

Massey News Articles for 2008

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New book traces history of welfare in New Zealand
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Boys need regular doses of action to keep mind on study
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From the Acting Vice-Chancellor
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Study unlocks the health benefits of a cuppa
Fish net deaths highlight threat to common dolphin
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Five-year study will support troubled youth
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Mother and daughter maths duo to graduate together
Jazz thesis tells story of little man with huge musical talent
Seeing the benefits of workplace humour
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Micro brewery's Pilot Pils a good Kiwi drop
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First New Zealand recipient of Dairy Science Award
Weightlifting raised as answer to diabetes epidemic among Pacific Islanders
New exhibition showcases Bevan Ford's work

Taewa harvest underway
Growth in China's meat and dairy consumption may provide trade opportunity
Honorary doctorate for champion of consumers
Search for belonging not always easy for South African migrants
Knowledge hub will help industry learn
Hands on education show
String Quartet kicks off concert series
Massey links high schools with high-tech career pathways
New Doctorates at Auckland
How to make the principal-whanau connection
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PhD in property for real estate business woman
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Auckland campus graduation week underway despite elements
Better public-private balance needed in tertiary funding, says consumer advocate
From the lunch room to the classroom
Success celebrated in big capping week for Auckland campus
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Massey defining presentations now on video
Community service goes hand-in-hand with study of Samoan society
Wellington city landscape inspires 'brooding' textile design
Tasman Glacier retreat extreme
Maori scholar at cutting edge of gene research
Helping hands
Pedersen takes podium spot in street race
Science graduate a finalist in national beauty pageant
Beijing partnership for e-centre
Bookshelf - In Print April 2008
The world in a window
Making babies
Leader of the pick
Defence expert
Taking it to the bank
The price of milk
The big man
Timber workers study links cancer, respiratory disease to occupational PCP exposure
New artist in residence hopes for prolific term
Auckland's potential 'world class'
Sheep a major source of leptospirosis infection
Lange's 'hold your breath' line theme of speech-writing competition
Working makes for a happier retirement
New Zealanders mostly active, happy and healthy
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Why criminals cannot say 'no'
Alumni Newsletter: Issue 6, 9 May 2008
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Graduation week kicks off under blue skies in Palmerston North
Massey website NetGuide finalist
'Gumboot' farmer honoured with Massey Medal
Today's graduates will shape the future 'knowledge society'
Celebrating Maori achievement at Massey
Young journalism graduates feature in 2008 Qantas awards

Top international playwright found close to home
Disease resistant sheep the focus of PhD thesis
Toyota wins Business Community Award
PR practical makes the cut for charity
Graduation a family affair
Artists and educators called upon to guide community.
Women want bargains but men prefer brand names
Arts graduates urged to continue asking questions
Right to civil union paramount, despite slow uptake
Maori in the driver's seat of their own future
Fog-bound vet takes road trip for graduation
Double celebration for Tauranga family
Freemasons scholarship winner offers gift in return
Writers Read series launches in Wellington
Automation researcher nets technology funding
Early involvement the key to effective local government consultation
Food-methane relationship study gets backing from scholarship
Kakariki spread wings on new island home
University to share distance education expertise
Chinese students rally to help quake victims
Study to find out how to beat the blues
Call for controlled crossing after student hit by truck outside Wellington campus
Sign language interpreters allow parents to enjoy graduation ceremony
Singapore campus a coup for Massey
Creative campus celebrates Maori student success
Massey's Pasifika Director says report fails to recognise wider contribution of Pacific people
Apology to Vietnam veterans a step in the right direction
Media secrets revealed to Communications students
'Never too late' to start education
Father-son jazz duo entertain at own graduation
Students score sporting scholarships
A family's dreams taking shape
Massey PhD student wins building research award
Son crosses stage to collect late mother's scroll
Top business students named in 'Dean's List'
Graduation celebration for honorary doctorates
Queen's Birthday Honours recognise services to agriculture, disability and biotechnology
Former student convicted, fined for using fake Massey degree to get job
Marine leeches provide clues on climate change
The hidden impact of concussion
Researcher on planet discovery team
Energy efficiency spokesperson's call to action
Promising results in Europe for shooter
Italy trip likely for duathlete
Engineering an art form
Leap a lucky kiwi
Women sought for study on iron levels and diet
Historian wins Hawaiian award for Pacific migration book
Researchers to tackle key health issues
New books reveal bold approach to writing life
New Zealander to head Australasian distance and e-Learning council
Professor Mason Durie recognised for long-term commitment to mental health
Inaugural distinguished fellow award for education professor

New HR Director a self-confessed 'petrol head'
Literacy award a boost for teachers who help struggling readers
First novel shortlisted for top book award
Recreational reading helps students prepare for study
Gelato geniuses scoop ice-cream awards
Technology on show while Massey alumni network at Fieldays
Writings of literary great published for the first time
Driving while phoning danger as bad as drink-driving
More film success for Massey graduate
Vet research training gets shot in the arm
Low-status jobs for mothers returning to work
Not enough done to bridge New Zealand's reading gap
Under-utilised Maori land targeted for improvement
Home affordability continues to improve slowly - May 2008
DVD shows peer relationships aid children's learning
First professor of public relations appointed
Head office established for the University
Maharey to speak at Pukeiti Gardens mid-winter lunch
Top Fulbright award for Massey Alumna
Hunting out a good design solution
Marae welcome for national haka champions
College to strengthen PE pathways
Slight dip in rent levels
Guidelines for sex abuse counsellors released
New Zealand pilots fly high - Wings 2008
Kaka home safely after surgery
High-intensity training helps heart patients
Wall-to-wall student creativity
Students reach out to community - for a cause
Sea water solution nets global prize
Snapshot of 150 years of contribution to Maori advancement
Action ahead for Ag Partnerships for Excellence
Origin of the meaning of Matariki shared
Getting a black belt in creativity
Therapy table wins design
Power of the media under conference spotlight
New tracking system boosts pilot safety
Massey backs beach volleyball team to World University Games
Student athletes get the NZ Blues - NZUS Blues 2008
Graduate women's scholarships awarded
International languages award for Massey graduate
Gisborne secondment for museum studies lecturer
Excellent report for accountancy programmes
Massey trainer tracks Olympians in French mountains
Alumni newsletter: Issue 7, July 7 2007
Auckland tertiary review should lead to responsible allocation of resources
Policy change keeps international fees down
Food industry ready for its 'time in the sun'
Match-making on Mana Island
School pupils get taste of running a business
First business students in '2+2' programme arrive at Massey from Wuhan
New Zealand's origins investigated in first professorial lecture
Award for Hopkirk Research Institute

Massey students en masse at Beijing Olympics
Possum hunter to Olympics shooter
Jazzing it up on tour
Days spent on sleepless nights
Methamphetamine use stable but causing more problems
Military lawyer selected for Geneva training course
Virtual community and on-line resource portal for PhD students
Campus catering goes green
Elizabeth Smither to read on Montana Poetry Day
NASA scientist shares moon mission with students
Massey man helps footballers prepare for Olympics
Poetry CDs an alternative to talkback radio
Pasifika researcher explores novel time-space theory
Olympic swimmer goes behind the scenes at games
New carving for Wellington campus marae receives local blessing
Partnership boosts halls connectivity
Massey lecturer named supreme winner at 2008 national teaching excellence awards
Blood sugar levels might be new measure of health
Students rewarded for academic excellence, mentoring and contribution to Maori development
Passion for Kiribati rewarded
Maori lullabies subject of PhD research
First-time author wins two Montana categories
Farmers input sought for Dairy3 conference
Blaze of tradition and technology
Jazz artists' tribute to Corea's Spanish sound
Dream job for sport management graduate
Cultural identity and mental health
Olympian shares story with pupils
Award for Professor of Animal Science
Canada lecture invitation provides international recognition for Riddet Institute co-director
Artist connects with grandfather's burial place
Focus on children's design nets global award
Dolphin researcher in running for UNESCO fellowship
Top scholarships for pair tackling infectious diseases
Health of agriculture's 'hardest worker' to be studied
Writer's final work released
'Spider web' dress nets 2008 Hokonui fashion award
Lessons from Melanesian culture subject of public lecture
Entries sought for 2008 Massey Blues
Bank announcements no cause for panic
New records manager appointed
Exhibition highlights old and new printing methods
Wairarapa scholarships awarded
Psychology study to shed light on anxiety in elderly
Never a better time for small businesses
Dimensions merge in new Integrated Design Centre
New vet roles boost patient care, industry capability
Musical boasts strong Massey connections
Doha collapse delays opportunity for exporters
New library under way at Auckland campus
Appeal Court knockback to grocery giants 'good news' for shoppers
New book explores sustainable coastal management
New headquarters working for Turbos

Massey equestrians help beat Australia
Study launched as noise-induced hearing loss on the rise
Climate change lecture a life lesson for all
First-up win boosts Turbos packs' popularity with students
Grant for communications researcher
Early childhood teaching reviewed to meet growing literacy, numeracy needs
Nutrition information labels lost on consumers
Three Massey students get \$280,000 worth of scholarships
Science of sport projects rewarded with bursaries
First campus Open Day pulls a crowd
Open day to showcase exciting study options
New professor joins property group
Lecture to explore robots as servants and saviours
Fulbright for finance professor
Language studies student takes up German scholarship
Pictures really do paint a thousand words
Poet Laureate to speak at Auckland campus
Fifth generation of Fergussons visit Massey
Olympic media under spotlight
Language teaching survey now online
Massey flying instructor gets top award
Historic Places check-up for Museum building
Rainwater harvesting project a joint effort
Witchcraft paper casts a spell over students
Political Awareness Day debate lures MPs to Auckland campus
Motion capture system scoops science award
Research shows family violence court working
Grants awarded to nursing students
Unclear whether or when mortgage rates will drop
Indonesian lecturers go back to school
Scholarship cloaked in te reo
Massey Ag XV wins back L.A. Brooks cup
Sound system boosts classroom performance
Expo highlights career opportunities in sport
Radical steps needed to improve Maori reading says literacy professor
Reward for 50 years of academic excellence
Beehive launch for international study of New Zealand's non-profit sector
Study to explore modern meanings of medication
Open Day showcases versatile, vibrant Auckland campus
Instant graduate display too good to resist
Research projects to investigate public transport use
Massey at the Olympics update
Creative campus on show at open day
Palmerston North community heart of new exhibition
Political candidates split over universal student allowance
Latest treaty claims theme of public lecture
Playing the investor without risk
Strong presence for university at distance education conference
Gifted teenagers headed for MARS
Companies working with non-profit organisations
Pacific Peoples report welcomed
Development agency backs Massey research on mining and tourism
College makes connection with young scientists

New director for evolutionary research centre
Professor of Fine Arts wins prestigious award
Small businesses under spotlight at symposium
Shortage of Maori psychologists focus of hui in Auckland
Secondary school writers praise Auckland Open Day
Graduates will build a sustainable future
Pacific Washup to show at Busan Biennale
Artist puts human hair under the spotlight
Massey hosts Deloitte Business Case League finals
Farm kids breathe easier
Geometric model could mean breakthrough in saving endangered kakapo
Artwork celebrates life-saving asthma research
Diversity and quality of temporary artworks proving popular
Design students tackle online banking project
'Isolate Aids' view not shared by Massey
Businesses sign up for entrepreneurship course
AUS to host 'long lunches' celebrating general staff
Professorial lecture probes the emotional impact of language learning
Samuel Beckett exhibit on campus
e-centre business nets innovation award
Decision closer on major food tech centre
University's technology excellence award to courier company
Taking Massey to the Pacific
Pregnant women sought for study of childhood diseases
Culturally-inspired creativity puts three Design students in Pasifika fashion finals
Visiting artist brings internationally acclaimed work to city
Students primed for day at the races
Hoiho on mend after a little R&R at wildlife ward
New vet tech graduates will boost vet workforce
Emeritus Professor honoured for literary skill
Stomach cancer likely cause of dolphin death
Hector Medal for mathematician
University physicist on world particle team
Award for iron-boosting kiwifruit and cereal study
Alumni newsletter: Issue 8, September 14 2008
Whitebait disappearance a 'canary in a coalmine' warning on rivers
Trust and security key to pre-schoolers' learning
Extramural Society announces new scholarship
Students to muck-in with community groups
Shooter finds aim in time for championship medal
Massey nutritionist spells out healthy infant eating tips on video
Fashionable graduate on the verge of success
Schools struggling to meet literacy standards
It takes more than technical skills to make pilots
Graduate scoops business award
Auckland author wraps up Writers Read series
'Three brothers' will boost lambing output
Wellington students battle for supremacy in annual apartment versus flats games
Home affordability improves again in last quarter
Psychologist leads global task force to tackle poverty
\$5.4m Marsden funding boost for Massey researchers
Writing prize goes to teacher-turned-student
Disaster specialist warns NZ ain't seen nothing' in past 70 years

Low cost flight training simulators to aid pilot training
Encouraging more Maori-speaking communities focus of PhD research
Photographic historian to give first memorial lecture
Massey graduate makes international beauty pageant
Recreation Centre offers opportunity to gain work-life balance
New professorial appointment in plant breeding a joint initiative with AgResearch
Accessing traditional knowledge key to future exports
Massey-led project wins top prize
Poor communication strategy from ANZ bank
Canadian scholar to head College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Flight of fantasy a winner for Massey graduate
Awards recognise outstanding research - Research Medal Awards 2008
International flavour to Festival of New Arts
Iwi Creativity on show
Fine arts lecturer takes artwork to New York, Paris
Hello to staff from Steve Maharey
World title for Massey duathlete
Accounting method helps Contact Energy justify lifting energy prices
Internships now part of communication degree
Students name their lecturer of the year
Massey honours its international athletes
Lecture investigates the science of Joyce
Tane and Rehua at centre of new exhibition
Aniwaniwa returns to its ahi kaa
Optimisation of Services' Delivery project update - October 3 2008
Massey to begin student exchange programme with European Union
Massey scholars shed light on writer Robin Hyde
Massey lecturer appointed to ERMA group
New book to demystify NMR
Online Alumni Community a NZ University first
Olympians take top sports Blues
New director of external relations appointed
Rough guide to politics for perplexed voters
Massey signs up for online budgeting for staff
Massey students sweep 2008 BeST Design Awards
Aspiring scientists dazzled by dolphins
Free staff access to online budgeting tool
Smart students set to grow New Zealand
Historic Tiritea open home attracts wide interest
Food technology grad lands dream job in Europe
Principal's leadership centre disestablished
Multi-campus welcomes for new VC and new HQ
Massey a proven pathway to design success
Roblympics put engineers to the test
'Knee-jerk' response to crisis only increases danger
New VC warmly welcomed at Albany campus
Top tertiary teachers gather for symposium
Quest to sniff out kakapo fragrance spans centuries and continents
Gifted education specialist on steering panel for new national association
International PhD network to be discussed
VC's symposium to focus on teaching for tomorrow - today
Taking modern marketing to Soviet-style Turkmenistan
Preoccupation with 'big questions' subject of lecture

Blow 08 celebrates creative art success
New post for public health director
Wellington campus hosts pre-election Maori debate
Students provide sound 'agri-vice' in Woodville dairy farmer case study
Roast chicken the big winner at 2008 Massey Food Awards
Sociologist elected to World Values Survey Association board
Lizard researchers win ecology awards
Ice-cream better licked than spooned says food expert
Researcher begins major retirement study
Lecture showcases war images
Sleep-deprived sought for group therapy study
Massey welcomes decision on Hokowhitu and Blair Tennant
University House heralds new era for Massey
'Moodle' the first step in learning enrichment strategy
Massey student takes prestigious Zonta scholarship
Staff, students share their Massey discoveries
Path clear for new Vice-Chancellor
Price of Citizenship celebrated
Soil scientist's work acknowledged
Only one new gastro case reported
Gastro outbreak confirmed as Norovirus
Ecology angle for new Chair of Statistics
Royal Society Fellowship for Professor Mick Roberts
Fire damages computer lab at Albany campus
Mentoring scheme boosts completion rates in core social work papers
Weight fixation sends unhealthy messages
Lecturer honoured by accountants' institute
From the frontline of the US presidential race
Book depicts New Zealand's experience of WWI
University deal with Toyota drives in greener fleet
Symposium to discuss occupational health
Design expo showcases high-tech sport, eco trends and redheads
Changing values to be discussed at public lecture
Wellington grads get \$10,000 in 2008 Zonta Design awards
Designer finds comfort and style
Rutherford Medal for University biophysicist
Water safety signals designed to save young lives
Ag-Hort double for young Massey grads
Equestrians line up Youth Olympic gold
Bod Pod to play key role in nutrition research
Employment Relations Manager appointed
Psycho-oncology effectiveness investigated
47-year contribution to Massey Ag acknowledged
Code of conduct needed for ministerial staff
Team leader tops in contact centre management finals
More research needed to tackle occupational health
Chinese delegation checks out Massey's food tech facilities
Teaching nurses like doctors clinches top lecturer award - again
'Mad' Massey scientist helps boy patent compost invention
Bookshelf In Print November 2008
If you go to San Francisco
A month in the middle kingdom
Photographic Memory

Take a seat
Dream RUN
Green horizons
Advance and retreat
Parts of speech
Child Care centre opens nature corridors
Massey students foot it at FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup
Soils role in ecosystem a focus for conference
Quarter of century of agricultural co-operation with China celebrated
Long road to world cup glory
Three inducted into Hall of Fame
Inspiring the next generation of researchers
New AVC gets regional award for excellence in HR, nominated for national honour
Research questions need for regional councils
Graduation ceremonies first for new Vice-Chancellor - last for Chancellor
University Council to elect new Chancellor
Graduates defined by their time at Massey
Unravelling the mystery of mechatronics
Deal to buy school gym kick-starts exciting stage of 'Creative campus' development
Animal science experts join Massey University
New MPs in for emotional rollercoaster
New Chancellor elected to University Council
Salmon outranks fish oil pills for omega-3 and selenium
Marae plan for Albany takes shape
Scientific analysis columns published in book
Kiwi carers get tips from the experts
New international partnership grows teaching excellence in Malaysia
Scholarship programme supports Maori mental health
Massey Vice-Chancellor visits Hawke's Bay
Visiting Malaysian academics share ideas on inclusive education
Massey cyclist on pace
Quest for origins takes Howe back to Hauraki
New Job Evaluation System for General Staff Positions
Year in review - It's Our Future
Stout St barricade stops traffic in the name of art
Urgent need to tackle Fiji poverty
Festive cheer for first-time buyers
Native birds feel no fear when facing foes
All aboard for Summer Shakespeare 2009
Apples or pears dilemma for orchard visitors
Promotion of excellence wins Singapore award for Massey aviation school
Success shows Massey means business
Te Rau Puawai scholarship for nurse
Gaming machines affecting well-being of New Zealanders
New ways to look for love
Massey staff and alumni feature in 2009 New Year's Honours list



Emperor penguins on the march. This photo was taken at Cape Washington near the largest emperor penguin colony in Antarctica. "On the day I took this photo I lay down 30 metres in front of penguins playing 'follow the leader'. They tobogganed to within two metres from me and the lead penguin then stood up. The rest did likewise" says Dr Potter. Awarded 'Highly Commended, Animal Behaviour' in the 2007 ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year competition.

