Crothers' son, Brent.

New award recognises outstanding service to Massey

A Vice-Chancellor's award for outstanding service was presented for the first time last night. Recipient Shirley Crothers worked at the University in Palmerston North for more than 20 years and managed Wharerata until her retirement last year.

In making the presentation, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, commented on many aspects of Mrs Crother's services to the University, noting in particular her role in building the town/gown relationships such as the marquee in the Square during graduation time.



On 7 February an even longer-serving former staff member, head gardener David Bull, who worked for Massey for more than 36 years until his retirement last year, will become the second recipient of the award.

A recommendation for a new award within the University was approved by the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Committee last year.



The award is for outstanding service and may be presented to any member of general staff who is deemed worthy of the honour. Recommendation must be based on long and exceptional service that is over and above those duties expected from a member of staff. The nomination must be made by a member of VCEC and be supported by at least three testimonials. On the recommendation of VCEC, the following individuals have been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service:

Mrs Shirley Crothers, in recognition of her exceptional services to Massey University over 20 years especially for the development of the 'staff club', for establishing Wharerata as the preferred social centre on Turitea and for contributing to graduate celebrations in Palmerston North over and above those duties expected from a staff member. A dinner to celebrate the presentation of this award took place at Wharerata on 10 December 2007.

Mr David Bull, in recognition of his exceptional services to Massey University over 36 years especially for planning, planting and maintenance of the grounds at Turitea, the planning and establishment of the gardens and grounds at Albany and the establishment of the Arboretum. It is recognised that this Arboretum is one of the greatest in the Southern Hemisphere and would be expected within the next 25 years to become a natural heritage site of New Zealand. A dinner to celebrate the presentation of this award will take place at Wharerata on 7 February 2008.

Caption 2: Mrs Crothers, left, with Professor Kinnear at Wharerata
Caption 3: Mr Bull.

Date: 13/12/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Palmerston North



Robin Hapi and Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson

Robin Hapi appointed TEC Commissioner

Massey graduate and high-profile public sector manager Robin Hapi has been appointed a new Tertiary Education Commissioner.

Mr Hapi (Ngati Kahungunu) has a Master of Business Administration with distinction (1992), is the chief executive of New Zealand's largest Maori-owned fishing company, Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd, has been a director of Sealord for nine years and was chief executive of Te Ohu Kaimoana, the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission for 12 years.

His appointment was announced today by Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson. It is for a term of three years and replaces outgoing Commissioner Tina Olsen-Ratana.

"Robin is a highly capable individual who has had extensive experience in business as a senior executive and as a director and in public sector organisations, which will equip him well for this job," Mr Hodgson said.

"Robin also has a strong knowledge of tertiary education needs for Maori. His input will serve the education and training aspirations of Maori, which are important to the Government's Tertiary Education Strategy and the tertiary reforms."

Mr Hodgson also extended his thanks to Tina Olsen-Ratana for her services as Commissioner.

"Tina has made an excellent contribution to the tertiary education system as a Commissioner over the last three years."

Mr Hapi is a member of the Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the Institute of Management. He is also a member of the Food and Beverage Sector Taskforce. He lives at Foxton.

Date: 14/12/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Government Policy commentators



Dr Attilio Pigneri (left) and Professor Mike Hedley with a sample of biochar, the substance that may help mitigate climate change.

Biochar research centre key to fighting climate change

The Government has announced funding for two new professorships in biochar - a research field expected to mitigate climate change. The positions will be based at Massey University and are a first step in building a world-class centre of excellence in biochar research and use.

Biochars are very stable forms of carbon that could be produced from a range of New Zealand tree and arable crops, agricultural and urban wastes. Biochars can be incorporated in the soil as a permanent carbon stores. The complete process, from the assimilation of atmospheric carbon dioxide by tree or crop growth; pyrolysis of the biomass to produce high value biochemicals or biofuels to using the remaining charcoal as a soil amendment, is a carbon negative technology with the potential to reduce atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide.

Announcing the professorships this afternoon, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Jim Anderton said one position would be focused on biochar and its behaviour in New Zealand soils, and one on processing of biomass feedstock into biochar, known as pyrolysis. Pyrolysis is combustion in the absence of oxygen, the process used to make charcoal.

The two new professors will lead research to advance the understanding of biochar as a mitigation solution to global climate change and to enable its uptake in New Zealand - particularly by the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Professor Mike Hedley, who with Dr Attilio Pigneri led the scientists, engineers, life cycle economists and research consultants that developed the proposal, says the team is thrilled with the outcome.

"The proposal to establish a New Zealand Biochar Research Centre received enthusiastic support from the University's world-class research expertise in the disciplines of energy and bioprocess engineering, soil science, agricultural science, life-cycle analysis, management of primary production systems and climate change science," Professor Hedley says.

