



Massey News

Auckland • Palmerston North • Wellington • Extramural

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Research, Science and Technology Minister Steve Maharey with Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

DNA sequencer first for Southern Hemisphere

A next-generation DNA sequencer now installed at Palmerston North will enable scientists to analyse DNA 100 times faster than previously. The Solexa Genome Analyser system was launched recently at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution.

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 and can 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 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.

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Maharey next Vice-Chancellor

The Massey University Council last week announced the appointment of 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



Steve Maharey.

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.

Draft Investment Plan update

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the University's Draft Investment Plan, the first Profile to be negotiated under the tertiary education reforms was submitted to the University Council for final amendments and approval at the October Council meeting.

Prior to this a revised document, incorporating feedback from the previous consultation round with staff and students associations, had been distributed to Academic Board and senior management for their final comments, which were incorporated into the document given to Council.

The final version of the Investment Plan/Profile was submitted to the Tertiary Education Commission

last week. Included in the plan are a number of strategic initiatives for the University, many directly aligned with the Government's priorities and goals for the tertiary sector.

Some are expected to be funded from existing baseline funding; others, if Government chooses to invest in them, will allow us to respond to their stated priorities more effectively or enable us to achieve our goals in a more timely manner, Professor Kinnear says.

While baseline funding is agreed based on last year's EFTs, our ability to advance our strategies to a certain extent will depend on our success in gaining a significant share of the contestable sector funds.

Web Enrol on its way

A new Online Enrolment system to replace WebEnrol will be live from 7 November. The new system will be user-friendly, robust and more aligned with the University's web standards.

This version of Online Enrolment is an interim solution, as we work towards creating a new system that also provides students with online programme planning for enrolments in 2009, says project manager Carol Kelly.

Prior to 7 November, a student must have submitted their enrolment in WebEnrol before the new Online Enrolment system will be able

to use their information. Any students who have saved enrolment information in WebEnrol but not submitted their enrolment will be contacted before 7 November to encourage them to complete their enrolment.

Any that remain unsubmitted in WebEnrol will be copied across to new system on 7 November.

Students who have not entered any information into WebEnrol will not be affected. Any questions regarding the project can be made to c.kelly@massey.ac.nz

Study challenges Māori achievement programme

A Massey University study is challenging the effectiveness of a flagship Government programme designed to lift Māori educational achievement in secondary schools.

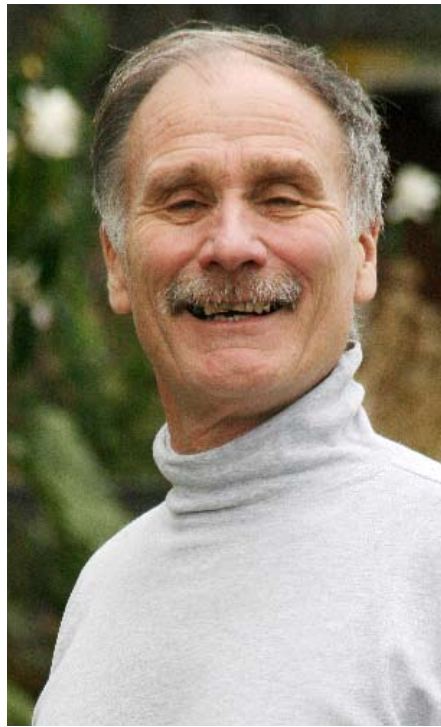
Te Kōtahitanga is a multi-million dollar professional development programme for teachers, credited with achieving a significant improvement in Māori students' performance, but the Massey review, commissioned by the Post-Primary Teachers' Association questions the validity of the programme's claims.