Sharing the beauty of the Antarctic

A wish to share the splendour of the unique Antarctic southern wilderness has netted zoologist Dr Murray Potter two international photography awards.

Dr Potter, of the Institute of Natural Resources, studies the behaviour and biology of Adelie and emperor penguins. Two of Dr Potter's Antarctic photographs awarded 'highly commended' in the 2007 Australia New Zealand Antarctica and New Guinea (ANZANG) Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. Now in its fourth year, ANZANG has become the largest nature photography competition in the Australasian region with 1250 entries. The 110 winning and highly commended photos have been compiled in a book edited by Stuart Miller and published by CSIRO Publishing.

Dr Potter, with Paul Barrett and Associate Professor John Cockrem, measures the responses of the penguins to stressors including being followed, held, confined in cages and exposed to potential predators. By measuring the amount of corticosterone in the penguin's blood, stress can be measured. The results can then be provided to organisations including Antarctica New Zealand which sets guidelines for tourist operators and visitors to the vast southern wilderness.

The Massey research team has worked at all the major penguin colonies around Ross Island and also in remote sites such as Cape Washington.

Dr Potter says it is a rare privilege to be able to visit Antarctica so on his trips there he enjoys capturing images as a means of sharing with others some of the beauty of its vast southern wilderness and wildlife. Dr Potter was also a runner up in the 2007 Massey News Photography contest. A selection of his photographs can be viewed at <http://www.deeppics.com>.



South Polar skua displaying to its mate. "We made a one-day trip by helicopter to visit a group of Italian scientists studying Adelie penguins at Edmundson Point" says Dr Potter. "Adelie penguin colonies attract South Polar skuas that feast on penguin eggs and chicks. They are amazing fliers. I positioned myself near a rocky outcrop and waited." Awarded 'Highly Commended, Animal Behaviour' in the 2007 ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year competition.



Emperor penguin preening. Like all birds, penguins need to preen to maintain the waterproofing and insulating properties of the feathers. Seen front on, the yellow-white hue of the emperor penguin's feathers can merge with the blue-white hue of the snow giving the impression of seeing the penguin in silhouette. This highlights the orange flash on the side of the head and deep black on top.



A Weddell seal's smile. Weddell seals live farther south than any other mammal. They feed on fish, squid and krill, and can stay underwater for up to an hour. When not foraging they are often seen lying on the sea ice near holes that they keep open by chewing with their large canine teeth. "At night we often heard Weddell seals echolocating as they swam below us as we camped on sea ice," says Dr Potter.



Small icebergs often get trapped in sea ice as winter approaches, and then are released as the ice melts during summer. Here, the sea ice was melting rapidly creating reflections on the melt water. "The ice is discoloured because this is the site where thousands of male emperor penguins spent the winter incubating their eggs," says Dr Potter. "Male emperor penguins incubate a single egg that they balance on the top of their feet. This allows them to shuffle themselves and their egg to new sites as necessary, unlike nest-bound birds"

Date: 10/01/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Any

Sleep science goes onstage

 [Watch the 3 News item](#)

Art meets science in a new theatre production opening in Wellington this month that explores the science of sleep.

Sleep/Wake blends dance, science and performance design to explore the world of the unconscious, revealing those things that lie dormant within us: hidden performances of the self - obsessions, ambitions, and dreams.

Internationally-recognised sleep expert Professor Philippa Gander of the University's Sleep/Wake Research Centre has teamed up with Wellington director and designer Sam Trubridge to create an exciting theatre experience.



Professor Gander says Sleep/Wake draws on the latest sleep science to tell the story of the sleeping brain and waking up - physically, metaphorically and politically.

"An important part of being an academic is presenting your research to the public," she says. "I was intrigued by the idea of something completely novel. Sleep/Wake is an exciting opportunity to share sleep science in a creative way."

Mr Trubridge says although we all sleep for about a third of our lives, most of us know little about what actually goes on during that time.

"When we sleep we don't perform but the moment we wake up, we enter the world again," he says. "We start to put on our costumes, our make-up, building ourselves up until we're ready to face the world - and ready to take the stage."

Sleep/Wake will be performed in eight shows at The Print Factory, a warehouse previously occupied by a printing business in King Street, Newtown, Wellington, the first on 31 January.

Performers include Elizabeth Barker, James Conway-Law, Maria Dabrowska, Claire Middleton and Ella Robson-Guilfoyle. Original music and sound design are by Bevan Smith, and lighting is by Marcus McShane. Bookings are at Ticketek.

Date: 14/01/2008

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: Exhibition/Show; Wellington

House prices cooling but affordability worsens by 9.6 per cent for the year

The rate of house price increases slowed over the second half of last year and the latest Massey University Home Affordability report says there are indicators prices will continue to cool.

The report for the fourth quarter of the year says there are classic signs of a slowing in the rate of price increases - houses taking longer to sell, falling volume of transactions and an increase in the number of houses listed for sale that remain unsold. The median house price of \$350,000 in May had risen just 0.57 per cent to \$352,000 by November.

Nationally there was a 9.6 per cent deterioration in affordability for the year, compared with 2006.

Central Otago/Lakes is the least affordable place to buy a home, followed by Auckland and Nelson/Marlborough. Southland leads as the region where homes are most affordable followed by Otago and Manawatu/Wanganui.

On a regional basis affordability improved over the quarter in Central Otago/Lakes (by 9.6 per cent), Northland (1.7 per cent) and Otago (0.4 per cent). Waikato/Bay of Plenty was static over the quarter. All other regions showed declines in affordability. Leading the quarterly declines in affordability were Southland (22.2 per cent), Manawatu/Wanganui (9.9 per cent), Taranaki (9.1 per cent) and Wellington (5.3 per cent). Smaller declines were registered in Canterbury/Westland (3.0 per cent), Hawke's Bay (2.4 per cent), Northland 1.7 per cent) and Auckland (1.0 per cent).

Based on annual data, Otago showed a slight improvement in affordability but all other regions showed declines in annual affordability. The biggest decline was in Southland (39.7 per cent), Manawatu/Wanganui (14.0 per cent), Canterbury/Westland (12.2 per cent), Wellington (11.2 per cent), Central Otago Lakes (10.9 per cent), Northland (9.3 per cent), Auckland (8.6 per cent), Waikato/Bay of Plenty (7.5 per cent), Hawke's Bay (5.9 per cent), Taranaki (4.8 per cent), Nelson/Marlborough (1.8 per cent).

Key Points:

- House price increases moderate in the second half of 2007
- 9.6 per cent deterioration in the all districts affordability for the last year
- Southland shows 37.9 per cent deterioration in affordability over the year.

For full details of the report, or previous reports: <http://property-group.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 15/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Moa's Ark still afloat

Advanced DNA dating techniques used to analyse New Zealand kauri trees have led scientists to believe that New Zealand was never completely submerged.

The finding supports the traditional view that some New Zealand plants and animals were transported on a Moa's Ark, when New Zealand separated from the southern supercontinent Gondwana and that descendants of these species still exist today.

Professor Peter Lockhart of the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution says that the New Zealand and Australian species separated before the so-called Oligocene drowning period when the New Zealand landmasses were greatly reduced in size, some 26-38 million years ago.

"The divergence time of Australian and New Zealand kauri is ancient, the simplest explanation for the molecular clock findings is that New Zealand has existed ever since it rafted away from Gondwana, more than 80 million years ago. If this is so, New Zealand kauri may well have a whakapapa that traces back to 95-million-year-old South Island fossils." Professor Lockhart says.



While some scientists have claimed that New Zealand was submerged during the Oligocene drowning period, the team from the Allan Wilson Centre say that the molecular clock findings from kauri are very difficult to reconcile under this hypothesis.

"The results highlight the need for further studies on the origins of New Zealand's flora and fauna," Professor Lockhart says.

The research was part of a PhD dissertation by Michael Knapp in the Institute of Molecular BioSciences at Massey University, and was published recently in the journal *Systematic Biology*. The research examined kauri samples from Northland and the Coromandel.

Date: 15/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

From business incubator to multi-million dollar deal

One of the first companies mentored in the University's business incubator unit has been sold for \$US5 million.

Espion and its network protection software has been bought by Israeli internet company, Allott Communications. The software developed by Espion can detect threats and aggressive attacks on computer networks within seconds, and can eliminate internal network threats. The company quickly became a leading provider in the region of anomaly detection systems to protect critical networks.

It was one of the foundation enterprises based at the e-centre when the business incubator opened its doors at the Auckland campus in 2001. At Massey the fledgling company was working with mathematicians to develop world leading technology and received a \$400,000 grant from the Ministry of Research Science and Technology.

Allot, a leader in Internet provider service optimisation solutions, says it has acquired Espion for network and subscriber protection solutions and the deal will advance its plans to offer value-added services on a new service gateway - a platform to help broadband providers build secure, intelligent networks.

E-centre chief executive Steve Corbett says an overseas sale of leading technology is very good news for New Zealand and the centre. Espion was the first company in the early days of the e-centre's operation to collaborate very successfully with the University's mathematicians, Mr Corbett says.

"The Espion story brought very valuable lessons to the centre at a time when we were establishing processes and protocols and working out how to engage with the considerable expertise within Massey."

Date: 16/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Nobel laureate Professor Frank Wilczek explores the mysteries of the Universe Palmerston North last night.

Mysteries of the universe explored

 [Listen to the lecture \(mp3 12mb\)](#)

 [Download the presentations slides \(PDF\)](#)

Physicist, author and ghost-buster Professor Frank Wilczek used humour, and analogies with music and art to explain the mysteries of the universe at a public lecture in Palmerston North last night. After delivering his lecture, *The Universe is a Strange Place*, he took time to answer questions from the audience. Professor Wilczek will repeat the lecture tomorrow at the University's Auckland campus, at 6pm in the Sir Neil Waters lecture theatre.

Professor Wilczek received the Nobel for work he did as a 21-year-old graduate student at Princeton University. He is known for the discovery of asymptotic freedom, a discovery that is of decisive importance in understanding how the theory of one of nature's fundamental forces works, the force that ties together the smallest pieces of matter - the quarks.

Professor Wilczek's visit is the fourth in the annual Sir Neil Waters Distinguished Lecture Series, supported by the Massey University Foundation. The series was inaugurated in 2004 to honour the achievements of Sir Neil Waters, Massey Vice-Chancellor from 1983 to 1995.

The lecture series aims to bring the foremost scientists in mathematics, chemistry and physics to New Zealand to allow both academics and the public to hear first-hand of advances in the sciences. Te Manawa Science Centre hosted last night's lecture, as part of the University's ongoing partnership with Palmerston North.

Date: 16/01/2008

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Palmerston North

Music therapy helps special needs students

Research that aims to improve the use of music among New Zealand special needs students is drawing international attention.

Music therapy is the use of music by trained professionals to achieve therapeutic goals, such as improving physical skills, social and cognitive development.

Daphne Rickson, a music therapy lecturer at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington is working with teams of parents, caregivers, teachers, teacher aides, and therapists to help them use music more effectively with special needs students, in mainstream settings.

Her three-year PhD project has attracted attention from a Thai school. Adrian Jones from Sarasas Ektra Bilingual School met Ms Rickson recently to discuss working together to find ways to use music to help students with learning disabilities and communication disorders, as well as gifted learners, at his school in Bangkok.

Ms Rickson says her work addresses the cultural context and is a model that is likely to be helpful for many other countries.

"While ethnicity is relevant, education and special education communities, special schools and mainstream schools, and families, all have their particular ways of doing things. It's a matter of sharing knowledge and expertise."

Ms Rickson has been working with schools throughout New Zealand that are managing children who have very high needs, and says the feedback has been extremely positive.

"Working as a team, we consider how music is currently used in the school with individual children who have special needs, and how that might be developed or extended with the student's developmental or educational goals in mind," she says.

Her project aims to help teams address practical issues, and develop specific skills for working with children using music.

"The outcomes will include protocols for music therapists undertaking consultation work, and advice and resources for educators on how to embed music more systematically in teaching programmes for both general learners and those with special needs."

Massey University and Victoria University jointly operate the New Zealand School of Music, a centre of musical excellence. The website is: www.nzsm.ac.nz

Date: 23/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Body clock study gains research funding

Sleep researcher Dr Sarah-Jane Paine has been awarded the Health Research Council Eru Pomare Research Fellowship in Maori Health, worth \$463,000 over three years.

Dr Paine, from the Sleep/Wake Research Centre at Massey University in Wellington, will embark on an innovative programme of research that will advance the sleep health of all New Zealanders.

This includes continuing her research into the circadian body clock and how this clock regulates sleep timing.

She will also compare the prevalence of circadian rhythm sleep disorders in Maori and non-Maori, and examine relationships with age, sex, night work and socioeconomic deprivation.

Dr Paine also plans to develop best-practice guidelines to improve health service delivery for Maori, using sleep disorders as a case study.

The Eru Pomare Research Fellowship in Maori Health honours the legacy of Professor Pomare and his contributions to gastroenterology. It provides funding for an emerging leaders in Maori health research with a PhD or equivalent, for clinical or medical research.

Dr Paine says she is honoured to receive the Fellowship.

"This award is critical to furthering my training not only as a sleep scientist but as a Maori health researcher working in the empirical sciences.

"I look forward to continuing my research into the linkages between sleep, health and public health policy, and their role in meeting Professor Pomare's goal of improving Maori health outcomes and eliminating disparities."

Date: 23/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington



Scientists tackle cholesterol control

Researchers at the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health are investigating the role of an amino acid in cholesterol metabolism, with the aim of finding a new method of cholesterol control.

Isovalthine is an unusual sulphur amino acid, which has previously been reported to occur in the urine of humans suffering from conditions including hypothyroidism, hypercholesterolemia and severe diabetes mellitus. It is present in the urine of normal, healthy cats that consume a high fat diet, but it is not usually found in other species unless they have been treated with compounds that can ultimately form cholesterol.

The project, led by Dr Kay Rutherford-Markwick, aims to screen the urine of 200 volunteers with either thyroid deficiency, high levels of bad cholesterol or diabetes requiring medication to determine if humans do excrete isovalthine and if so to what extent isovalthine is present, the participant will be asked to have a blood sample taken for further testing of cholesterol, serum lipids and glucose.

Anyone interested in taking part in the study should contact Dr Rutherford-Markwick at k.j.rutherford@massey.ac.nz or phone 06-350-5311.

Date: 24/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Science symposium winners

Kingsway School in Rodney district fielded the winning entries in the annual science symposium competition for secondary schools, run at the Auckland campus.

Researchers in sport and exercise science invited secondary students to present research on topics relating to sport, wellness and health at the annual symposium.

They could approach their subject from the perspective of sport and exercise or sport business. The day-long event, now in its third year, attracts increasing interest and entries from secondary students across the region. Both the winner and runner up are senior students at Kingsway.

First prize winner Joshua Sanford won a \$3000 bursary to the University for his project Exploring Strength Versus Speed in sports performance.

His schoolmate Nathan Calif was runner up with his research comparing the respective attributes of graphite and steel golf club shafts. Nathan wins a \$2000 bursary to study at the University.

Date: 27/01/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences



Good Feelings in Good Times, by Roman Ondak

Temporary contemporary art series announced

Twenty public artworks will be created in five New Zealand cities, but they will each exist for no more than a 24-hour period.

One-Day Sculpture will begin in June and continue until June 2009 in Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin

Initiated by United Kingdom-based curator Claire Doherty and Massey University's Litmus Research Initiative, One-Day Sculpture is a series of place-responsive public artworks by national and international artists. The works will reflect a diversity of artistic approaches including sculpture, installation and performance events.

Ms Doherty says One-Day Sculpture is the first international art project of its kind.

"Taking time, space and place as its inspiration, the project turns the concept of a scattered-site exhibition of new artworks on its head, offering the opportunity to engage with each newly commissioned artwork for one day only, one after another, as a cumulative series over one year.