Two world-leading individuals will be recruited to the professorship positions early next year, he says.

"They will lead wide-ranging research and development that includes collaboration with other New Zealand and overseas universities, crown research institutes and industry including engineering, energy, agriculture, forestry, and fertiliser manufacturing and distribution companies as well as with regional government and community groups."

College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson says securing the two positions in the face of strong competition from other universities is evidence of the University's leading role in climate change mitigation and sustainability. Funding for the initiative comes from the Government's investment initiatives under the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action, and will be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

"We also welcome the opportunity to partner with MAF to make a real contribution to reducing the greenhouse gas footprint of our primary industries," Professor Anderson says.

The initiative will be organised into three closely linked streams: pyrolysis plant and biochar engineering, soil science and biochar, and biochar and greenhouse gas mitigation strategies.

The University team that developed the bid was Professors Mike Hedley and Russ Tillman from the Institute of Natural Resources, Professors Don Cleland and Clive Davies, Dr Attilio Pigneri and Peter Read of the Institute of Technology and Engineering, and Bill Dyck of Research Management Services.

Date: 17/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Critical look behind boardroom doors

There is room for improvement in the way New Zealand boards operate, says a researcher who has spent six years studying how things work behind boardroom doors.

Dr Beverley Edlin, who graduated on last month with a Doctor of Business Administration, found that only a third of New Zealand's boards are highly effective and that for the most part, boards have largely regarded assessing themselves as a satisfactory way of providing a measure of performance.

Thus far there has been little research into boardroom dynamics and processes, says Dr Edlin, who has been studying the workings of an unnamed State Owned Enterprise board for several years in order to carry out this study for her DBA.

The typical characteristics of ineffective boards, she says are being too big, not having a complementary mix of skills, having a dominant chair or chief executive officer and not having an awareness of "robust" governance processes.

Dr Edlin brings years of business experience to her study and was general manager of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

"Over the years I had seen how the personality and style of the chair of the board could have a huge influence on how boards and companies operate.

"But there are many other things I observed that gave rise to this study. I wanted to determine the critical factors that really make a board stand out once I realised there has been very little research done inside the boardroom."

Key findings include the need for the chair and the chief executive to have a complementary relationship.

"If this balance is not right you find that decisions have often been made before the issues get into the boardroom. It is vital that the chair be 'king of process' and the chief executive be 'king of information', ensuring the very best information flow into the boardroom from senior management."

She says many boards are too big and that seven members is the optimum number of people for quality discussion to occur around the table.

"The dynamics of bigger groups get in the way of establishing meaningful discussion."

She also says investor representatives on boards do not add value because they are wearing two hats and therefore have conflicting roles.

She says there is a need for directors to be better trained and to bring a mix of skills to the role.

"All too often you will find that the directors of a board have all come from within the same industry."

Dr Edlin has developed what she calls a "360 degree board assessment programme" that will allow boards to assess their strengths and weaknesses. She says it is a diagnostic tool to create conditions that enable strategically-focused boards to adopt best practice.

Date: 17/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Massey Investment Plan approved

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says she is pleased that the Tertiary Education Commission has approved the University's plan for the next three years.

Funding provided will enable Massey to undertake the key initiatives identified in the Investment Plan, such as the Kia Maia strategy, which will progress the University's commitment to Māori development and investment in technology to underpin enhanced distance delivery as part of the university's extensive extramural programme. Professor Kinnear noted, however, that it is disappointing that the University did not receive the full funding requested.

Massey will receive total Government funding of \$167.03 million for next year, a 4.6 per cent increase on its 2007 allocation and the third highest allocation to a tertiary institution.

Investment plans are part of the new funding method for the tertiary sector under which each institution must say how it will meet the education and training needs of students, employers, iwi, and community groups, as well as support New Zealand's development priorities.

Universities have to show how their education and training complement what other organisations are offering, both locally and as part of the national network of tertiary education organisations. In addition, each must show how it plans to continuously improve the quality of its teaching and learning.

For further information, visit the TEC website: <http://www.tec.govt.nz/>

Date: 18/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: University Council

Photos from the Christmas garden party at Wharerata

Staff, former staff, student representatives and invited guests enjoyed the sunshine and the music on the lawns of Wharerata at the annual Christmas party hosted by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington last Friday.



1: Emeritus Professor Mary Earle (left), Honor Fielden and Dr Jim Lewis.



2: Emeritus Professor Ken Milne and Steve Parsons from House of Travel.



3: Emeritus Professor John Flenley



4: Former University Council member Bev Williams and Dale Parkes



5: Palmerston North Mayor Jono Naylor, Professor Ian Warrington, Dr Christine Cheyne.



6: Rangitikei District Council chief executive Clare Hadley, Professor Warrington and Ken Hadley.