Professor Roger Openshaw, from the School of Education Studies in the College of Education, says Te Kōtahitanga 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 Kōtahitanga is based on the proposition that teacher effects are central to Māori educational underachievement, and also substantially contribute to Māori 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 Kōtahitanga 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. Their responses indicated a considerable degree of coercion for them



Professor Roger Openshaw.

to participate in the programme, he says, and 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 Kōtahitanga 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 Kōtahitanga, 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 the 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 Kōtahitanga – 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 Kōtahitanga's remedy is deceptively simple – by changing teachers' attitudes to Māori students and their culture they will come to use the power of their own agency to see "wonderful changes in Māori 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 Māori students and improved achievement of their Māori or non-Māori students.

Massey free bus finalist in national energy 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.

Massey commits to engineering in Wellington

Massey University is committed to offering its accredited engineering programme at the Wellington campus.

College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson says Massey is looking to establish an advanced engineering academy through the campus.

"There has been an absence of an advanced engineering presence in Wellington and we believe industry and the people of the region are ready for such an initiative," Professor Anderson says.

"The Bachelor of Engineering was recently reviewed as part of an initiative aimed at establishing a University-wide School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.

"Our aim is to more effectively position Massey as one of the top three engineering universities in New Zealand.

"As part of that overall goal we are assessing our offerings to ensure they are aligned with that objective. In response to and consistent with TEC [the Tertiary Education Commission] and government priorities, the University is clearly differentiating its programmes from other providers.

Playwright award for English lecturer

Senior lecturer Dr Angie Farrow has won the American Pen is a Mighty Sword playwrighting competition with her work *Despatch*, and is set to travel to North Carolina in May to see a full professional production staged by the Virtual Theatre Project.

Kim Terrell, artistic director of the Virtual theatre project says that Dr Farrow's multimedia work was shortlisted with 20 other plays from a total of 167 submitted.

"That number was reduced down to 10 plays at which point we did table readings of the top 10 plays," Ms Terrell says.

Royal Society award for research

Professor Peter Derrick, Head of the Institute Fundamental Sciences, has been awarded the Thermo Fisher Scientific Award by the Royal Society of Chemistry for his research on both fundamental and applied aspects of mass spectrometry, including applications in biochemistry and medicine. Professor Derrick joined Massey earlier this year from the University of Warwick.

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.

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.

"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 inconsolable gap that exists between these two positions – which emerged around the taser debate and that surfaces each time the police shoot an armed assailant – creates 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 Māori 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."



From left: Richard Taylor, Rebecca Taylor and Len Lye.

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.

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 blacktie 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.

More boats to place Northland dolphins at risk

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 College of Sciences.

Karen Stockin, a research officer with the 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, formerly of the Institute of Natural Resources, says there is now a "widespread" view among 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."



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.



Winnie Ye.

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.



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".

Film expert to Georgetown as Fulbright lecturer

American university students will learn about New Zealand through films like *Whale Rider* and *In My Father's Den* when 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 last year. Only two academics are selected from throughout Australia and New Zealand each year for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme.

In his course tentatively titled "Understanding New Zealand through film and literature", he will share slices of New Zealand life via cinema and books with Year Two students. He plans to include Māori 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 spokesman 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 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 Māori star Keisha Castle-Hughes was identified as Aborigine.

"Everyone who teaches there has to be a kind of explainer of New Zealand, an ambassador of all things New Zealand, 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, politicians and bureaucrats.

Politics will definitely be on everyone's



Dr Brian McDonnell.

minds during his posting, which coincides with the US elections.

"I think it's going to be the most interesting election since 1968, since Nixon got elected," he says.

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



Dr James Hudson.

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.

Students' cycling campaign praised as award finalist

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.

Prize winners will be announced at a cycling conference in Napier on 1 November. Minister of Transport Annette King will present the awards.

Massey News Online

If you want to read the latest in news from Massey University, complete with colour pictures and video clips, or if you want to sign up for one of an expanding range of e-mail newsletters, visit us online:

<http://news.massey.ac.nz>

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.

Rural property prices set to rise

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 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.



Professor Steve Morris.



Samuel Werder.