"The 20 new works will accumulate over 12 months across the country forming a dynamic and long-lasting reconsideration of what sculpture can be. They will challenge conventional assumptions about permanence, monumentality and the public realm."

Dr David Cross, Litmus Director says One-Day Sculpture provides an unprecedented opportunity for New Zealand audiences to engage with temporary public artworks by leading contemporary artists; and for New Zealand artists, curators and writers to examine - in dialogue with international peers - notions of public sculpture and place-sensitive art practice.

Confirmed artists include leading international artists Roman Ondak (Slovakia), Thomas Hirschhorn (Switzerland/France) and Javier Tellez (Venezuela/New York) alongside prominent New Zealand-based artists including Billy Apple and Maddie Leach.

To give audiences a taste of what is to come, the One-Day Sculpture launch on 7 March in Wellington will be accompanied by the public presentation of Roman Ondak's celebrated work *Good Feelings in Good Times*, loaned from the Tate Collection, London. Ondak is known internationally for his staging of familiar scenarios in which unexpected actions occur. Taking the form of installations, performances and interventions, his works provoke viewers to question their understanding and perception of everyday life.

Good Feelings in Good Times is a static queue of people - with seemingly no point of resolution or purpose - that can be read as a sculpture, performance or intervention. The work will take place across various Wellington locations on the day.

One-Day Sculpture is supported by the University, the Wellington City Council Public Art Fund, the British Academy and Germany's Goethe Institut.

Date: 28/01/2008

Type: University News

Too much security reduces trust in online banking

The more security measures banks impose on internet banking the more customers lose faith in the system's ability to protect their money, a Massey University study has found.

Tightening security measures for online banking may make the process technically safer but paradoxically the more identity-checking steps are imposed before a customer can get down to business, the less trusting they feel.

Amid growing global concern over security surrounding online banking - and many high-profile thefts by hackers - Diploma of Information Sciences researcher Kanshi Zhang investigated how increased security affected a customer's sense of trust and security.

Mr Zhang organised an experiment involving four mock registration pages similar to those used for online banking transactions. The first required participants to complete two identity-checking steps; the others required four, six and eight separate steps.

Although most New Zealand banks currently require only two security steps, banks in China, Japan and Korea commonly require up to eight.

One participant who anecdotally reported using a Chinese online banking system in New Zealand said having to fulfill six identity-checking steps compared with two for a New Zealand bank made him suspicious that the bank was more susceptible to security risks.

Study co-author Dr Hokyoung Ryu, from Massey's Centre for Mobile Computing in Auckland, says usability and user-friendliness are at stake in the battle to ensure online customers feel their funds are safe.

Not only do people struggle to recall an array of pin numbers, passwords and personalised questions, they resent the time these steps take, Dr Ryu says. Online banking system designers need to be mindful of the people using the systems they create.

"There is too much concern about technology. What's needed is more human-oriented technology, not engineering-based technology."

Speedier alternatives in future may include computerised fingerprint or face recognition systems. The study was presented at the 7th International Conference on Applications and Principles of Information Science being held at Massey's Auckland campus this week.

Date: 29/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; College of Sciences



Rare parakeets to populate gulf islands

An ambitious plan to translocate 100 kakariki (red-crowned parakeets) from Little Barrier Island to two other Hauraki Gulf islands as well as a mainland site means more people will be able to see the rare birds.



Conservation researcher Luis Ortiz-Catedral, based at Massey University in Auckland, is from Mexico, a land of more raucous, garishly coloured parrots than New Zealand's subtle-hued species. But it is our small green, long-tailed kakariki that have captured his interest in recent years.

As well as studying a small population of translocated orange-fronted kakariki, which are extremely rare and critically endangered, on remote Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds, he is planning a large-scale translocation further north of their relative, the red-crowned kakariki. The two-pronged project is part of his doctoral thesis as a researcher at the Institute of Natural Resources, comparing how wild and captive birds cope with translocation.

The red-crowned kakariki thrive in abundance on Little Barrier Island, a protected conservation reserve. Mr Ortiz-Catedral is organising a project to capture then release the 100 birds at Rakino and Motuihe Islands as well as Tawharanui conservation reserve north of Auckland.

This will expand the geographical range of the species and enable scientists and conservationists to better understand how newly located translocated kakariki cope with the change.

A team of volunteers will help him record data of the birds' health before they are taken by helicopter to neighbouring locations for release. They will then track, observe and record the birds' feeding, social and breeding behaviour using electronic transmitters once they are in their new habitats.

Since 2004, he has studied the nesting biology and nesting growth of the red-crowned kakariki on Tiritiri Matangi Island, a world famous bird sanctuary also in the Hauraki Gulf.

The outlook for the next series of translocations is promising, he says. The birds, once populous throughout New Zealand but now found only on predator-free offshore islands, are good breeders. A female can produce up to nine chicks in a season. But it was their habit of foraging and nesting on the ground that evolved during New Zealand's isolated, predator-free epoch that made them fatally vulnerable to predators such as rats, cats and stoats that were later introduced.

The project, he says, is not purely scientific. "There's also the spiritual appeal that we are returning the parakeets to places they once belonged. It has a powerful symbolic side to it."

Kakariki may even take flight and do their own relocating once closer to other islands and the mainland, he adds. "Who knows, one day we might see kakariki in Albert Park."

Date: 29/01/2008

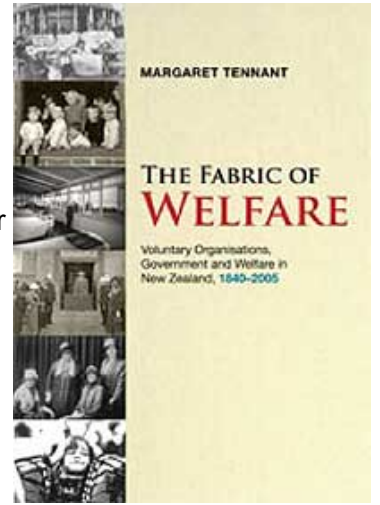
Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

New book traces history of welfare in New Zealand

A book by historian and Dean of the University's Graduate Research School, Professor Margaret Tennant, is to be launched on Friday, 1 February. Guest speaker will be Vice-Chancellor Designate the Honorable Steve Maharey, current MP for Palmerston North and, from 1999-2002, the first Minister for the Community and Voluntary sector.

The Fabric of Welfare: Voluntary Organisations, Government and Welfare in New Zealand, 1840-2005, is published by Bridget Williams Books of Wellington. It is the first book to foreground the history of charity over 150 years of New Zealand's history, looking especially at its interaction with government, but also at the personal inspiration, individual interactions and what Professor Tennant describes as the "sheer fun and variety of voluntary effort". In passing, the book canvasses events such as fetes, queen carnivals and telethons, and highlights the experiences of past and present recipients of welfare, from prostitutes, orphans and discharged prisoners to the more assertive "clients" of the modern age. It is a work of social history as much as a study of policy.



Professor Tennant, who has published widely on New Zealand's social history, particularly in relation to women, health, disease and social policy, says the book grew out of a Marsden Fund award she held from 2001-03. "I met my anticipated 'outputs' from this grant, but realised that I had a good deal more material which could contribute towards a monograph."

Mr Maharey says writing about the voluntary sector in New Zealand is largely untapped territory. "Margaret's book represents one of the first attempts to tell the story of voluntary organisations. That's an important story, not only historically because they play a major role but because more than a million New Zealanders volunteer each year and they spend in excess of \$1.2 billion of taxpayer's money on our behalf in addition to the money they raise themselves."

A Massey University Research Fellowship in 2004 enabled her to continue the research and writing, which draws on the new (post-2001) material and a revisiting and re-evaluation of earlier research.

More details can be found here: <http://www.bwb.co.nz/store/viewPrd.asp?idcategory=10&idproduct=237>

Date: 29/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Effectiveness of post-disaster aid examined

The effectiveness of post-disaster aid is a focus of PhD study by psychology student Heather Taylor.

Ms Taylor's research into the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in disaster management, primarily in the post-event stage, will take her to Indonesia in April. "My research will examine the idea that aid programmes would be more effective if they worked more closely with the community and better understood local culture," she says.

The postgraduate student at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research on the Wellington campus says NGOs and donor countries are heavily involved in disaster management, particularly reconstruction and rehabilitation, through the funding and management of projects.

"My aim is to create a model of what an effective intervention programme would look like. I want to offer an answer to the question of what an NGO should do when disaster strikes."

Ms Taylor will examine projects in Indonesia to determine suitable sites and programmes. She will visit the island of Nias, which is still recovering from an earthquake in 2005, Yogyakarta (2006 earthquake) and communities around Mt. Merapi affected by this frequently active volcano. She will compare projects run by NGOs, those that are locally-operated or run by foreign managers, and projects that were requested by communities versus ones suggested by NGOs.

Measures of the effectiveness of reconstruction projects include their ability to minimise future risk, their long-term sustainability, and improvement in the quality of life for recipients.

She is supervised by Associate Professor David Johnston from the centre, Professor Stuart Carr from the School of Psychology and Associate Professor Robin Peace from the School of People, Environment and Planning.

Date: 30/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Any

Does a bad January mean a bad year for share markets?

The Americans call it the January Barometer - the stock market performance for the first month, sets the pattern for the rest of the year. But Massey University finance researchers say while this may hold true for the United States market, the January Barometer is no predictor of how the year will go on international equity markets.

Researchers Dr Ben Marshall and Nuttawat Visaltanachoti, from the Department of Economics and Finance, ran their own analysis on the ability of positive and negative returns from the equity markets in January to forecast positive or negative performance for the following 11 months. They found the January Barometer - a hot topic of discussion in finance circles - stood up only in the US.

"We conclude that just because the US and international markets have started very poorly this does not necessarily mean the next 11 months will be bad," says Dr Visaltanachoti.

The researchers say that although many quarters of the US finance industry, including news media, quote the January Barometer as a signal of future market performance, the technique is still considered to be an "open puzzle". They say their analysis is unique due to use of advanced test procedures and consideration of the US and 22 other international markets.

They found in many other countries what happened in January did not foretell returns for the rest of the year. Only Japan and Spain had statistically significant returns in their market that followed on from a positive or negative start in January. However, their advanced test procedures revealed that even in those markets the relationship was relatively weak and may simply be due to chance.

"This finding seems strange and raises the question as to whether the finding in the US is in fact by chance. We are not aware of any institutional reasons why the January Barometer should be so accurate in the US but not in other markets. There appear to be two possible explanations. Perhaps it is a matter of chance or perhaps there are some institutional factors in the US that we are not aware of," says Dr Visaltanachoti.

Date: 30/01/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

New evidence of occupational cancers: fruit and veg growers, hairdressers among those at risk

New research by staff at the University's Centre for Public Health Research show increased risk of cancer for occupational groups including hairdressers, sewing machinists, field crop and fruit and vegetable growers. Occupational cancers account for 330 deaths in New Zealand each year, about five per cent.

Dr Andrea't Mannelje is lead author of a study on Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in New Zealand, now published online in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and second author of a study of high risk occupations for bladder cancer in New Zealand, published in the International Journal of Cancer.

The Non-Hodgkin's findings include that workers in plant nurseries are four times more likely to develop the disease, with apple and pear growing associated with a five-fold risk. Vegetable producers and those in general horticulture production have more than a two-fold risk of developing Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma is understood to account for about nine per cent of cancer cases,

Dr 't Mannelje says that overseas studies have indicated that dairy and beef farmers had an increased risk of developing non-Hodgkin's, which is a group of cancers arising from lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. In New Zealand this was not the case. "Farming in other countries can be very different from what is done here," she says. "Animal farming, for example, in the Netherlands where I come from is very intensive because they don't have a lot of space. In New Zealand the sheep and dairy farming is spread out and there are not many farmers using barns."

The hypothesis behind farming exposure was that the risk emerged from exposure to agents from animals, including viruses. In horticulture however, the risk is from pesticides. Overseas the findings were not always replicated because, Dr 't Mannelje says, overseas crop farming is much larger in scale with more spraying and processing done by machine. "Vegetable and fruit products here are applied by farmers and often they have close contact with sprayed fruit and veg."

Other occupations with increased non-Hodgkin's risk include meat workers, possibly through exposure to animal viruses, cleaners (cleaning chemicals), heavy truck drivers (petrochemicals or agents being carted) and metal product manufacturing through exposure to trace metals and lubricants.

Occupations identified as higher risk for bladder cancer, which comprises around 12 per cent of cancers, were hairdressers and sewing machinists. In both cases the likely cause was exposure through skin to a group of known carcinogens named aromatic amines, including benzidine. Dr 't Mannelje says that although several of these aromatic amines have been banned for some time, chemicals structurally similar to benzidine are still used in dyes. Sewing machinists are exposed to the dyes through fabrics, she says, while hairdressers are exposed using hair dye. Aromatic amines are also found in tobacco smoke, Dr 't Mannelje says, and bladder cancer is also linked to smoking.

A second phase of the bladder cancer study aims to look at specific exposure, Dr 't Mannelje says, although it will be very difficult for hairdressers or sewing machinists to identify what they were exposed to. The second phase of the Non-Hodgkin's study will now look at exposure to specific products, with data already collected including the study participant's place and duration of employment, duration of work, and recollection of which products were used. Results are expected later this year.

Date: 03/02/2008

Type: Research

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



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More details can be found here: <http://www.bwb.co.nz/store/viewPrd.asp?idcategory=10&idproduct=237>

Date: 04/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Forage crops key to drought planning

With much of New Zealand suffering drought conditions and more dry predicted, farmers who have not yet made plans for the drying climate would be wise to do so, ruminant animal nutrition expert Professor Tom Barry says.

Professor Barry heads a team working on drought-resistant plants and alternate food sources.

"A lot of farmers think drought is something that will happen to somebody else," Professor Barry says, "and of course drought does mean different things to different individuals. Using the scientific definition from Niwa (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) in the last 31 years there were nine droughts. The East Coast is a lot drier and the projection is that the frequency and severity of drought is going to increase between now and 2080 and they are going to affect a larger area of New Zealand and areas that have not previously been affected."



Professor Barry, of the University's Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, has been working on drought issues and animal nutrition for several years. Much of his research is trialled at the University's Riverside Farm, in the Wairarapa drought area near Masterton.

"Simply, if you have a drought the farmer has got to have some plans for that," he says, "otherwise the farmer will lose a huge amount of income. Our research is around what are the best solutions available for farmers to be able to feed their stock throughout drought."

Niwa says severe soil moisture deficits have persisted in Marlborough, Canterbury, North and central Otago, with significant soil moisture deficits in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu, Wairarapa, and Nelson.

Professor Barry says that traditionally farmers have addressed drought by altering their stocking policy. "Beef and sheep farms producing a lot of stock will lamb or calve as early as possible and get lambs and calves off the farm early, de-stocking. Others consider bringing in bull calves from dairy farms, fattening them for meat production and selling only if drought occurs."



"However there are other strategies, including using plants that can resist drought - those with extra-deep root structures that can reach deeper into the soil."

"Chicory is a herb that has traditionally been used internationally as a coffee substitute but in the mid-80s the then DSIR produced forage chicory. It can be grazed by sheep or cows but it does need specialised management - you need to sow it either alone or with a legume such as clover; it needs specialised management which is different to that for normal perennial ryegrass or white clover pasture."

"Benefits are that it does provide superior animal growth through high nutritive value, and better control of parasites because it contains anti-parasitic compounds."

A well-managed stand of chicory could last for four or five years, Professor Barry says. "But you can't get to the drought and say 'well now we need chicory' - it needs to be sown in spring."

Another alternative is the use of trees as feed, which has an additional benefit of stabilising land. Riverside Farm has been trialling use of willow and poplar supplement to ewes grazing drought pasture, with studies showing that the sheep fed trees just prior to or while the ram is out had an increase in reproductivity by 20 to 25 per cent, producing more but not heavier lambs. Dr Eileen McWilliam completed her PhD on the willow supplementation of ewes grazing drought pasture during mating. She now lectures on nutritional problems in dryland farming, teaching nutritional science and vet students.



Other projects underway at Riverside include use of fescue grass, which will be planted in strips along the roadside paddock, enabling passers-by to see its growth.

"Fescue contains a fungus, referred to as the endophyte.

"This grows in symbiosis with the plant, the fungus in this case containing a plant defence system of alkaloids which deter animals or insects - in the case of fescue deterring only insects and non-toxic to livestock."

AgResearch has selected a fescue endophyte which is used a lot in the US and is believed to be drought resistant."

Fescue will be sown in two paddocks in the next few weeks, Professor Barry says, in the two stoniest, driest paddocks available to see how well it copes. The experiment will be done in conjunction with the plan improvement group of AgResearch.

Caption 1: Professor Tom Barry amid classic drought conditions at Massey University's Riverside Farm, outside Masterton.

Caption 2: Romney cross grazing willow fodder block.

Caption 3: Dr Eileen McWilliam in one of the first blocks of willow.

Date: 07/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Contributions sought for new scholarship fund

The University is launching a scholarship fund in memory of the late Professor Brian Murphy, a widely respected educator in marketing.

Professor Murphy, who died suddenly in October 2006, was acting head of the Department of Commerce at the College of Business on the University's Auckland campus. The Brian Murphy Memorial Scholarship fund will provide scholarships for senior students completing research in marketing, business ethics or future studies on the Auckland campus.

Professor Murphy was known as a prominent practitioner of marketing research. He had spent more than 40 years exploring research methodology that would keep him at the front of his field both as a teacher and in practice. In the late 1960s he was a co-founder of the National Research Bureau. As a co-director of the organisation, he was a key figure in establishing the political opinion polls that made regular headlines in the New Zealand Herald and helped shape public opinion on the performance of the political leaders.