7: Karen Heaphy from Lancewood Events (centre) and Palmerston North City Councillor Anne Podd.



8: Dr David Shillington from Ucol and Richard Forgie from Vision Manawatu.



9: University Registrar Stuart Morriss.



10: Horizons Regional Councillor Vern Chettleburgh (in hat).



11: Noreen Williams, Manvir Edwards and Dale Parkes.



12: Mark Rainier (left), Barbara Rainier, Matt Birch and Paul Falloon.



13: Alan Horsfall's swing band.



14: Tim Mordaunt from Property Brokers and Rangitikei MP Simon Power.



15: Shirley Crothers (standing) and Professor Warrington.



16: Emeritus Professors Ken Milne, Des Fielden and Graeme Fraser.

Date: 19/12/2007

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

Rents rise 7.4 per cent in past year

Median residential rent levels across the country have risen by 10 dollars per week over the last quarter to \$290 a week, according to the latest report from the Massey University Real Estate Analysis Unit. The report is based on data from the private rental sector supplied by the Department of Building and Housing's bond centre.

The national median rental level was up by 7.4 per cent compared with November 2006 and on a quarterly basis the median rental level stayed ahead of inflation, increasing by 3.5 per cent from August 2007.

The largest annual increases were 13.6 per cent in Hastings, 11.5 per cent in Christchurch, 10.2 per cent in Whangarei and 10 per cent in Rotorua. Increases in Auckland were more modest and in the range of 3 to 6 per cent.

On a quarterly basis the largest increases were 11.5 per cent in Lower Hutt, 8.7 per cent in both Dunedin and Palmerston North and 8 per cent in Whangarei. In the Auckland region rents were generally static with the exception of the inner city region where there was a 2.9 per cent increase.

Increases in rents over the last quarter are likely to be partly the result of demand pressure from net migration and potential first home buyers who are remaining in the rental market for longer than expected, says Professor of Property Studies, Bob Hargreaves.

"On an annual cash flow basis - excluding capital gains - renting is now typically less than half the cost of owning," says Professor Hargreaves. "This means when house prices are static or falling there is much less pressure on renters to buy," he says.

The rent levels were surveyed in: Whangarei, North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland, Manukau, Papakura, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Gisborne, Hastings, Napier, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Kapiti, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill.

http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/fileadmin/research_outputs/NZResRentDEC07.pdf

Date: 20/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Barbara Staniforth

Better services needed for families living with mental illness

New Zealand is lagging behind growing international recognition of the potential impact on children of living with parents who have a mental illness, says social work researcher Barbara Staniforth.

Despite recent attempts to address the needs of children growing up in families where a parent has a mental illness, there is so far no system in place that coordinates mental health services and Child, Youth and Family services, says Ms Staniforth from the School of Social and Cultural Studies.

This is despite recent CYF research showing up to a third of the service's referrals are children who have a parent with a mental illness.

Ms Staniforth, who is based at Massey's Auckland campus, has been evaluating a Home and Family Society pilot project funded CYF that provides weekly counselling and support for a year for families where a parent is using mental health services.

She is currently considering recommendations based on her findings to date, and says her observations show that there needs to be a coordinated response from all agencies involved with the families .

According to research by Australia's Royal College of Psychiatrists, taking action early in a child's life is important. Failure to do so carries risks of children becoming withdrawn, anxious, having difficulty concentrating on school work, feeling ashamed of their parent's illness and worrying about becoming ill themselves. Another Australian study, by the Department of Human Services in Victoria, found that children of parents with a mental illness can have much higher rates of emotional and behavioural problems, with 25 to 50 per cent likely to experience some psychological disorder compared with 10 to 20 per cent of the general population.

Ms Staniforth says that children of parents with a mental illness face similar risks to those in any stressful or potentially difficult family situations, such as poverty, social isolation, and being taken from their parents' custody. A further concern can sometimes be children taking care of their parents rather than parents taking care of them .

She says New Zealand is at least five years behind the Britain and Australia in developing integrated strategies, services and support in areas such as peer support, school holiday programmes and camps for the children.

Education and support are needed here, such as explaining to children the nature of their parent's illness and drawing up a crisis plan which helps children feel more secure.

It's a bit like the argument with pregnancy where people think that if they don't talk about sex then kids aren't going to get pregnant. I think there's been a reluctance to talk to kids about mental illnesses because professionals and parents may think it will upset the child to talk about it.

Children need age-appropriate information so that they understand what's going on, she suggests.

CYF doesn't have a great understanding of mental health, and mental health agencies don't have a very good understanding of child protection. So the interface between CYF and mental health is really tricky in this area.

CYFS and mental health services are both stretched to capacity. Workers in these agencies are doing their best, but this is a specialist area, and both services need properly trained staff and better liaison.