Great mate named Agriculture Student of the Year

The student described as simply “a bloody good guy” by his fellow students has been named as Massey University’s Agriculture & 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. Sammy is to join BNZ agribusiness graduate programme as a rural manager.

Recipients of the 2007 Massey Agriculture & 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 BAppSc 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 by Pro Vice-Chancellor for the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson in 1992, with the agriculture student of the year award acknowledging those who go the extra mile for their fellow students.

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 lambed 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.”

University's top athletes awarded sporting Blues

Champion rower Storm Uru and rally sport co-driver Sara Randall were named the Palmerston North campus sportsman and sportswoman of the year recently at the second of the Massey Sport Blues awards.

A night earlier, 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, 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, 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



Palmerston North sportspersons of the year, rally sport co-driver Sara Randall and champion rower Storm Uru.

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.



Auckland sportsman of the year, yachtsman Matt Coutts.

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 recently, 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*.

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.

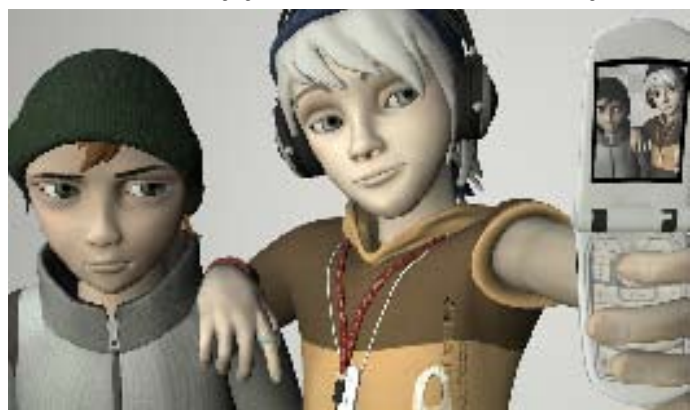
In the furniture design category for professionals, industrial design graduate Philip Cuttance was a bronze winner for his fantasy chair. He manages the design workshop at the Auckland campus.

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.



Industrial design graduate Ben Thomsen with his award-winning skateboard.



Caroline Ting won a gold award for her animation, titled *Computer Dependency*.



The successful Long Bay College applicants for Massey University High Achiever Scholarships, from left: Lynda Low, Frances Ferguson, Jessamy Amm, Merade Pryme, Stacey Cosnett, Kelly Whisker, Alyssa Wells, Rebecca Scott and Lianna Murray.

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.

Optimisation of Services' Delivery project update

The final Terms of Reference for the Review of the Provision of Financial Services is to be presented to the Project Steering Committee this week. Subject to approval, interviews with staff involved in finance areas across the University will commence immediately after.

A work plan will accompany the final Terms of Reference, indicating a schedule of proposed meetings between project staff and those staff involved in finance roles.

A draft Terms of Reference for the Review of Student Administration, as result of the workshop held on 15 October, has been released for comment and input by staff. Submissions are required by 2 November. A copy of the draft Terms of Reference will be put up on the website.

Information about the project and progress along the various work streams continues to be posted to the project website <http://ourfuture.massey.ac.nz>

Formal and information feedback into any aspect of the project is welcome via this site.

In the news

3 October

The Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard, The New Zealand Herald, Waikato Times, Newstalk ZB, New Zealand Education Review, www.stuff.co.nz, Dannevirke Evening News: Dr **Martin Brook**, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, says the recent eruption at Mt Ruapehu will lead to a better ski season next year, as debris spread from the eruption will prevent the snow from melting as soon as it normally would.

4 October

CBS News USA: Professor **Janet Hoek** and Professor **Phillip Gendall**, from the Department of Marketing, discuss the importance of question wording in survey research, as part of an international study, suggesting changing just one word in a question can change the whole meaning.

5 October

Timaru Herald, Taranaki Daily Times: **Alan Samson**, from the Department of Communication and Journalism, says the decision by a New Zealand tabloid newspaper to name the police officer involved in the fatal shooting of a man, was not illegal but carried with it strong ethical issues.