A model he developed based on stakeholder research was the cornerstone of a company, Perceptive, which was named best startup venture in the North Shore Business Excellence Awards, in 2006.

The stakeholder preference appraisal system brought a much broader, more comprehensive method to market research by extending surveys beyond customers to other interested groups including employees, suppliers, shareholders and the community. It was an approach that tapped into perceptions about a business performance and provided valuable new feedback to client companies. Perceptive grew out of the University's e-centre, with one of Professor Murphy's former students, Chris Pescott as managing director.

Before joining Massey, Professor Murphy had been Dean of Commerce at the University of Auckland, Dean of Business at Unitec and President of the private tertiary education provider AIS St Helens.

The Brian Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established with initial contributions from the College of Business and from an anonymous donor. Contributions to the fund are now being sought and it is expected to grow to around \$300,000, says the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose.

The new scholarship fund will be held in a Massey University Foundation trust account. The Foundation is a registered charitable trust and exists to support university projects and scholarships.

To contribute to the fund or for further information contact Fraser Bell at the University's College of Business: 09 414 0800 ext 2144, 027 354 0996, f.bell@massey.ac.nz.

Date: 12/02/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Ronald Chippindale a loss to aviation students

The General Manager of the University's School of Aviation, Captain Ashok Poduval, today paid tribute to the late Ronald Chippindale, an adjunct lecturer at the school for the past seven years.

Mr Chippindale, 75, taught three papers on air safety investigation to third-year students doing the Bachelor of Aviation (Air Transport Pilot) and Bachelor of Aviation Management degrees offered by Massey. The former chief air accident investigator was struck and killed by a car while walking near his home in Porirua this morning.

"Ron was a remarkable man who has made an invaluable contribution to the aviation industry particularly in the field of air safety," Captain Poduval says. "The three papers he taught were highly regarded and unique due to his unrivalled experience in air safety in New Zealand. I have passed on my sincere condolences to his family and wish to extend deepest sympathy to all his friends, past and present, colleagues and students."

All three papers - introductory, basic and advanced air safety investigation - were taught extramurally but Mr Chippindale also ran contact courses for students on the Auckland and Palmerston North campuses. Students enrolled in the papers will be contacted shortly to discuss their options.

Date: 12/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation; Internal Communications

New 'green screen' studio facility a hit with design students and industry

A new industry-standard audio/visual studio at the University's Wellington campus is a hit with design students, and is also in demand by film production companies.



The studio's green screen gives students access to background replacement techniques used in music videos, television weather reports and films such as *The Lord of the Rings*.

Digital media lecturer Struan Ashby from the Institute of Communication Design says the studio provides students with more tools to apply to their digital media productions and consolidates an important industry relationship.

"Since we built the studio last year, use has been very high by digital media students and staff," Mr Ashby says. "While we were still building, the students wanted to know when they could start using it."

Design student Steve Butler used green screen background replacement for his project *Dartel: Point of Difference*, which featured a profile on hip hop musician Dartel (pictured) as part of the College of Creative Arts' annual Exposure design, art, fashion and music exhibition last year.

In background replacement, the actor stands in front of a large green screen and background is added by computer on those parts of the image where the colour is green. Green is the colour least like skin tones and most easily extracted by digital video technology. For traditional celluloid film, blue screens are used.

Mr Ashby and colleague Roy Parkhurst used the studio for their experimental film *Hammond's Arcana*, or the *Paradise of Birds*, which screened at Wellington's City Gallery earlier this month.

Technical demonstrator Keir Husson from the Institute of Communication Design says staff built the studio themselves to keep costs down and film and television companies have already shown interest in using it. "After weeks of construction, painting, sanding and more painting the studio is a versatile facility that can be used by our students and also by industry."

Mr Husson says the next step will be to install a permanent lighting rig. "This will produce consistent, industry-standard results, using equipment that is designed for the purpose and should last longer than our portable lighting units."

The University offers papers in digital media as part of its popular Bachelor of Design programme. Graduates work in film, video, television, interactivity, animation and motion graphics.

Mr Butler's project from Exposure 2007 may be viewed here:
<http://digitalmedia.massey.ac.nz/exposure/student.php?id=58>

Date: 12/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Retail tobacco displays make it tougher to quit

Tobacco advertising displays may be undermining smokers' attempts to give up and tempting former smokers to resume smoking, research by Professor of Marketing Janet Hoek has found.

Professor Hoek and Dr Heather Gifford from Massey and Gill Pirikahu from Whakauae Research interviewed 20 people who had attempted to stop smoking in the previous six to eight months half of whom had taken up smoking again to find out what effect retail displays had on them.

The research was part of a project led by Associate Professor Richard Edwards and Dr George Thomson from Otago University's Wellington School of Medicine and commissioned by the Cancer Society and the anti-smoking group Action on Smoking and Health. The two organisations want the Government to ban displays of cigarettes and other tobacco products in shops.

Professor Hoek says some study participants felt displays made them purchase tobacco or made them feel they were missing out on something if they saw a brand they formerly smoked.

"It was quite clear from what many people said that not having displays would create an environment that made quitting easier," she says.

For a copy of the full release:

http://www.cancernz.org.nz/Uploads/MediaRelease_DisplaysResearchSeminar0208.pdf

Date: 13/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators

Prime Minister endorses Pasifika education focus

Massey's Director Pasifika, Professor Sitaleki Finau, and his team kick-started the year by talking up the lure of higher learning with Pacific Island church leaders, parents and young people at a recent education expo in South Auckland.

Professor Finau is pictured with Prime Minister Helen Clark, who spoke at the Vahefonua Tonga 'o Aotearoa Education and Training expo held at the Tongan Methodist Church in Mangere, South Auckland on 19 January. Massey Pasifika Liaison Officer Tevita Funaki says Ms Clark was full of praise for the University's efforts to encourage more Pasifika families to consider higher education a strand of the Pasifika@Massey strategy.

These kinds of events give us the opportunity to engage in an open and informal manner with the youth, but most importantly with parents and caregivers, who are the main supporters and decision-makers for their children, says Mr Funaki.

The Auckland-based Pasifika@Massey team plans to launch more community learning and homework centres this year for secondary school students in Waitakere and North Shore. The centres are being set up at local schools for pupils who would like extra tuition and mentoring provided by Pasifika student volunteers enrolled at Massey. Last year, the scheme was launched at three North Shore secondary schools.

Date: 13/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika



Food awards serve up fresh ideas

Enterprising food manufacturers who think they have what it takes to compete in this year's Massey University Food Awards can now enter. The biannual awards showcase innovation and ingenuity in the food production and manufacturing industry.

All entries are scrutinised by a panel of food experts, led by this year's new master judge, food commentator and television chef Allyson Gofton. Entrants will be marked on a range of categories including innovation in packaging design, nutrition, enterprise and food safety. Past winners have not only received recognition from within the industry but sales, marketing and resulting revenue benefits have accompanied their success.

Sealord marketing manager David Welsh says winning the 2006 premier award for Simply Natural tender calamari with Thai-style mild chilli dipping sauce brought the business huge benefits.

"It gave us a really great profile with our customers and internally it gave us something to be proud of. It was fantastic to acknowledge a lot of people's very hard work in the development area."

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says products entered are outstanding examples of the quality and vitality of the New Zealand food industry.

"Massey University is proud to be associated with an event that rewards the efforts of food technologists in progressing one of this country's most important industries," Professor Kinnear says.

"Massey University is the leading provider of research and human capacity to New Zealand's land-based economy. It offers New Zealand's only specialist food technology degree and is committed to the development of new food products. It is one of only a few organisations able to conceptualise, create, produce and test products all in one place, making it a superb sponsor of the Food Awards."

The awards are for products developed for the domestic or export markets. All must be manufactured in New Zealand. Award winners will be announced at a gala dinner on 20 October. Complete judging criteria may be obtained from the awards website, along with details on the 20 entry categories and entry forms:

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

Date: 14/02/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Scientists need to tackle challenge of climate change - now

We know what we have to do to tackle climate change, but will each and every person do it? Dr Kevin Tate, keynote speaker at the Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre's annual workshop, challenged the 230 participants of the irrefutable evidence of climate change, urging each person to take action.

"Storm clouds are evident for New Zealand's economy and environment, the result of our burgeoning greenhouse gas emissions and deteriorating water and soil resources," Dr Tate said. "However the encouraging facts for the globe and New Zealand are that we already have the foundation of understanding to start the process of reversing the worrying trends."

The 21st Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre workshop continues today (Thursday) at the University's Palmerston North campus. Attendees span the agribusiness sector, enabling robust discussion of new research and issues affecting the industry. Interest in carbon and nutrient use in agriculture has escalated in recent years with advancing knowledge of determinants of climate change. The Environment New Zealand 2007 report published last week by the Ministry for the Environment put land use and climate change in the spotlight again. Dr Tate highlighted that both urbanisation and agriculture were contributors.

Activity to minimise the effects of nutrients in agriculture included strategic reforestations to recover stored carbon on eroding hill land, some biofuel crops, nitrogen management strategies to curb nitrogen loss to waterways and the atmosphere and merging new technologies including biochar to store carbon in the soil and capturing of enteric methane emissions. Emerging issues in New Zealand included perception of food miles in international markets including the UK, and whether biofuels were viable here.

Director of Massey Agriculture Professor Jacqueline Rowarth opened the 21st annual workshop, which has the theme Carbon and Nutrient Management in Agriculture. Professor Rowarth noted that New Zealand farmers had done a tremendous job in transforming what had been viewed in the 1980s and 90s as a sunset industry but further challenges lay in increasing per hectare production without impacting negatively on the environment.

Heuermann Professor of Agronomy, at the University of Nebraska, Kenneth Cassman gave a keynote address asserting that agriculture was undergoing a biofuel revolution. Professor Cassman addressed the fuel versus food debate, including exploring whether in fact relative yield of food crops was increasing enough and whether land available for food crops was actually increasing.

"In fact current rates of gain in crop yields and land area available for crop production are not adequate to meet expected demand for food, feed, fiber and fuel," he said. "This is what I call a clarion call for ecological intensification. The only way forward is a massive increase in productivity on existing land while at the same time a massive reduction in the environmental footprint of agriculture. This is perhaps the largest scientific challenge facing humankind in all of human history."

Professor Cassman questioned whether existing boundaries used to estimate energy costs were adequate, noting that present measures of obtaining oil were based on in-shore and near surface supply, while most new oil was found in remote and deep undersea locations.

Date: 14/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Porsche the new challenge for teenage driver

Second-year business student Ant Pedersen has stepped up a level in his quest to become a professional driver on the Australian V8 motor racing circuit.

This summer Mr Pedersen, 19, has moved from driving Minis for the International Motorsport racing team to the much faster Porsche GT3 997 Cup Cars, which will feature in the fourth round of the New Zealand Motor Racing Championship at Manfeild this weekend.

He is currently in fifth place after the first three rounds and, having originally aimed to be in the top five, has now revised his objective to be in the top three.

"It's very challenging, it's totally different car to the Mini last year," Mr Pedersen says. "The Mini season was mainly for me to learn the tracks but there's really no similarity. The car's a real beast to drive. You have to adjust your driving style. The Mini was a front-wheel drive, the Porsche is a rear wheel drive; the Mini has about 200 bhp, the Porsche has double that; a six-speed sequential gearbox, everything's just totally different."

Twenty cars race in the GT3 Cup Challenge, all came straight from the Porsche factory last year with identical specifications and top speeds of about 260km/h, making it the fastest Porsche ever and the fastest saloon car racing in New Zealand.

"The season started quite well at Pukekohe in November. I was right in the middle of exams so it was pretty stressful but I got a good result and finished second overall." He also passed all of his exams.

"In the second round in Christchurch I finished fifth overall. It was a hard weekend, I just struggled getting used to the car and the track. The third round at Taupo wasn't that good but I've ended up sitting fifth overall and on points I'm not far off second, third and fourth so I've adjusted my goal because I believe we're good enough to make top three."

Mr Pedersen, who is based in Palmerston North but originally from Rotorua, is the son of successful V8 driver Paul Pedersen. In his first year at Massey he was one of the rising athletes and sport stars selected for the Academy of Sport, which helps students who compete at national and international level with support, mentoring and extra tuition to ensure they can maintain their competitive edge while studying for a degree.

Mr Pedersen says his academic goal - a BBS - will be invaluable if he achieves his motor racing goal of driving professionally in Australia. This year Massey has provided him financial support and is recognised along with his other sponsors, led by Volvo Construction Equipment and electrical firm JA Russell, on the Porsche.

To follow his progress: www.antpedersen.com





Date: 15/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Scholarships; Sport and recreation

How communities recover from disasters

Community response and recovery from disasters is the subject of a presentation at Massey's Wellington campus tomorrow as the final instalment of the week-long Emergency Management Summer Institute hosted by Joint Centre for Disaster Research - School of Psychology and GNS Science.

Case studies will examine both New Zealand and overseas disasters, including recovery from the 1995-1996 Ruapehu eruptions, 1998 Ohura floods, 2005 Matata landslide, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2005 Hurricane Katrina. The course will examine evacuation, welfare and a range of longer-term community recovery issues.

The presentation explores how effective survival and recovery from disasters depends not just on physical impacts of the event but also on how the social environment supports the complex and protracted processes of recovery. It suggests that community recovery from disasters can be greatly enhanced by ensuring that the existing social environment supports the recovery process. Effective engagement within the community must take place to determine needs for physical, social and psychological needs.

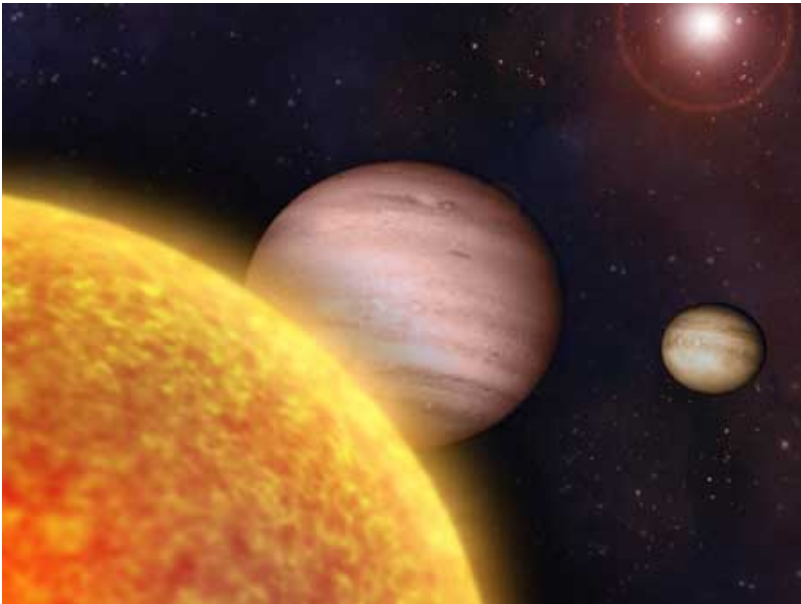
The Summer Institute is held in the Executive Suite Block 5 at Wellington Campus and was developed to provide a theoretical and practical introduction to selected topics relating to emergency management.

The course is designed for those involved in all aspects of emergency management: planners, educators, engineers, local and central government policy makers, insurance managers, emergency managers and business, utility and property owners.

Date: 15/02/2008

Type: Research

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



New Zealand scientists in new solar system discovery

 Watch the [ONE News](#) or [3 News](#) items.

A new solar system similar to our own has been discovered by an international team of astronomers including New Zealanders.

The team used an observation method known as gravitational microlensing, a technique partly developed by Massey's Dr Ian Bond and Associate Professor Phil Yock from Auckland University. A third member of the Auckland-based group was Dr Nicholas Rattenbury, now working at Manchester University.

The discovery features in the latest issue of the prestigious journal, *Science*. The astronomers report that the nearer star is a red dwarf, a smaller and cooler version of our Sun, with two giant planets, somewhat smaller than our Jupiter and Saturn, orbiting it. They say the complete system could be likened to a half-size version of the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn, with the temperatures of the Jupiter and Saturn lookalikes being quite similar to those of our Jupiter and Saturn.



"Although the system is far from identical to our own solar system, it is the most similar yet found, and raises hopes that an Earth-like planet will soon be found," says Dr Bond. The first observations were made by a Polish team with a telescope in Chile. During March 2006 Professor Andrzej Udalski of Warsaw University observed a pair of stars in the constellation coming into almost perfect alignment. This alignment would allow the gravitational field of the nearer star to be used as a lens to magnify the more distant star with the technique of gravitational microlensing.

The Polish astronomers called for astronomers around the world to join them in monitoring these stars. A total of 69 scientists around the globe took part and Massey's Paul Tristram was the first New Zealander to pick up on this event from the Mt John Observatory.

The entire team on this project has been led by Dr Scott Gaudi and Professor Andrew Gould of Ohio State University and Associate Professor David Bennett of Notre Dame University, who carried out the complex task of collating and analysing the data from all the telescopes that were involved. They are the lead authors of the paper in *Science*.

Dr Bond is the lead investigator for the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics project, a Japan-New Zealand collaboration funded here by a Marsden Grant from the Royal Society.

Date: 18/02/2008

Type: Research



Dr Patrick Morel and a meal of healthy pork.

Healthy pork a tasty discovery

Altering the flavour of meat to suit different palates could lead to increased exports, Massey University experts say. Dr Patrick Morel has produced pork with lighter flavours, with a taste of rosemary or garlic, and pork with added nutritional benefits.