Improvements should begin with each mental health centre and CYF office having a specially-trained person available for consultations, as well as more respite and support funding available so that children can continue to be successfully parented within their families, says Ms Staniforth.

The Ministry of Health's Like Minds national campaign will be highlighting parents with mental illness as a group for their anti-stigma campaign this year.

What's happening is that we are hopefully developing a more holistic view of the family and not having people fall through the gaps.

Date: 20/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Government Policy commentators

Joys of letter-writing alive and well

Handwritten letters might seem a quaintly old-fashioned method of communicating in the era of emails, text messaging and video conferencing.

But Massey design student Anne Hsu says there is no better time than Christmas to pause from pounding out yet another ephemeral email and instead calmly pen a few handwritten cards and messages.

Ms Hsu's love affair with epistolary inspired her final-year project - a stunning coffee table design book dedicated to the history, art and practice of writing letters.

A letter-writer of the old school variety since she was a youngster, the 21-year-old Taiwan-born Albany resident is frequently the envy of her flatmate when she returns from the letterbox with handwritten letters instead of just bills and other computer-generated correspondence like most of us.

"I explain to my flatmate it's because I write letters to people myself, and they write back," says Anne, who has just completed a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communications Design.

She hopes more young people will look beyond the often slap-dash email approach to communicating with distant loved ones and instead to pick up a biro, fine felt tip or even a cartridge pen.

People tend to keep handwritten letters and over time they become precious mementos full of experiences, thoughts and details that are less likely to be expressed, let alone saved in abbreviated emails, she says.

"A handwritten letter is tactile. You get a sense of the mood of the person and how they are thinking. It's more expressive than email."

Proof of a handwritten letter's longevity in her own life was when she replied to a friend she had last received a letter from 11 years ago. Fortunately, her friend was still at the same address, and they have resumed contact.

To further strengthen her case regarding the charm and enduring power of the handwritten missive, her book *Encrypted Letter Writing* evokes historic, dramatic letter-writing legends. She retells tales involving the use of crypted, or coded, letters to pass on poignant or politically sensitive messages - a reminder that letter-writing was once an exciting form of communication at the forefront of human exchange and military machinations.

Ancient Greek thinker Herodotus wrote in *Histories* of how exiled Greek Demaratus's secret writing on a wax-covered tablet saved Greece from being conquered by Persia in the 5th century BC, while Julius Caesar used encrypted messages to execute military strategies. In the 16th century, an imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots received coded treasonous letters via a beer barrel from an English Catholic priest acting as a double agent.

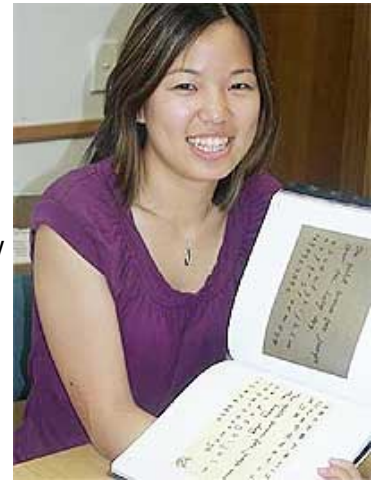
Part of her project was to encourage handwriting, so she recruited 50 people aged between six and 60 to demonstrate their skills, which she then published in her book. The samples reveal an immense variety of styles, although many felt their writing was merely scribble and scrawl.

Neatness is not the point though, she says. Getting a real letter from someone is simply a thrill.

Date: 21/12/2007

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts





Sylvia Rumball, Judith Carter and Richard Earle

University staff named in New Year's Honours

Professor of Research Ethics and Massey University Council member Sylvia Rumball has been named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2008 New Year's Honours, while three former staff members have also been honoured.

Professor Rumball is Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor (Ethics and Equity) and chairs the University's human ethics committee. Professor Rumball is also chair of the Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology, a member of the Ethics Advisory panel of the New Zealand Environmental Risk Management Authority and a member of the New Zealand National Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Professor Rumball, who is based at the Palmerston North campus, was also a member of the Health research Council Ethics Committee and has chaired the National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human reproduction. She was named an Officer of the New Zealand order of merit in 1998, and elevated to Companion this year for services to science.

Former director of teacher education at the University's College of Education Judith Carter was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for service to education and economics. Ms Carter is a former principal of Palmerston North Girls' High School and has served on the board of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and on the executive of the Secondary Principals Association of New Zealand, as well as many other public appointments.

Former Auckland campus staff member Professor Marilyn Waring, who held a personal chair in public policy, was also named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to women and economics.

Emeritus Professor Richard Earle is named as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to engineering. Professor Earle is recognised as a pioneer in applying process engineering principles to biologically-based industries, and was appointed the world's first Professor of Biotechnology in 1965.

Date: 31/12/2007

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any