6 October

The Dominion Post, Waikato Times, Manawatu Standard, Hawke's Bay Today, www.stuff.co.nz:

Massey People

Professor **Mike Hendy**, Coordinator of the Allan Wilson Centre, says a new Solexa Genome Analyser System recently launched within the Centre, will allow scientists to analyse DNA samples 100 times faster, contributing significantly to all genomic research in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Herald, The Dominion Post, RLI, RNZ, The Daily Post, www.stuff.co.nz: Dr **Christine Cheyne**, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, says the decrease in the numbers of those voting in local body elections is a reflection of the feeling that their votes don't count and that campaigns are not reaching the right people.

The Dominion Post: **Kingsley Baird**, from the School of Visual and Material Culture, discusses his sculpture *Diary Dagboek* created as a memorial to those who died in the Battle of Passchendaele. The sculpture is to be placed at the Cloth Hall in Ypres, Belgium.

Manawatu Standard, RNZ, RLI, Otago Daily Times, West Coast Times, Bay of Plenty Times: Dr **Glyn Harper**, from the Centre for Defence Studies, discusses the release of his new book *Dark Journey*, which explores the Battle of Passchendaele and the role New Zealand soldiers played within it. The release of the book coincides with the anniversary of the battle.

8 October

The New Zealand Herald, RNZ, RLI, The Bay Report, Northern Advocate: **Karen Stockin**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, has conducted research since 2002 that has revealed an increase in tourism dolphin watching could have a negative effect on the common dolphin population and could disturb the mammals to a point where significant behaviour alteration could occur.

Manawatu Standard: Dr **Mark Stevens**, from the Allan Wilson Centre, says creatures such as worms, mites and insects have the ability to survive in an environment such as Antarctica, challenging previous beliefs that such animals and plant life could not survive or evolve.

9 October

Manawatu Standard, www.stuff.co.nz: Professor **Colin Holmes**, from the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, believes New Zealand is an efficient milk producer, as most dairy farms continue to be based on grazed pastures which have the lowest costs when compared with other systems.

RNZ, Newstalk ZB: Dr **Claire Robinson**, from the Institute of Communication Design, says the defeat of the All Blacks in the World Cup will not have a long term effect on their brand and the status of those who sponsor it.

10 October

Manawatu Standard RNZ, Gisborne Herald, The New Zealand Herald: Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, from the Department of Finance, Banking and Property, says rural land will see a large increase in sale prices over the next three months.

12 October

The Dominion Post, Hawke's Bay Today, Nelson Mail: Vice Chancellor Professor **Judith Kinnear** says the recently opened New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study will create and provide an environment where scientists can pursue fundamental scholarships, with the focus being on quality not quantity.

13 October

The Dominion Post, The Press, Taranaki Daily News, Timaru Herald: Professor **Bob Hargreaves** says home affordability is less than ever before, and those without a double income will struggle as research shows 40 per cent of New Zealanders' income is directed towards home or mortgage repayments.

TV3 News: **Bindi Thomas**, PhD student, discusses how satellite technology has dramatically revolutionised the study of wildlife.

16 October

The New Zealand Herald, RNZ, Newstalk ZB, www.scoop.co.nz: Professor **Roger Openshaw**, from the School of Educational Studies, reveals research that suggests 49 per cent of teachers felt bullied into taking part in the Te Kōtahitanga programme, which was aimed at boosting Māori achievement.

Marketing Magazine: Dr **David Tripe**, from the Centre for Banking Studies, says the use of online banking is increasing as consumers believe an online service is more likely to provide customer satisfaction than dealing with a bank face to face.