The project started with a focus on pork exported to Singapore, Dr Morel says.

“People really didn't like the flavour; they said it was too milky or too muttony. So we managed the diet of the pigs and were able to produce a pork with a flavour similar to that which Singaporeans were used to.”

To alter the flavour, Dr Morel and his team at the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health altered the diet of the pigs. Instead of feeding a diet of animal by-products, a diet of vegetables was used.

“On top of that we thought, well, if we can improve the flavour, we thought we might be able to produce a more healthy pork. So we altered different types of oils in feeding to improve the fatty acid content.”

The team was able to increase the selenium very significantly to about 30 per cent of the recommended daily intake per 100g of pork consumed. Vitamin E content was also increased. Dr Morel says pork is already a healthy meat, with lean pork containing only about 1 per cent fat.

Follow-up work is underway on flavour.

“We thought instead of trying to get rid of a flavour we might actually be able to produce something that people like. A researcher in Singapore surveyed and found that people liked ginger and garlic, so we were able to reproduce that.”

Dr Morel says that the same effect is likely to be possible in producing chicken, but would be more difficult in sheep or cows because these are ruminant animals.

The project was funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and the Pork Industry Board.

Date: 19/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Senior Lecturer Dr Pi'ikea Clark greets one of more than 130 new education students who were welcomed at Te Kupenga o te Matauranga marae on Thursday.

Class is in for tomorrow's teachers

Students of Massey University's new four-year teaching programme were formally welcomed to campus at a powhiri held in Palmerston North last week.

They are the first to study under the College of Education's new qualification, designed to better prepare teachers for the challenges of the modern-day classroom.



The new programme addresses the latest curriculum changes and best teaching practices. It also puts teacher preparation on a similar footing to other specialist professions.

More than 130 students gathered at Te Kupenga o te Matauranga Marae, Hokowhitu, where they were officially welcomed to campus, enjoyed a barbecue and met with academic staff. Students were also welcomed at Hawke's Bay and Auckland.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says the students will be provided with in-depth training in literacy and numeracy, as well as provided with more classroom practical experience before they start their first teaching position, something he says should help to retain quality graduates in New Zealand, as a teaching shortage looms.

"We believe that these students will be much less likely to leave teaching because they will be better prepared to meet the challenges and complexities of the modern-day classroom," Professor Chapman says.

"Teaching is a complex and difficult job, and negative publicity about schools and schooling turns many very competent young people away from the profession.

"Not only is it important to recruit new teachers, it's vital that they are prepared to teach with confidence, in what is a very rewarding career."

Graduates will be equipped with a dual qualification, receiving a Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary and a Diploma in Education Studies.

Date: 19/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Orientation



New students in the College of Creative Arts gathered for a Powhiri on Wellington campus.

Students return as University year kicks off

Commencement dinners were held for new students and their families on each campus this week, giving them the chance to mix with staff and guests in a relaxed environment as the academic year gets underway.

More than 1000 first-year students and their families packed Arena Manawatu on Monday night where they were greeted by academic staff and welcomed to the city by Palmerston North Mayor Jono Naylor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington and Chancellor Nigel Gould.



Commencement offers new students an opportunity to witness the pomp and circumstance of a formal welcome ceremony followed by a sit-down dinner and entertaining guest speakers.

Wellington's campus hummed with new students enjoying a full programme of orientation activity - from fun to formal - in glorious summer weather. The biggest influx of new students came to the College of Creative Arts and they packed the front steps of the museum building for their powhiri and welcome.

All over the campus small groups stuck close to Uni Guides as they explored their new environment, locating vital services and facilities. This year the Uni Guides had their own challenge at the hands of some of the city's very slick chefs. Under the tuition of Wellington's catering company, Sarah Searancke, and in the name of team building and leadership, the Uni Guides did a crash course in cooking. They chopped, stirred, and whipped their way through a fast-moving exercise to see who could come up with the best results for an afternoon tea party.

In Auckland more than 600 people - including 250 new students with their families, as well as Massey staff - strutted over red carpet to the rousing rhythms of Korean traditional drummers to pack out two lecture theatres for the Orientation Week Welcome Reception.



Following a Mihi Whakatau (greetings and welcome) led by Maori Manager Donald Ripia with waiata sung by staff, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine gave a welcome speech.

Professor Raine outlined developments in the pipeline, including a new library and sciences buildings and 300-bed accommodation village and highlighted assets such as a top class recreation centre as well as last year's opening of the national New Zealand Institute for Advanced Research based on Massey's Auckland campus which is aimed at driving the country forward as a world-class research hub.



Guests then filled the Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building lobby to mingle with academic staff and enjoy refreshments and entertainment by jazz ensemble featuring musicians from the Auckland-based New Zealand School of Music Jazz Studies centre, while fire dancers cavorted outside.

Date: 20/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Orientation; Palmerston North; Wellington

Psychology centre offers low-cost therapy for depression and anxiety

For depression and anxiety sufferers for whom the cost of therapy is in itself depressingly unaffordable, there is hope. The University's Centre for Psychology is offering a new low-cost group Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) service.

The centre's clinical psychologists are providing 90-minute group sessions over eight weeks at a cost of \$30 per session for up to eight at a time. These are available until March 2008.

Senior lecturer and practitioner Dr Nik Kazantzis says CBT is a widely used mainstream therapy for clinically depressed people. It focuses on changing problem beliefs and behaviours, and is being offered as a group therapy for both depression and anxiety separately.

CBT was developed by American-born psychiatrist Dr Aaron Beck in the 1960s, and has been endorsed by more than 400 studies internationally as an effective, low-cost treatment for a range of disorders.

Dr Kazantzis, who trained under Dr Beck two years ago, says CBT helps people realise that it is invariably our perception of events that causes distress rather than the events themselves.

"CBT enables a person to learn practical strategies to improve moods and reduce anxiety, as well as identify unhelpful thoughts that perpetuate negative emotions," he says. "People find more flexible ways of looking at, responding to and dealing with situations."

"The therapy generally focuses on how you are thinking, behaving and communicating today rather than on your early childhood experiences," says Dr Kazantzis.

After researching the subject for more than a decade, he has published internationally his investigations into aspects of applying the therapy. As a practitioner, he has worked in a variety of hospital and community settings.

The CBT groups are aimed at people who would like to improve their moods and gain control over their anxiety. They are not suitable for people so severely distressed as to require acute or emergency support through hospital facilities.

Depression and anxiety sufferers often benefit from group sessions through talking to others who understand how they feel, as well as having the opportunity to help and learn from one another's experiences.

The groups are a low-cost alternative to individual therapy, and will take place at Massey's Centre for Psychology in Albany Village. The centre is part of the University, but is located in private premises on the third floor of the Albany Library building.

Date: 20/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Student death at Palmerston North campus

A 20-year-old international student died at the Rotary Court hall of residence at Massey University in Palmerston North last night after what is believed to be an asthma attack. Police say there are no suspicious circumstances.

The University extends its condolences to the family and friends of Mohd Faizal Ahmad Kamil, from Malaysia, who had moved into the halls two days earlier. Cultural requirements associated with the death have been respected through the Islamic Centre on campus and by the mosque and Muslim community in the city. Support is being provided to friends and colleagues.

Mr Ahmad Kamil was found unconscious in his room by students at about 7pm. An ambulance was called and attempts were made to revive him, both by staff trained in first aid and subsequently by paramedics, without success. Police also attended and the death will be referred to the coroner.

Date: 21/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Uni News



Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear being presented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie with a Paul Dibble sculpture.

University pays tribute to outgoing Vice-Chancellor

The tributes flowed for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, at a series of farewells on the three campuses over the past fortnight.

Professor Kinnear, Massey's fifth head, fourth Vice-Chancellor and the only woman to head a New Zealand university, retires this week after five years in the role.

Farewell functions were hosted by Wellington campus staff on 14 February, followed last week by the College of Education in Palmerston North, the Library at Palmerston North, the official University farewell at the Palmerston North Convention Centre last Thursday, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) on Friday, and at the Auckland campus tonight.

The function in Palmerston North brought together a diverse group of people to farewell Professor Kinnear, representing the many relationships she has established during her time in New Zealand. As well as University colleagues, guests also included representatives from the education sector, the Palmerston North community and friends from the racing fraternity who share the Vice-Chancellor's enjoyment of horse racing. In a series of speeches Professor Kinnear was recognised for both her professional and personal achievements and attributes.



While she was unable to attend, Tertiary Education Commission chief executive Janice Shiner's comments were relayed through former Massey staffer now TEC university relationship manager Dr Ruth Anderson.

Dr Shiner said Professor Kinnear had embraced the tertiary education reform agenda and worked hard to align the University's strategic direction with the Government's priorities.

Professor Kinnear's commitment to high quality teaching and research was particularly valued, she said. Minister of Research, Science and Technology and alumnus Pete Hodgson honoured Professor Kinnear's commitment to growing the science capability at the University and in New Zealand, which had enabled "my university" to take a lead in scientific endeavour in this country.

Former Chancellor Morva Croxson, who headed Council at the time of Professor Kinnear's appointment, talked of her engagement with the Palmerston North community, her ongoing commitment to her academic discipline, biology, and her well-known devotion to her cats including the two New Zealand-born additions to her "family", which will accompany her back to Australia.

Professor Kinnear was presented with a sculpture, titled *The Devil Meets Darwin*, from Palmerston North artist Paul Dibble, who received an honorary doctorate from the University last year. The sculpture recognised Professor Kinnear's admiration for Charles Darwin, the original evolutionist.

Professor Ian Warrington, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North), will be Acting Vice-Chancellor from Monday, 3 March, until Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey, currently MP for Palmerston North, takes up the role later in the year.



Wellington campus student president Alex Sorensen, Contact Centre manager Janet Stanion with Professor Kinnear.



Former Chancellor Morva Crossson with Professor Kinnear.



Professor Kinnear with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Andrea McIlroy



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine presents outgoing Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear with a gift at a farewell reception at Massey's Auckland campus.

Date: 22/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any

Time for change in real estate industry

The real estate industry cannot afford to insist the traditional model of selling property is beyond reproach, says a senior lecturer in property studies in the University's College of Business, Dr Susan Flint-Hartle.

Dr Flint-Hartle is a successful former real estate agent in Auckland city who returned to study a decade ago and has just completed a doctoral thesis on real estate franchises. She says the industry cannot afford to dismiss innovation in the way property is sold - regardless of the reasons for the recent collapse of the Jones's Real Estate agency.

Dr Flint-Hartle says the cost of selling real estate by the prevailing method, may be one of the least understood and least acknowledged influences behind housing affordability in New Zealand.

"Vendors expect to get high prices because they factor in marketing costs and high commissions.

Not only are commission rates amongst the highest around, but vendors are forced to pay massive marketing fees - say \$5000 for the anticipated sale of a \$700,000 property; where is the partnership and risk sharing in this?

"Although the current model of selling real estate places increasing financial burden on sellers by adding considerable marketing costs onto already high commission rates, the majority of vendors still don't want to step outside the system endorsed by the Real Estate Institute."

"Participants in the market are largely caught within the system and the reality is that the cost of sale is too much for many. In many cases people cannot see value for money."

Dr Flint-Hartle says recent support for new real estate agencies like Go Gecko and Green Door, which offer different selling methods, indicate real demand for price-driven alternatives. It is a narrow view to suggest only the best salespeople work for commission-based agencies because some actually prefer a team-based and salaried approach.

"Many people are not satisfied with the way things are in the real estate industry at the moment. The industry attracts public attack and is very defensive in the face of public query of its methods. It is time for the real estate world to encompass alternative ways of doing things and encourage diversity to provide real choice for the public."

Date: 22/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business





Katherine Ross with medal: Philip Williams, Colin Anderson, Ute Walker Katherine Ross and France Grenaudier-Klijn

Inaugural medal for French scholar

New graduate Katherine Ross is the first recipient of the French Embassy medal in recognition of outstanding achievement in French. Ms Ross, a Massey Scholar who graduated in Palmerston North with a BA in French and Linguistics, received the medal from head of the School of Language Studies Professor Phillip Williams, Dr Colin Anderson, Dr Ute Walker and Dr France Grenaudier-Klijn.

Dr Grenaudier-Klijn says this is the first time a New Zealand student has received such an award, and the School was grateful to both the French Ambassador His Excellency Michel Legras and cultural services attaché Dominique Suquet.

“Dominique as the new linguistic attaché came to see us at end of last year and at that time we were looking at prizes for best students. The embassy was happy to oblige and produced certificates, and mentioned the possibility of the more prestigious award of this medal.”



Dr Grenaudier-Klijn and her colleagues were able to select a medal from those produced by the French Government.

“The medal represents the French author Antoine de Saint Exupéry. It was chosen because one of Saint Exupéry's works, also one of the most well-known and loved works in French literature, *Le Petit Prince*, is taught as part of our Entré to French Literature paper. It also seemed appropriate given that Saint Exupéry, as a writer and a pilot, embodies the spirit of adventure and intellectual curiosity that drives students of foreign languages. Also, Dr Colin Anderson, who has taught French at Massey's School of Language Studies for many years, had done his doctoral thesis on Saint Exupéry's Oeuvre and it was a nice way to include Colin in the award.”

Award of the medal will be by nomination in future, Dr Grenaudier-Klijn says.

Other students from the School of Language studies also recognised for their ability recently include Heather Smith and Natilene Bowker, who were recipients of the German prize for first and second-year students respectively.?

Date: 22/02/2008

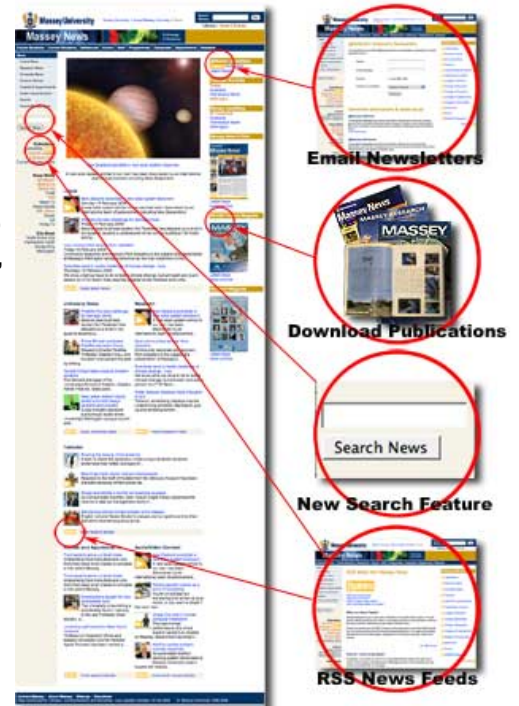
Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Website upgrade brings new features for readers

The Massey News website has undergone a major upgrade and is now part of the University's content management system, enabling readers to enjoy many of the features found on many of the world's best news sites, which include:

- Syndicated news, allowing other Massey University sites to include customised live news on their pages.
- RSS news feeds that can be subscribed to by subject, category or location and can be included as live feeds on personal websites. This also allows subscribers to be notified by email when a new article of interest to them is posted.
- Related items links, providing readers with links from articles to similar topics or articles concerning the same research.
- The ability to automatically send articles to personal online communities such as MySpace.
- The ability to view all articles from the Massey News home page by categories in order of publication date.
- A comprehensive search feature allowing returns to be viewed in date order as well as still being able to search using Google.
- Downloads of print publications like the MASSEY magazine for alumni, Massey Research and Massey News in full colour as PDF files.
- Updated and improved University Council pages.



Launched in 1999, Massey News on-line has an archive of more than 6000 articles, making it the largest and most comprehensive news website of any tertiary education provider in New Zealand. The upgrade will also allow us to add additional features and services in the future. Departments and staff that currently link to Massey News articles from their websites can contact David Wiltshire to arrange replacement links to the migrated content. d.wiltshire@massey.ac.nz ext 5370.

Connect with Massey networks online:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/masseyuniversity>

Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/masseyuniversity>

Date: 25/02/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any



From left, Brigadier Mark Wheeler, Ashleigh Lindsay, Ken MacPherson, Ishmael Molefhe and Professor Barrie Macdonald at the Centre for Defence Studies prizegiving.

International students take defence honours

A mature student from the US and a major from the Botswana Defence Force joined New Zealand Army Officer Cadet Ashleigh Lindsay as recipients of the Centre for Defence Studies annual prizes.

The awards, made to the top students in each of the three years of the Bachelor of Defence Studies programme, were made at a ceremony today attended by both College of Humanities and Social Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Barrie Macdonald and Brigadier Mark Wheeler as a representative of the Chief of the Defence Force.

The first year prize was awarded to Ken MacPherson, a mature student originally from the United States who has spent many years travelling including time working in China and Antarctica. The second year prize went to Ishmael Molefhe, an army major in the Botswana Defence Force who came to Massey University with several colleagues to complete the Bachelor of Defence Studies degree. Officer Cadet Ashleigh Lindsay received the third year prize, and now leaves for Waiouru to complete her officer training course.

Brigadier Wheeler said the international students were a positive addition to the New Zealand students undertaking defence studies, adding differing viewpoints and adding to the breadth of understanding.

Dr Reid, speaking for the Centre for Defence Studies, and Brigadier Wheeler both acknowledged the contribution of Professor Macdonald, who retires later this month, in starting and developing the centre.

Date: 28/02/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Kiwi a highlight for alumni tour

Alumni, friends and family were able to get close to a young kiwi being cared for in the University's veterinary hospital wildlife ward at an alumni and friends open day on 24 February.

More than 80 alumni, family and friends from the Palmerston North chapter took part, says Alumni Manager Leanne Fecser.

"We had a request from the chapter committee to view the vet hospital," Mrs Fecser says, "so were happy to oblige, particularly because we are aiming to develop a programme of alumni events suitable for the whole family."

Mrs Fecser says a highlight of the event was a presentation from wildlife vet Kerri Morgan, and a visit to the wildlife ward to view the facilities and the kiwi.

The Wildlife Health Centre Trust, a sub-trust of the Massey University Foundation, has a programme of activities for 2008. Donations are being sought to support essential conservation work, research and postgraduate scholarships. Contributions can be made to the trust by contacting the Foundation on 06-350-5865.

There are now five New Zealand alumni chapters, in Palmerston North, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Hawke's bay. Chapters are also active in Thailand, India and Australia.

Date: 29/02/2008

Type: University News

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



Revealing the meaning behind ancient rock drawings

Associate Professor Ross Hemera is leading a revival of interest in traditional Maori rock drawings.

A new exhibition by Mr Hemera (Ngai Tahu), an artist based in the College of Creative Arts School of Visual and Material Culture is showing in Wellington. It coincides with the launch at Te Papa of a unique range of shawls based on his designs.

Mr Hemera's exhibition, *Manu Atua - Birdman of Waitaha*, opened at the Kura Contemporary and Ethnic Art Gallery on 29 February and has already attracted national interest.

It features nine works, including seven wall sculptures in aluminium and kauri that explore the birdman imagery in rock drawings in South Canterbury and North Otago, mostly on limestone outcrops.

Most rock drawings – Mr Hemera estimates about 90 per cent – are in the South Island. He says some of these drawings can still be viewed but others have been submerged by hydro developments, including the Benmore dam.

“I am fortunate,” he says. “When I was a child my father took me to see some of these drawings, in the Waitaki Valley in North Otago. So although they are lost to most people, they are familiar to me.”

Mr Hemera, who is also the University's Wellington campus Kaiwhakaahua (Director of Maori Development), says his sculptures “explore the notion that interpretations of ‘birdman’ hold significant cultural relevance across several centuries.

“Our creative interpretations today continue to reaffirm our connections to land and sky – to whenua and atua.”

The birdman imagery is frequently used in the rock drawings; traditionally the bird is regarded as the intermediary between the land and the gods.

Mr Hemera's work has referenced ancient rock drawings for the past five years. His new exhibition is the first to have a primary focus on bird images in particular.

Three of his rock drawing images also feature on a range of shawls on display, and available for sale, at Te Papa. The line of shawls was developed as a Ngāi Tahu initiative, in partnership with AgResearch. They are made of a unique blend of possum and merino wool with the images knitted into the fabric.

The exhibition is on show until 26 March. The shawls can be seen at the Te Papa shop.

Date: 29/02/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhibition/Show; Maori



Graphic images on cigarette packets 'will be effective'

A key purpose of the new graphic pictures on cigarette packets is being overlooked, says a leading researcher on health warnings.

Graphic images on cigarette packets, including pictures of gangrenous toes, diseased lungs and rotting teeth and gums, were introduced this week in a further move to curb cigarette smoking.

Professor Janet Hoek says media cover has focused on smokers' response to the images. "However a key purpose of the pictorial warning labels – known as PWLs – is to deter young people from taking up smoking and to display smoking as abnormal behaviour.

She says her own research shows that the images have a very strong impact on young people. "We used plain packaging (unbranded cigarette packets), with text and PWLs, in an experiment where respondents identified the pack that would be the most and least acceptable to a young smoker.

"The plain packs with PWLs were many hundreds of times less attractive than text only warnings," she says.

Professor Hoek says the images also have a role in prompting smokers to make quit attempts. "Research reported at last year's Oceania Smokefree conference showed that it takes smokers an average 14 attempts to quit. This means that interventions that promote a quit attempt, or that support behaviours that are precursors to quitting, are extremely important.

"Our research shows that PWLs would be more effective in prompting these behaviours than continuation of text warnings, even if these were refreshed."

Professor Hoek also takes issue with suggestions by some lobby groups that opinions are divided on the effectiveness of the pictorial warnings. "This is not correct. Our research studies clearly show that PWLs are more likely than text only warnings to stimulate quit attempts, calls to Quitline and a reduction in the number of cigarettes smoked."

"Findings from Australia also show that calls to cessation services increased markedly following the introduction of PWLs."

Finally, Professor Hoek notes the importance of PWLs in assisting smokers who have quit. "Smoking is a powerful addiction, made more so by the attractive imagery on tobacco packaging. Smokers themselves have said that tobacco packaging is a form of advertising. PWLs will also support those smokers who have quit, and who face on-going temptation every time they encounter a tobacco power wall in retail outlets."

Professor Hoek leads a research team in the College of Business at Massey University. Over the past four years, she has conducted three studies on the impact of pictorial images displayed on cigarette packets.

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators



Stuart Houltham on campus with his mountain bike.

Student mountain biker takes national title

Taking out the national mountainbiking championship and receiving a Prime Minister's scholarship has put third-year sport and exercise science major Stuart Houltham on track for both his Commonwealth Games campaign and completion of his study within the next year.

The 28-year-old sportsman is based at the Palmerston North campus, though he has completed many of his BSc papers extramurally while training and competing in Europe and Canada. A win in February at the national cross country championships in Wellington came after a near-perfect race, with Mr Houltham completing the five-lap race round Mt Victoria in Wellington four minutes faster than his nearest competition.

New Zealand's poor ranking means that only one mountain biker is able to attend the Olympics in China, a hard fact for Mr Houltham as the likely holder of a second spot.



“So I decided to focus on study this year with the aim of getting it done and the aim of being selected for the Commonwealth Games in 2010 in India.”

Mr Houltham has about a decade to compete at the elite level. Already he has represented New Zealand in the World Championships in 2001-2004, 2006 and last year. He was national Mountain Bike Series winner from 2001 to 2004, and national champion in 2003. He took sixth place in the Oceanic Championships last year, and will compete in this year's Oceania Championships in Nelson on March 14.

“So this year it's about keeping carrying on, maintaining what I have built. As the racing scene has developed a lot in the past few years, I have to work harder and smarter in training to be competitive. When you are in a race with 50 guys on the start line together you need to be strong and aggressive, but your effort must be gauged for the two-hour duration.”

Though he is now in an established and tightly scheduled routine to allow him the 10 to 20 hours training he needs each week – all on the road bike around Palmerston North or his \$10,000 Specialised mountain bike in the Kahuterawa Valley, Mr Houltham says the journey to study was almost by accident.

“I'd moved here and in 2005 just enrolled for one paper extramurally. I was really green as I hadn't been at school for seven years so it really took a good year before I could get to a point of handling four papers each semester ... but it does seem to have worked really well so far.”

A part-time job at local retailer Pedal Pushers is added to the mix. “As far as the study goes there's no room for procrastination, it's not a problem!”

Mr Houltham took the national title in 2003, but had a bad run through to 2005 and believes he is now again building his performance. Each year he spends two to three months competing overseas, with notable wins

including the Quebec Cup in 2006 and the Idaho State Championships last year.

Mr Houltham was named a recipient of a Prime Minister's Scholarship for elite sportspeople in December, receiving funding of up to \$10,000 for course fees and associated living costs. Nominated by a mountainbiking colleague, he returns the contribution to the sport by himself coaching three Taupo teenagers.

Caption 1: Stuart Houltham in action during the national mountain biking cross country championships in Wellington. Photo: Raewyn Knight.

Caption 2:

Date: 29/02/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Scholarships; Sport and recreation; Student profiles

Rainwater supplies fail drinking standards

The assumption that rainwater channelled from roof-tops is suitable to drink was challenged during a talk by microbiology and communicable diseases lecturer Stan Abbott in Dunedin.

Recent studies of various rainwater supplies, both community and private based, show most failed drinking water standards, Mr Abbott says.

E-coli and faecal coliforms were present in more than half of storage tanks monitored, and cases of campylobacter and salmonella resulting from contaminated rainwater supply had been recorded in New Zealand, he says.

There was also potential for more harmful pathogens such as giardia and cryptosporidium.

Mr Abbott says about 380,000 people use roof rainwater in New Zealand and the number is likely to increase as more people purchase lifestyle blocks in rural areas not served by municipal town supplies.

The monitoring of water quality, and the necessary task of cleaning tanks, gutters and roofs was often neglected by users, mostly through ignorance of the problem. During studies of rainwater supply systems, tanks had been found with holes which let in various pathogens as well larger invaders like possums, frogs and ducks. Even a passing seagull defecating on a roof could raise the level of faecal coliforms in water and pass on other pathogens.

However, illnesses attributed to roof water quality were infrequent, Mr Abbott says.

The health risks associated with contaminated rainwater consumption are not well defined or quantified. Relatively few roof-collected rainwater-linked disease outbreaks have been reported in New Zealand and overseas.

This lack of concrete evidence linking illness and poor quality roof water inhibited moves to improve systems delivering rainwater for consumption, he says.

Another inhibitor was the 'kiwi-joker syndrome'. New Zealanders, particularly male, often see cases of the trots two or three times a week as a normal function and were unlikely to seek medical help, therefore keeping the problem unexposed, Mr Abbott says.

Also people build immunity to bugs, or symptoms, but visitors remained at risk. Creating more awareness of the problems associated with rainwater collection by New Zealand's health agencies and local government authorities is required, he says.

Date: 01/03/2008

Type: Research

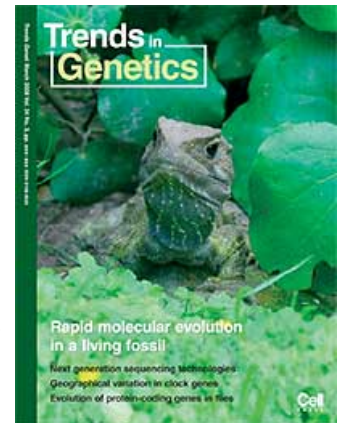
Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Tuatara evolving faster than any other species

- [View the Discovery Chanel article](#)
- [View the National Geographic article](#)

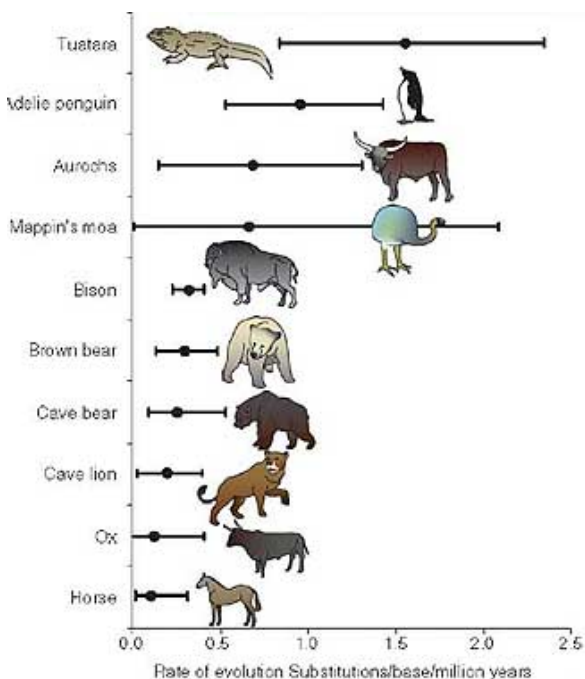
New DNA research has questioned previous notions about the evolution of the tuatara.

In a study of New Zealand's "living dinosaur" the tuatara, evolutionary biologist Professor David Lambert and a team from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution have recovered DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) sequences from the bones of ancient tuatara up to 8000 years old. They found that although tuatara, have remained largely physically unchanged over very long periods of evolution, they are evolving - at a DNA level - faster than any other animal yet examined. The research has just been published in the prestigious international journal Trends in Genetics and features on the cover of the issue.



“What we found is that the tuatara has the highest molecular evolutionary rate that anyone has measured,” Professor Lambert says.

The rate of evolution for Adélie penguins, which Professor Lambert and his team have studied in the Antarctic for many years, is slightly slower than that of the tuatara. The tuatara rate is significantly faster than for animals including the cave bear, lion, ox and horse.



“Of course we would have expected that the tuatara, which does everything slowly – they grow slowly, reproduce slowly and have a very slow metabolism – would have evolved slowly. In fact, at the DNA level, they evolve extremely quickly, which supports a hypothesis proposed by the evolutionary biologist Allan Wilson, who suggested that the rate of molecular evolution was uncoupled from the rate of morphological evolution.”

Allan Wilson, who died of leukaemia in 1991, was a pioneer of molecular evolution. His ideas were controversial when introduced 40 years ago, but this new research supports them.

Professor Lambert says the finding will be helpful in terms of future study and conservation of the tuatara, and the team now hopes to extend the work to look at the evolution of other animal species.

“We want to go on and measure the rate of molecular evolution for humans, as well as doing more work with moa and Antarctic fish, to see if rates of DNA change are uncoupled in these species. There are human mummies in the Andes and some very good samples in Siberia where we have some collaborators, so we are hopeful we will be able to measure the rate of human evolution in these too.”

The tuatara, *Sphenodon punctatus*, is found only in New Zealand and is the only surviving member of a distinct reptilian order, Sphehodontia, that lived alongside early dinosaurs and separated from other reptiles 200 million years ago in the Upper Triassic period.

Date: 01/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Baby pilot whales drowned in stormy seas

An autopsy of two long-finned pilot whale calves found washed-up within 10 days of each other shows they drowned shortly after birth during stormy weather.

Massey marine mammal pathologist Dr Wendi Roe says the aerated lungs of both calves showed they had surfaced after birth to take their first breath.

Dr Roe says neither had drunk any milk, which indicates the calves were unable to return to their mothers to feed.

This supports the theory that they were born during a storm, and when they surfaced unaccompanied by their mothers for their first breath of air, they were buffeted about by strong seas and were unable to dive back down, Dr Roe says.

The two calves were found on the Kapiti and New Plymouth coasts and brought to the University's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences for autopsy by the Department of Conservation. Dr Roe says a third calf washed up on a South Island West Coast beach during the same period, but it was not recovered for autopsy, and it is possible that all the babies were from the same pod.

She says long-finned pilot whales are the most common mass stranders in New Zealand but it is uncommon to find single stranded animals. Scientists are keen to learn more about them, as there are morphological differences that indicate a possible species differentiation. Tissue samples taken during the autopsy will be kept in the University's archives for future reference by marine biologists and geneticists.

PhD student Laureline Meynier assisted with the examination of the calves, and Te Papa's marine mammal curator Anton van Helden assisted with the autopsies. Mr van Helden will eventually prepare the calves' skeletons for the museum's marine mammal collection.

Also present was department officer Bryan Williams, who found the New Plymouth calf the first of its type he has seen wash up in more than 30 years of work in the Taranaki region.

Date: 03/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Sport research conference draws participants from Massey, UCOL, EIT and Victoria

A Postgraduate Sport Research Conference will be held at the Sport and Rugby Institute, Palmerston North campus, on 31 March and 1 April.

College of Business and College of Sciences sport and exercise staff, postgraduate and third-year students will give presentations on a range of sport management, sport and exercise science and physical education topics.

The conference has been promoted to lower North Island tertiary institutions and there will be presentations from staff and students from Napier's Eastern Institute of Technology, UCOL in Palmerston North, Victoria University and staff and students from Massey's Wellington and Palmerston North campuses.

It has been organised by staff from the Department of Management in the College of Business and the Institute of Food, Nutrition, and Human Health in the College of Sciences.

One of the organisers, Dr Andy Martin, says the conference aims "to provide an opportunity to network with other postgraduate students and staff interested in the range of sport-related topics that are part of Sport@Massey".

Keynote presentations will be given by EIT chief executive Chris Collins. Mr Collins, a former Massey Registrar, has published five books on sport and sport management.

Associate Professor Hugh Morton from Massey will give a lunchtime address he says will "make sense of the stats that come out of sports matches".

Anyone interested in registering for the conference should contact Miria Busby on 06-356-9099 ext 5964

Date: 03/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar; Sport and recreation



Massey researchers seek cyclists for nutrition study

A new dietary formula to enhance muscle repair after endurance training and competition is being trialled by Massey University researchers, who are seeking cyclists in Auckland to take part in the study.

Jasmine Thomson (pictured), a sport nutrition researcher at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, heads a team studying the effects of adding protein to conventional carbohydrate recovery meals and sports drinks on cyclists' recovery and subsequent performance following muscle-battering bouts of exercise.

"It's been known for several years now that high-protein/amino acid-carbohydrate supplements improve recovery from weight training, but the effects in endurance athletes is a relatively new area of research," she says.

While another recent Massey study had revealed cyclists benefited physiologically when fed a protein-carbohydrate recovery meal after training compared with those who only took a high carbohydrate meal, little was known about how such a combination might affect other aspects of recovery such as muscle soreness and damage, and adaptation to training.

"Recovery from hard exercise is an important part of a cyclist's training regime, both to maintain training volume and to improve performance during the next bout," says Mrs Thomson.

Cyclists who don't recover sufficiently may not cope so well with follow-up training and performance sessions, and may lose their competitive edge.

Researchers want to recruit up to 12 male cyclists aged between 19 and 50 years, who are currently cycling eight hours or more a week and have been training regularly over the last six months. They must be free of illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney problems, uncontrolled asthma and blood-borne disorders.

Participation in the lab-based study using a Velotron cycle ergometer will involve preliminary sessions of fitness testing, metabolic rate measurement and a time trial. Then two weeks of training and two time trials held after work and at weekends will be carried out in conjunction with trialling recovery meals.