Research Funding News

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/fops/fo.cfm>

Contact Information:

For advice and assistance regarding funding applications, please contact your College Research Development Adviser:

College of Business

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

College of Creative Arts

Dr Victoria Bradley, v.j.bradley@massey.ac.nz
ext 81327 or 027 538 5338

College of Sciences

College of Education

Dr Kate Arentsen, k.arentsen@massey.ac.nz
ext 81326 or 027 544 7354

Auckland Advisor

Jo Stone, j.d.stone@massey.ac.nz
ext 9533 or 027 233 6333

Health Research Council – 2007 Round

Eustie Kamath, e.kamath@massey.ac.nz
ext 81344 or 021 387 843

For assistance in accessing funding opportunities or to receive Funding Opportunities Database training, please contact:

Research Funding Co-ordinator

Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz
ext. 81341

Funding Opportunities:

Eudistoma Research

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Amount: Tender
Closes: 25 October

Evaluation of He Purapura, Nga Kete Korero and He Kohikohinga Reading Series Project

Ministry of Education
Amount: Tender
Closes: 25 October

Research into potential treatable Didymo infected rivers of the North Island with GEMEX and Impact assessment of GEMEX on non-target species

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Amount: Tender
Closes: 26 October

BMW Musica Viva Composition Prize

Bayerischer Rundfunk
Amount: Up to €10,000
Closes: 1 November

Evaluation of a Mental Health Literacy Programme

Ministry of Health
Amount: Tender
Closes: 1 November

Māori Seeding Grants , Māori Grants in Aid, Māori Health Research Awards

Health Research Council
Amount: Varies
Closes: 9 November

Research Grants & Scholarships

Cancer Society of New Zealand
Amount: Grants – up to \$600,000; Scholarships – up to \$25,000
Closes: 9 November

Round 2: Bilateral Research Activities Programme – ISAT Linkages Fund

Royal Society of New Zealand

Amount: Unspecified
Closes: 13 November

Role of the Accountant in Organisational Decision-Making Processes

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
Amount: £4,000 – 40,000
Closes: 30 November

Exhibitions Abroad Support Program

Japan Foundation
Amount: Up to ¥1,000,000
Closes: 3 December

Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship

University of Illinois
Amount: Up to \$20,000 USD
Closes: 3 December

Reading/Literacy Research Fellowship

International Reading Association
Amount: Up to \$5,000 USD
Closes: 15 January

Sepmeyer Research Grant Program

International Education Research Foundation
Amount: Up to \$5,000 USD
Closes: 1 February

Research Grants

Jacobs Foundation

Amount: Up to CHF 300,000
Continuous
Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database

The funding opportunities listed in this Newsletter are only a small extract of available funding for New Zealand researchers. For the largest, most comprehensive database of available funding in all disciplines visit the Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database: www.cos.com/nz
To organise training sessions contact Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz or ext. 81341.

Ako Aotearoa – New Zealand’s Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence

Ako Aotearoa aims to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for learners in the tertiary sector by improving the quality of teaching and learning

Funding, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per project, for research or activity projects that align with Ako Aotearoa’s vision and priorities is now available. Individuals or groups may apply for funding and cross organisational collaborations are encouraged.

Ako Aotearoa’s Project Priorities for 2007 are:

- (a) Retention
- (b) Employability
- (c) Experiences in the first year of tertiary study
- (d) Contribute to Mātauranga Māori and meeting the needs of Māori learners.

Projects should focus on creating and supporting the best possible educational outcomes for learners in the tertiary sector.

Projects should provide examples of good practice, identify the critical success factors and develop practical action-oriented suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness of tertiary teaching and learning practices, or may be action-oriented activities to provide staff development, share experiences or explore existing practice.

For further information, please contact Jo Stone, j.d.stone@massey.ac.nz, on ext. 9355 or 027 233 6333.

Budget Worksheet

Research Management Services have developed a spreadsheet which calculates budgets for research projects.

Salary costs are calculated as a proportion of the total FTE. In addition, it calculates overheads as 117% of salary costs, ACC levies and can account for University Superannuation. Included on the worksheet are direct costs. Download the Budget Worksheet at http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Research_Management_Services/Project%20Mgmt/Massey%20cost%20model.xls

Health Research Council Key Dates Reminder

These dates are relevant for those academics that have previously registered.