"The object of the study is to test the effect of two different nutritional interventions - taken during the recovery period immediately following a hard training session - on subsequent cycling performance," says Mrs Thomson.

She says the findings of the study will be relevant to both male and female endurance athletes, including other disciplines such as long distance running and multi-sport.

In return for participating, cyclists will be offered specialised tests - free of charge - to assess their aerobic fitness.

Date: 03/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Alumni Newsletter: Issue 5, 3 March 2008

A bi-monthly newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Massey University and includes essential information about upcoming Alumni events in New Zealand and around the world.

[Click here to view this issue](#)

In this issue

News roundup

- New Zealand scientists in new solar system discovery
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Alumni news

- New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre Trust visit
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- Donating becomes easier - exciting changes to tax law
- Obituary Bevan, Doris F C, nee Higgie. (provided by Mr Chas Bevan)

Date: 04/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni





Bike with board a new design challenge for BMW man

When former BMW motorbike designer Oliver Neuland moved from Germany to New Zealand just over a year ago, his newly adopted lifestyle spawned a unique challenge.

The design consultant and senior Industrial and Transport Design lecturer at Massey University's Auckland School of Design had never been able to pursue his two passions, motorcycle riding and surfing, so readily until he moved here.

Being able to strap a surfboard to his beloved Triumph 900cc bike and roar off to Auckland's west coast waves would be ideal. Daunting logistics aside, he reckons attaching the board to a trailer hooked up to the bike could be the answer. He'd like to figure it out on paper sometime, but it is by no means the most pressing transport issue on his mind.

In his capacity as a transport design lecturer, he encourages students to create environmentally-friendly, sustainable energy-fuelled vehicles and transport systems. The challenge for designers, he says, is to incorporate energy efficient methods – such as fuel cells, bio-fuel, electric engines or hybrid systems – whilst creating an aesthetically pleasing vehicle.

What designers have to bear in mind, however, is that car buyers still want their vehicle to conform to certain aesthetic standards, no matter how clean and green their inner workings.

And with motorcycles, “the separation between body and inner technology is not so clear. For motorcyclists – who are even more emotionally attached to their machine – the mechanics are a core part of the beauty of their vehicle,” says Mr Neuland.

“So changing to an eco-friendly technology is a much bigger design challenge because the ‘heart’ of an electric engine beats differently and proportions change dramatically,” he says.

In this light, designers need not only a sound knowledge and appreciation of the technical engineering realities, but a sense whether there is a market for their new, innovative design.

Alternatively, they sometimes find that what might seem a silly and impractical notion may in fact turn out to become a viable product that meets a demand in the market.

This might just be the case for his conceptual motorbike-pulled surfboard trailer, he says.

As well as two years working for BMW's department of motorcycle design in Munich from 1996-97, he has designed Mastiff and Baghira models for famous German motorcycle producer MZ motorcycles, and clay models for BSA Bantam bike designs as well as first class aircraft seats for Cathay Pacific for Seymour Powell in London.



Before moving to New Zealand, he'd spent the past 10 years running his own design company in Berlin, along with guest lecturing at design schools throughout Germany.

In 2004 he organised one of the biggest-ever international motorcycle design competitions in Munich, attracting 150 entries and backing from BMW, Yamaha, Honda and Kawasaki.

So it is no surprise that Mr Neuland remains a keen advocate for the motorcycle. Even those made in a less eco-friendly era are more fuel efficient, take up less space and are much more readily recyclable than a car, he argues.

And while he's not exhorting Aucklanders to trade in their four wheel-drives for Harley Davidsons to resolve the city's growing traffic congestion, his vision for "an efficient public transport system requiring a limited change of infrastructure" is something he'd like have a hand in creating.

Any design initiative – from modest to mammoth - starts at the drawing board. As a specialist in classic hand-rendered design techniques, Mr Neuland has recently launched an instructive DVD giving step-by-step tutoring pencil sketched design to illustrate dimensions, perspective and details.

"There are a lot of good books, but on a DVD you can see the whole process," he says.

Although the growing trend towards replacing manual sketching and modelling with digital methods may appear to save time and money, "one never gets an idea of the real proportions and how the details work with it," he says.

Date: 04/03/2008

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Why 'Coach' is usually a bloke – research to focus on New Zealand women and sport coaching

New research shows women defer to men when it comes to coaching youth sport and have little confidence in their own ability.

Dr Sarah Leberman, Senior Lecturer in Sport Management at Massey University has just returned from four months in the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship with fresh insights into why so few women, particularly mothers, become sports coaches. Dr Leberman (pictured) did her research at the Tucker Centre for Research on Girls and Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis-St Paul, the only research centre of its kind in the world.



She says it has been established that there are few women coaching at the top and elite levels. “So we decided to track through from the beginning by going back to entry-level to look at why women were not taking on coaching positions in youth sport.”

It is estimated that only 15 per cent of youth sport coaches in the United States are women. Dr Leberman says although there is only limited data available in New Zealand, the percentage is also likely to be low.

Her Fulbright research focused on soccer, the fastest growing women's sport in the United States. “It showed that the main reason women don't take part is a lack of confidence in their own abilities, the cost to their children in terms of perceived favouritism, and the challenge of separating the mother/coach roles. There is also a perception that sport is male-dominated and that most coaching clinics are run by men, with little consideration given to the needs of women.”

Dr Leberman says the research suggests there is a need to provide women-only courses, run by women, as well as mentoring and highlighting of the benefits of mothers being a coach, such as being a role model. She and a research colleague also explored the idea of transferring mothering skills to the coaching context. “Many women we interviewed had never considered that their skills as mothers could be relevant to coaching.”

She plans to continue her research in New Zealand and says it will be interesting to compare the results. “The research participants in the United States were predominantly middle class white women. We now want to look at the issues in a context that includes Maori and Pacific Island women.”

Date: 05/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Sport and recreation

More firepower in Biosciences

The arrival of two high achieving, early career scientists has further boosted the research and teaching strength of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences at Auckland.

Both Dr Austen Ganley and Dr Wayne Patrick have been involved in international research projects.

Dr Ganley, who started as a Senior Lecturer in December, has spent the last five years in Japan, initially as a post-doctoral fellow at the National Institute for Basic Biology from 2002 to 2007, and more recently as Associate Professor at the National Institute of Genetics.

He has also held a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University in the United States, from 2000 to 2002, and did his undergraduate and PhD degrees at Massey.

His specialist area is the biology and evolution of the ribosomal DNA repeats which he describes as one of the most fundamental gene families in life.

“This gene family, that we call the rDNA, helps to make the little factories (ribosomes) that make proteins. Cells spend most of their time making proteins, so they need lots of ribosomes. So there are many copies of these rDNA genes - many more than normal genes.” He adds that it is of particular interest that the rDNA genes seem to be linked to cancer.

As part of a group in Japan, Dr Ganley made an important breakthrough in understanding the mechanism by which the cell regulates DNA stability, and this work was published in the prestigious journal *Science*. “We also found a new way to use evolutionary analyses to find new components of the systems that regulate rDNA gene activity and stability. I could also demonstrate in detail that these rDNA genes show an unusual form of evolution.”

He says rDNA is one of the most ancient genes in life. “Therefore I think it is involved in many other important aspects of life, such as ageing, and I am investigating this now.”

Dr Ganley says he is pleased to have an opportunity to return something to Massey and to New Zealand. “With the advent of genome sequences, and with the genetic causes of more and more human diseases being understood, it is imperative that New Zealand plays an active role in biological research.

“There is an outstanding group of researchers at Massey Auckland, covering the whole spectrum of biological research from organisms and populations down to cellular and molecular biology. The strong synergies make for an active and dynamic research environment.”

Dr Wayne Patrick was a post-doctoral research fellow, in chemistry and biochemistry, for four years from 2003 to 2007 at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge and has been awarded numerous scholarships and prizes in chemistry and biology. He joined the academic staff of IMBS in October last year.

He says his research attempts to answer a simple question: Where do new enzymes come from? “Almost all of the chemical reactions in every cell of our bodies are catalysed by protein molecules called enzymes,” he says. “It is proteins that are coded for by genes. When a species evolves to do new chemistry (such as digesting a new food), it is enzymes that make it happen at the molecular level.”

He says being able to predict the origins of new enzymes offers the promise of managing antibiotic resistance. “Further, if we are able to understand the principles of their evolution, we may be able to engineer enzymes that are specific for tasks such as breaking down toxic waste, or attacking cancer cells.”

His discoveries earned him a poster prize at last year's Gordon Conference on Microbial Population Biology and have recently been published in the journal *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. A further study will be published in the *Journal of Molecular Biology*.

Dr Patrick says he enjoys the culture of collaboration between researchers at Massey. “The Institute of Molecular Biosciences is in the process of building something really good here at Auckland and the Institute has rapidly become New Zealand's premier destination for experimental evolution.”

He says the Biological Sciences undergraduate curriculum now very much reflects the research strengths of the

campus, including molecular biology, DNA technology, evolution, ecology and conservation. "It's exciting and I consider myself fortunate to be involved," he says.

Date: 06/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



Caption 1: One of the newly tagged male godwits, tagged D7. Image: Jesse Conklin.

Caption 2: The first godwit to have her journey across the Pacific monitored using satellite technology, E7 (centre) is again at Miranda preparing to complete another epic trip north to breed in Alaska. Image: Jesse Conklin.

Godwits readying for Alaska migration

A BBC website has been set up to monitor the progress of the godwits this year:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/worldonthemove/species/alaskan-bar-tailed-godwit/>

A new cohort of godwits is preparing to leave Miranda, the second wave to have their epic 11,000km journey to and from Alaska monitored by satellite technology. Dr Phil Battley, of the University's Ecology Group, is leading the New Zealand leg of the worldwide project run by the US Geological Survey.

Dr Battley says that this year six females and three males have had transmitters fitted. Last year, the team used satellite tracking to watch the progress of 16 godwits. The return of female E7 in September was the first complete journey tracked, including outward legs from the Firth of Thames to Yalu Jiang nature reserve in China and on to the Yukon Delta and their breeding grounds in Alaska, then returning in a record 11,700 km flight across the Pacific.

Birds monitored this year were captured using mistnets across a shallow pond at Miranda. Although the group hoped to tag more males, the female birds appeared easier to catch, Dr Battley says.

“We caught about 100 birds the first night. The females appear to come in first and be less agile, so they don't tend to avoid the nets so easily. The males were weighing in at about 420g and will be up to about 500g by the time they leave, with females increasing from 300g to 600g before they leave.”

Dr Brett Gartrell of the University's Wildlife Health Centre assisted with the 30-minute surgery to implant a transmitter on each of the nine birds. The tiny device is fitted in the bird's abdominal cavity, with general anaesthetic surgical procedures including heart monitoring and aspiration taking place. All the birds caught were banded, so even those not tracked will be more easily identified in future.

Dr Battley says that the internal transmitters are being used this year because in 2007 the backpack transmitters used for some birds appeared to limit the ability to migrate.

“Last year the males weren't tracked successfully, probably because of their external transmitters. The aim this year is to track the males to confirm they are doing the same thing as females and to follow the six females again as a control, in case the wind conditions or something else are different and have an impact.”

The first godwits are expected to leave within the next two weeks, arriving in Alaska from the end of April where they will stay until the end of August, returning to New Zealand in September.

“What they are now doing is hanging out in Miranda getting nice and fat,” Dr Battley says, “with changes to their internal organs including an enlarged heart allowing for this huge journey – they will effectively take off for seven days of non-stop exercise.”

Dr Gartrell has also assisted in surgery to install transmitters in a sub-species of godwit in northwest Australia. This population goes through the Yellow Sea to eastern Russia.

“No one has previously tracked this group to Russia so we know little about the routes they take,” Dr Battley says. “Do they return back the same way after breeding or do they refuel in Russia and make a single big flight from Russia to Australia?”

Both monitoring projects are part of the Pacific Shorebird Migration Project funded by the Packard Foundation, contracted to US Geological Survey and PRBO Conservation Science. Massey University is a collaborating partner.

Information on the project and a satellite track of the godwits travel can be found at:
<http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/shorebirds/barg.html>

Date: 07/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



The Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam, Professor Nguyen Thien Nhan hears about evolution research from Distinguished Professor David Lambert on a visit to the Allan Wilson Centre laboratory in Auckland.

Delegation visits from Vietnam

The University's Auckland campus recently hosted a large delegation from Vietnam, led by the Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Professor Dr Nguyen Thien Nhan.

Professor Nhan, who is also Minister of Education and Training, led a high level group of departmental directors from Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training and from tertiary institutions in Hanoi.

The group, the most senior education delegation ever to visit from Vietnam, had meetings at a number of tertiary institutions in New Zealand. An Education Memorandum of Arrangement was signed between the two countries.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education, Professor James Chapman, was one of four presenters at a roundtable discussion on outcomes from Vietnam/New Zealand Joint Education Forum.

Date: 10/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; International

New Business Advisory Board member

The latest member of the College of Business Advisory Board, Peter Douglas, brings with him an extensive network of Māori affiliations

Currently chief executive of Te Ohu Kaimoana, he also has considerable senior management experience in both the public and private sectors.

Mr Douglas is based in Wellington and was the principal Māori adviser at the Ministry of Social Development, a senior manager in business banking at Westpac and an adviser in the Prime Minister's Department and Cabinet during the period of the 1992 Māori fisheries settlement.

He has led a number of hapu and Māori organisations. He has been a chairman of Ruapuha Uekaha Hapu Trust since 1997 and lectured in business studies at Te Wānanga o Raukawa from 1996 to 2000. He holds a Bachelors degree in social science from Waikato University and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard.

The advisory board was established in 2006 by the College of Business to ensure strong links with the commercial world.

It is headed by Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly and has representatives from across the country who are aligned to programmes offered by the college.

Date: 10/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Launch of sculpture re-cast as a queue

Wellingtonians puzzled over recurring queues around the city last week, as part of the launch of one of the most ambitious art events ever staged in New Zealand.

During the One Day Sculpture project, 20 public artworks will be created in five New Zealand cities, existing for no more than a 24-hour period.

One Day Sculpture was launched in Wellington on Friday 7 March, accompanied by the first work in the series – the celebrated Good Feelings in Good Times, by participating artist Roman Ondak. The work, on loan from the Tate Collection, London, consists of a queue of people that forms across various locations during the course of a day.

Ondak is well known internationally for staging familiar scenarios in which unexpected actions occur. He recently received the rare honour of a solo exhibition at Tate Modern.

The full One Day Sculpture programme will begin in June and continue until June 2009 in Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Initiated by United Kingdom-based curator Claire Doherty and Massey University's Litmus Research Initiative, One-Day Sculpture is a series of place-responsive public artworks by national and international artists. The works will reflect a diversity of artistic approaches including sculpture, installation and performance events.

Ms Doherty says One Day Sculpture is the first international art project of its kind. "Taking time, space and place as its inspiration, the project turns the concept of a scattered-site exhibition of new artworks on its head, offering the opportunity to engage with each newly commissioned artwork for one day only, one after another, as a cumulative series over one year.

"The 20 new works will accumulate over 12 months across the country forming a dynamic and long-lasting reconsideration of what sculpture can be. They will challenge conventional assumptions about permanence, monumentality and the public realm."

Litmus director Dr David Cross says One Day Sculpture provides an unprecedented opportunity for New Zealand audiences to engage with temporary public artworks by leading contemporary artists; and for New Zealand artists, curators and writers to examine - in dialogue with international peers - notions of public sculpture and place-sensitive art practice.

The list of participating artists includes New Zealand art heavyweights Billy Apple and Michael Parekowhai, Roman Ondak (Slovakia), Thomas Hirschhorn (Switzerland/France), Lara Allmarcequi (well known for her interest in neglected sites), Native American artist James Luna (who will create a new work for Te Papa), and Javier Tellez (Venezuela/New York). Other New Zealand artists taking part include Maddie Leach, Amy Howden-Chapman (who will kick off the series with tears triggered by onion chopping) and emerging artists Kate Newby and Bekah Carran.

One-Day Sculpture is supported by the Massey University Foundation, the Wellington City Council Public Art Fund, the British Academy and Germany's Goethe Institute.

Date: 10/03/2008

Type: University News

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

Innovation in agriculture and food welcomed

Announcement of the new \$700 million funding boost for research, development and innovation projects has been welcomed by University management and academics.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says the funding, unveiled by Prime Minister Helen Clark earlier today, is welcome recognition of the huge importance of agriculture and food industries to New Zealand economy.

“The University is well-positioned with existing academic and research programmes to support these industries. We have been very conscious for some time of the need for high value pastoral and food industries, and have already targeted these areas both through strategic partnerships with industry and university-led research.

“We have been aware that many of those who lead the professional aspects of agriculture in New Zealand are getting close to retirement and our growth in postgraduate numbers demonstrates our commitment to producing the next generation of professionals that will steer the New Zealand economy through the agriculture and food industries. We look forward to working with the Government to use some of this funding to ensure that such training opportunities are enhanced.”

The funding has been named NZ Fast Forward, and is part of a move to shift New Zealand's exports from raw products to added value goods. It is expected industry will match the Government's funding, and that the fund may grow to around \$2 billion over the next decade or so.

Professor of Pastoral Agriculture Jacqueline Rowarth was positive about the benefits the fund could bring, particularly the opportunity to address student's negative impressions of agriculture.

Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan, co-director of the Riddet Institute also welcomed the announcement, as a “momentous development for agrifood research in New Zealand”.