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Massey University

8 October 2007

Applicants submit a draft proposal to their College RDA for review. The RDA can then provide you with:

The appropriate and knowledgeable translation of the external funding agency guidelines and assessment criteria through the positive deconstruction of the funding application.

Appropriate advice on budget requirements.

Positive feedback through comments and suggestions that enables the application to be improved if necessary.

By 15 October 2007

Applicants collate their Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), FTE information and partner budget costs and send to their College RDA for processing

15 – 19 October 2007

Applicants submit their Budgets to their College RDA for approval

By 19 October 2007

The RDA team checks all proposals and informs applicants of any corrections needed by:

Checking the format of the application according to the guidelines.

Performing a word count, spelling and grammar check.

25 October 2007

Hard Copies of Applications and MoUs due with the College RDA for submission to HRC. A University signature is obtained for the declaration page and the RDA team will PHOTOCOPY the application the required number of times and submit to the HRC

26 October 2007

Applicants wishing to withdraw must do so online

26 October 2007

Applicants upload all required documents onto the HRC portal and submits online proposal to RMS for validation

1 November 2007

Hard copy and electronic versions of the proposals are due at HRC

Events

<http://events.massey.ac.nz>

PN – Friday 26 October to Saturday 27 October

9.00am to 5.00am

Postgraduate Research Symposium - Making A Difference In Education -

Professor Lyn Yates

Postgraduate students from any discipline are invited to attend this symposium to share their progress and meet with fellow researchers. The Symposium will also include a series of focused research workshops and forums from recent graduates and staff.

Keynote speaker Professor Lyn Yates, Assistant Pro Vice-Chancellor Research at Melbourne University of Education will present "Researchers and the Issue of Impact".

Venue: Hokowhitu Campus

Contact Details: Associate Professor Glenda Anthony

Ph: 06 350 5799

WN – Tuesday 30 October

9.00am to 5.00pm

Symposium on Insulin Resistance, Diabetes and Vulnerable Populations

One day International Research Symposium, including keynote speakers Professor Gerry Reaven (Stanford), Professor Kerin O'Dea (Melbourne) and A/Professor Peter Snell (Texas). Also New Zealand senior researchers Professor Rod Jackson (School of Population Health, Auckland), Dr Kirsten Coppell (Edgar National Centre for Diabetes Research, Otago), Professor Norman Sharpe (National Heart Foundation), Dr Steve Stannard (Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health) and Professor Chris Cunningham (Research Centre for Maori Health & Development).

The symposium will present the state of our current knowledge and discuss the direction for research in the New Zealand setting - particularly for Maori

Health, Public Health and Exercise Research.

A particular focus will be on the clustering of physiological markers and risks, and the contributions of exercise/physical activity and nutrition to prevention and treatment options.

The symposium is being offered at the nominal cost of \$70 per participant (to cover catering and venue) and is limited to 250 people.

Venue: Museum Theatre

Contact: Dr Steve Stannard

Ph: extn 7465

PN – Wednesday 31 October

1.00pm to 2.00pm

School for the Environment - Associate Prof. Janet Davies

Sustainability In Practice: Challenges & Opportunities For Tertiary Institutions

Venue: Ecology building EB(B)

Contact: Prof. Vince Neall

Ph: extn 2203

WN – Thursday 1 November

3.00pm to 4.00pm

The Department of Communication and Journalism Postgraduate Research Seminar Series 2007

Thomas Owen

NGO versus corporate PR: the battle for meaning in the Access to Medicines Movement
Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Other Seminar sessions held on Aug 16th & 23rd, Sept 6th & 20th, Oct 4th & 18th.

<http://communication.massey.ac.nz>

Venue: Room 6C01 (Block 6, Level C) Massey University, Wallace St.

Contact: Nicky McInnes

Ph: 04 801 5799 x 62280

WN – Friday 2 November to Sunday 18 November

9.00am to 6.00pm

Blow 07 Creative Arts Festival - Nga hau e wha

The inaugural Creative Arts Festival 'Blow07' - Fresh Creative Perspectives - brings together the vast talents of staff, graduates and visiting experts to showcase their work over a two week period.

Whareerata

venue • cuisine • events



Local entertainment, reservations advised. Contact Helen Poole 350 5088

This will include public lectures, performances, exhibitions, fashion shows, screenings and much more. The College of Creative Arts will also be introducing a Hall of Fame at a black tie event, where invited alumni of the college will be celebrated for their contributions to the New Zealand and International design world. More details online at our website above.

<http://blow.massey.ac.nz>

Venue: Various around the campuses as well as the Paramount theatre for screenings. More details can be found on the website.

Contact: Jeannette Troon, marketing co ordinator

Ph: 04 801 5799 x 6702

If you wish to register an event please use the online events submission form at <http://events.massey.ac.nz>. For other event enquiries please contact a campus events coordinator or email events-admin@massey.ac.nz.

Scholarships and Bursaries

<http://awards.massey.ac.nz>

A Snap-Shot of Scholarships Closing November 2007: full information about these scholarships and all others scholarships can be found on <http://awards.massey.ac.nz/>

Undergraduate

Inspiring New Zealanders Scholarships - Olympic Sports – closing 9 November 2007

Wanganui District Council Planning Scholarship – closing 15 November 2007

David Holborow Memorial Scholarships (Asia:NZ) – closing 16 November 2007

Ngarimu VC & 28th (Maori) Battalion Memorial Scholarships – closing 16 November 2007

Postgraduate

Inspiring New Zealanders Scholarships - Olympic Sports – closing 9 November 2007

Livestock Improvement Patrick Shannon Scholarship – closing 14 November 2007

Ngarimu VC & 28th (Maori) Battalion Memorial Scholarships – closing 16 November 2007

JADE Student Scholarship – closing 30 November 2007

McKenzie Music Therapy Scholarship – closing 30 November 2007

Wool Research Organisation of NZ Inc & NZ Wool Industry Charitable Trust Post-graduate Scholarships – closing 30 November 2007

Pipfruit NZ Research Fellowship – closing 30 November 2007

NOTICEBOARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURE BLOCK FOYER, TURITEA SITE AND IN EACH ACADEMIC UNIT

General Notices

editor@massey.ac.nz

Academic Dress Hire, November Graduation

The closing date for student orders has passed, but late applications are still being considered subject to stock availability.

A comprehensive website is available for all information on Academic Dress Hire: www.masseygowns.org.nz

Staff wishing to hire robes for the ceremony at Palmerston North should go to www.masseygowns.org.nz/hirestaff.html to complete an application form.

Staff orders are due by Thursday 1 November. The gown room is unable to accept bookings in the 2 weeks prior to graduation.

Massey News Online

If you want to read the latest in news from Massey University, complete with colour pictures and video clips, or if you want to sign up for one of an expanding range of e-mail newsletters, visit us online.

@Massey National

A fortnightly newsletter with the latest in news and research from the University's three campuses in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North.

@Massey Manawatu

A fortnightly newsletter providing news of interest to the Manawatu community, including cover of events and activities at the Palmerston North campus, as well as wider University news.

@Massey Business

A quarterly newsletter providing a snapshot of business news of value to the business community, from across the University.

@Massey Arts

A quarterly newsletter providing news of events and activities in design, fine arts and music, of particular interest to the Wellington arts community.

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Advertising: All classified advertisements, including accommodation, are now available online at <http://ads.massey.ac.nz>. For paid advertisement enquiries, contact the editor.

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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.

So far the equipment is working perfectly, Ms Thomas says, and the birds progress can be viewed at her website: <http://animaltracking.googlepages.com/northernroyalalbatross>

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.

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.



Bindi Thomas.