“The Government has responded positively and decisively to the recommendations of the Food and Beverage Taskforce – New Zealand's future economic wellbeing relies heavily on knowledge-led innovation in agriculture and foods”.

Professor Moughan said one recent example of knowledge-led innovation was the Speirs Nutritionals Ltd microencapsulated omega 3 oils that allow fish oil to be put in foods with no taste or odour. The research was developed at the Riddet Institute, and is now being commercialised in a joint venture with Speirs Foods.

“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 says.

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: University News

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

Academic staff promotions 2008

Eligible academic staff intending to apply for promotion this year should note that documentation regarding promotions has been distributed to Heads of Department/Institute/School.

Staff eligible to participate in this round of promotions are Tutors, Senior Tutors, English Language Teachers, Senior English Language Teachers, Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Research Officers, Senior Research Officers, Practising Veterinarians/Professional Clinicians and Senior Practising Veterinarians/Professional Clinicians, who have an ongoing employment agreement.

Staff intending to apply for promotion should consult with their Head of Department/Institute/School. Closing date for applications is Monday, 14 April 2008. Please note that late applications cannot be accepted. Applications should be photocopied, using both sides of the paper, wherever possible.

The Academic Promotion Round Booklet 2008 is available on the Human Resources website <http://hrs.massey.ac.nz>.

Please note that the Academic Promotions Booklet covers Level 1 and 2 Promotions only.

The Promotion to Professor is a separate round commencing in May 2008.

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any

Investment Plan 2008 - 2010

Goal for top 20 ranking

Becoming internationally regarded as one of the top 20 universities in the Asia-Pacific region is the ambitious goal outlined for the University in its first Investment Plan.

It might be ambitious but it is achievable, says Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington.

“Through a commitment to focusing on our areas of established excellence, by enhancing our reputation in other selected disciplines and by a university-wide approach to our strategic initiatives we can get there.”

The University Council and senior management worked closely throughout last year to develop the University's first three-year Investment Plan in response to the Government's reforms of the tertiary education sector.

The plans focus on the New Zealand tertiary education sector, and universities were tasked with outlining their key strategic priorities for the coming three years.

While the plan is focused domestically, the Massey plan does include reference to broader research, teaching, commercialisation and international strategies. Each plan was submitted to the TEC in late 2007 and the University's plan was approved by the TEC board in December.

Chancellor Nigel Gould says the plan is a good first step towards achieving the University's aims. “The plan charts our path to the future and we look forward to working with management and staff to achieve the goals outlined in the plan.”

Mr Gould says the Council is supportive of the investment plan approach in broad terms. “While there are some aspects we question, we agree with the broad thrust of the TEC's strategy and we have responded positively. We see it as opportunity for the University to be proactive and take advantage of the opportunities arising from the new funding system.”

Professor Warrington says Massey's plan is a very good first approach to addressing the needs of the new funding environment. “While there is undoubtedly room for improvement, this is the first time we have clearly stated who we are, what we do and why we are different. We've identified a clear goal – to be in the top 20 – and we've stated nine strategies that will focus our research, teaching and investment in the near future.

“Now, we need to work together to implement the strategies as they relate to each of our areas and work towards the agreed indicators of our performance for each initiative.”

While the Investment Plan focuses the University's future thinking, it is also an agreement with the TEC regarding immediate funding levels. From this year onwards, university funding will be broken down into three main components – Student Component Funding for an agreed number of equivalent full time students, a Tertiary Education Organisation Component (comprising existing funding such as PBRF funding, Public Provider Base Grant and new funding to support strategic initiatives), and a third component made up of funding for specific initiatives unique to each university (such as CoREs and in Massey's case, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence).

This year the University will receive an increase in funding, reflecting an increased level of funding per student and the positive outcomes of an increased focus on PBRF.

The University is also receiving 'Priorities for Focus' funding for the implementation of Kia Maia, which was recognised as being of national importance. Professor Warrington says this was a good outcome for Massey but we need to be committed to achieving our agreed goals and student enrolment targets to ensure we continue to receive at least the same level of funding in 2009 and beyond.

“The landscape has changed. We have to be more focused on the outcomes we want to achieve. The environment is extremely competitive – for funding, for students and for resources. Student completion becomes important under the new funding regime so we will all need to do all that we can to be effective in our interactions with students.

“PBRF remains a key component of our overall funding so we need to continue to lift our rankings based on research quality and achievement.”

The University's annual plan for this year incorporates the nine strategic priorities and the key initiatives from the Investment Plan, and will record progress towards the desired outcomes.

"A senior manager from within the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Committee has been assigned to each of the key initiatives within the nine strategic priorities to coordinate their implementation," Professor Warrington says.

"The key initiatives of the plan will be incorporated into future college and campus plans to ensure they are aligned with Massey's overall goals and strategic direction.

Mr Gould says while the plan reflects our current position and history, it is not a done deal.

"This is only the start. The definitions and positioning outlined in the plan give us scope to be able to refine and define ourselves more clearly over time as we settle into the new tertiary environment, and particularly with a new vice-chancellor."

Professor Warrington says a short version of the plan has been prepared that communicates the key points – "our main goals, why we are different, our areas of established research and teaching excellence, where we want to excel in the future and our strategic priorities. These documents, and an accompanying poster, will be distributed to staff over the coming days.

"I hope through these straightforward documents we can convey the essence of the Investment Plan and the essence of the University. It's also important that we all understand the University's key strategic priorities and how we can contribute to the successful achievement of our goals."

[Download the full report](#)

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any



Kevin McCaffrey, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Shareholders' Association; Professor Lawrence Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Business; and Carmel Fisher, managing director Fisher Funds, formalising the new scholarship agreement in Auckland.

New business scholarship

The University's College of Business has established a research scholarship as a joint initiative with the Shareholders' Association and Auckland-based investment fund manager Fisher Funds.

The scholarship is established in response to the shortage of independent research on matters of governance, company performance, investor rights and relations, says College of Business Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose.

Both the Shareholders' Association and Professor Rose have been widely reported for their commitment to lifting financial literacy and Professor Rose says the establishment of this scholarship is in line with that. The association is leading the initiative to establish scholarship programmes with universities, leading investment firms and philanthropic organisations to fund postgraduate students for the completion of their PhD degree.

The new scholarship with Massey University will be jointly named after Fisher and the association and is the first of the planned scholarships to be established.

The college will provide academic and pastoral supervision of the student. Fisher Funds Management will host the PhD student in its Takapuna offices, providing day-to-day guidance and support and access to the firm's technology and research facilities.

The association will establish an annual research forum and invite the participating universities, fund managers and other interested parties – including the Stock Exchange and the Securities Commission – to identify major areas of research to create an integrated annual research programme.

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Scholarships



John Peebles

Headhunter ranked among world's top 50

Massey Doctor of Business Administration student – and Auckland businessman, John Peebles, has been ranked among the world's 50 most influential headhunters in a survey by the US publication Business Week.

Mr Peebles has run his own executive search consultancy for nearly 20 years and recruits top talent from all over the world to fill some of the most senior positions in this country.

Announcing the list of leading performers the executive editor of Business Week, John Byrne, says Mr Peebles was selected to this elite group on the basis of his 'stellar reputation'.

In recent years Mr Peebles has added a personal challenge to his agenda – studying through Massey for a DBA. "I needed something to do intellectually and found what I was looking for with this programme," says Mr Peebles.

Mr Peebles is studying under the supervision of the Head of the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, Associate Professor Frank Sligo.

"This is an outstanding achievement. It is also very much in line with what we have come to expect of a candidate of John's ability," he says.

"John is currently undertaking a high-quality, innovative piece of thesis research in which he is employing agenda-setting theory in order to investigate communication processes within a framework of corporate governance.

"His study has the potential to shed new light on communication at senior organisational levels," says Dr Professor Sligo.

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; College of Business; Student profiles

Forum for latest energy research to combat climate change

The University's Centre for Energy Research and the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand will hold workshops on Wednesday 12 March at the Gateway Hotel, 206 Kirkbride Rd, Mangere, near Auckland International Airport.

The two workshops of half a day each will be to present and discuss the results of recent research into feasibility studies funded by the FIDA Bioenergy Initiative, and biochar and pyrolysis.

Bioenergy is becoming economic in niche situations as a source of energy and projections are that it will soon start providing forest owners with an additional source of revenue. These workshops are part of the Bioenergy Association's programme of focused workshops aimed at increasing value from wood crops for foresters; providing alternative energy sources for users; and widening our horizons with regard to utilising the immense biomass resources currently being wasted.

The two workshops will dovetail into each other with the first focusing on the issues stopping current uptake, and the second looking further ahead.

Morning workshop – Assessment of Current Bioenergy Opportunities

The Forest Industry Development Agenda Bioenergy initiative has been funding potential project developers to support feasibility studies as well as provide business grants, e.g. demonstration projects. Copies of the resulting feasibility reports are available on the Bioenergy Knowledge Centre website www.bioenergy-gateway.org.nz

The workshop will present the results of some of those studies and focus on the barriers that need to be addressed in order to increase the uptake of bioenergy and increase the financial returns to forest owners.

Afternoon workshop - Biochar and Pyrolysis: Opportunities for the NZ Forestry Industry

The Massey University Biochar Initiative launched by Massey University as part of its successful bid to establish the two new MAF Professorships in "Biochar and Bioenergy Pyrolysis Engineering", and in "Biochar and Soil Science Research", is a wide ranging, multi-year, internationally-linked research and development programme, which aims 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, pastoral and forestry sectors.

Date: 11/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Environmental issues



Boys need regular doses of action to focus on study

Short, regular doses of exercise between lessons helps boys concentrate and learn more in class, says a specialist in educating boys, Dr Michael Irwin.

Dr Irwin, an Auckland-based senior education lecturer at the University's College of Education, says five to 10-minute bursts of vigorous activity, such as skipping or running, several times a day will help boys settle. It is one of the key points he will make at a seminar on boys education later this month. The seminar is a precursor to an international conference on boys' education at the University's Auckland campus later this year.

“Overseas studies have reported a significant improvement in learning if this practice is followed,” he says. Girls would also benefit if schools were to adopt the practice of building in mini-exercise routines, but biology and socialisation meant that boys generally have a greater need for regular physical activity.



He also recommends that schools create “communities of men” – including fathers, older brothers, uncles and grandfathers – that are involved in school activities.

Organising camps, lunches and other events for boys and their fathers or significant male carer would compensate for the “dad deficit” experienced by many young boys, he says. “There's a saying that ‘it takes a village to raise a child’; I think boys need to be associated with a community of men as mentors in raising them to be fine young men.”

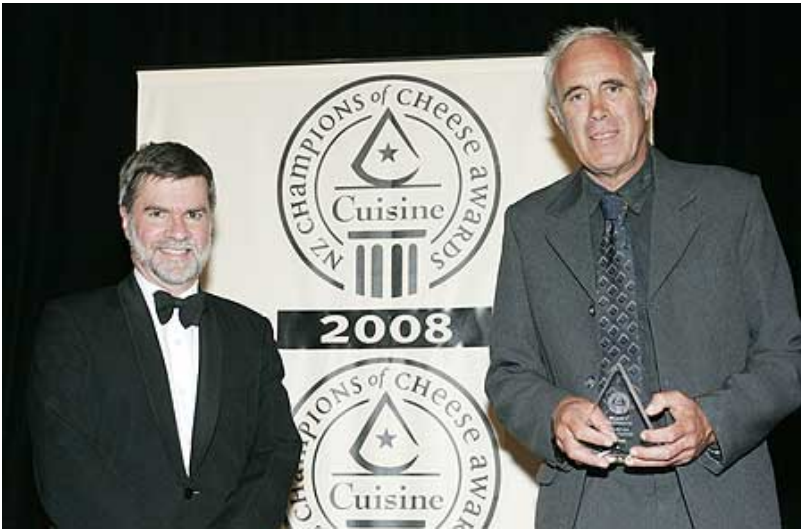
Of concern is the lack of positive male role models for boys, whatever their family circumstances. “We need to re-look at the whole issue of the place of males in society and their role in raising children. Education for boys is about looking at the end product. What type of young men do we want to produce? I think we need to look at the whole person.”

Dr Irwin will run a short course called Issues and Solutions for boys' education on 18 March. The course will cover the latest research to provide strategies to enhance boys' educational achievement.

Date: 12/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education



Nutrition and Human Health, Professor Richard Archer, presented the Massey University Sheep's Milk Cheese Award to Brian Beuke from Neudorf Dairy (Nelson).

Maestro Blue is champion cheese

The University was a sponsor for the first time in the annual national cheese awards where the country's diversity of producers vie for the title of Champion Cheesemaker. Massey University was the sponsor of the category for sheep's milk cheeses and recently hosted the judging of the Champions of Cheese Awards at the University's Auckland campus.

Fonterra's "Maestro Blue" – produced in Eltham – was the supreme award winner. The Awards were announced at a gala dinner in Auckland. At the event, the University's Head of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, Professor Richard Archer, presented the Massey University Sheep's Milk Cheese Award to Brian Beuke from Neudorf Dairy (Nelson).

Date: 12/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Massey: Defining

The Vice-Chancellor Designate the Hon. Steve Maharey is inviting staff to attend a roadshow outlining the ideas, principles, priorities and activities that could guide the develop of the University in the future.

Mr Maharey says he wants encourage a discussion focusing on the future of Massey University.

“Massey is a unique university. It is a successful university. It has a reputation for excellence in teaching and research, for innovation and for links with the community. But all of us know Massey, like all universities, faces new challenges. The arrival of a new Vice-Chancellor offers an opportunity to take stock and rethink strategies.”

He says he will be taking up the position of Vice-Chancellor later in the year, when Parliament allows. In the meantime he is grateful to Professor Ian Warrington for taking up the role of Acting Vice-Chancellor.

The sessions across the three campuses are part of a dialogue that will include visits to as many groups within the University as possible, Mr Maharey says. There will also be meetings with our key stakeholders.

“I believe Massey can be New Zealand's defining university. We can reflect what New Zealand is today and provide leadership for the future. To achieve this we will need to focus our activity and drive so as to attain pre-eminence both nationally and internationally in our areas of specialisation while maintaining excellence in everything we do.

“I know that recent years have been difficult at times. No one can promise the future will be easy! I firmly believe, however, that with agreement amongst the University community about our direction we can look forward to Massey being universally acknowledged as a world centre of higher education.”

Mr Maharey says he looks forward to talking with staff and hopes they will take time to send their thoughts on the presentations to him via defining@massey.ac.nz.

Sessions

Palmerston North - Turitea site

Where: Japanese Lecture Theatre.

When: 10am on 17 March 2008,

10am on 7 April 2008,

10am on 14 April 2008.

Palmerston North - Hokowhitu site

Where: KA North Lecture Block.

When: 1pm on 14 April 2008.

Auckland campus

Where: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre.

When: 1.30pm on 31 March 2008,

1.30pm on 4 April 2008.

Wellington campus

Where: Museum Building, Level 3, Room 10A02.

When: 11am on 11 April 2008.

Please RSVP with the date of the session you wish to attend definingrsvp@massey.ac.nz

Note: It is essential that you rsvp as numbers are limited for each session. If interest is greater than anticipated extra sessions will be provided and you will be notified by email.

Date: 14/03/2008

Type: Internal Communication

From the Acting Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the new Staffroom

The environment in which we are all operating is evolving and throwing up new opportunities as well as challenges. It is now, more than ever, important that there is clear communication throughout the University so that all are aware of and understand what is happening within the university itself and within the university sector in general. It is particularly important that we share news from across both our geographically dispersed campuses and our academically diverse colleges. Good communication is of course key to shared understanding and the development of a strong culture.

To this end the former Staffroom webpage has been enhanced to enable effective and efficient flow of information across the University. You will see that the links are still here, grouped together under often used, logical and helpful headings. There will be news of interest to all staff across the University, from a range of sources and includes items of interest about the tertiary sector. There is also a section of news about people and events from across the campuses and colleges. I hope you will contribute to that information. Please contact your nearest [Communications Adviser](#) to make any submissions. In addition, there is also a section of headlines of the latest research and external media stories generated by staff as well as links to events.

Over time, the page will be developed and refined. It is the intention to use this page as the place where you can find out all you need to know about what is happening at our University. Your thoughts on how the site could be improved would be appreciated – please forward these ideas to d.wiltshire@massey.ac.nz along with story ideas. The site will be updated as regularly as possible so please continue to check for the latest information.

I look forward to engaging with you through this new channel.

Date: 17/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: VC Bulletin



Study of gender and sexuality development

Massey psychology doctoral researcher Jaimie Veale is seeking people of all sexual orientations to respond to an online questionnaire for a major study on how gender and sexuality variance develops.

The survey includes questions on personality, family history of sexuality and gender-variance, early childhood experiences and ways of coping with stress.

“It’s interesting to know what makes you who you are,” Ms Veale says. “This research is testing a model I have developed to explain the occurrence of gender-variance such as transsexualism, transvestism and other forms of gender diversity.”



The survey of 150 questions is open to anybody aged over 16. Ms Veale is hoping to get a mixture of respondents including people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, other gender and sexual variants as well as heterosexuals, so responses can be compared.

Ms Veale aims to get up to 2000 respondents for the on-line multi-choice survey, which is anonymous and confidential, and complete her study next year. She says it should provide a deeper, more detailed understanding of the various influences that shape a person's sexuality.

For those who wish to participate, the online questionnaire can be found at:
<http://www.queerdevelopment.com>

The survey will usually take between 25 and 50 minutes to complete and can be done in parts. It has been approved by the University Human Ethics Committee.

Date: 19/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Professorial lectures embrace science, geometry, finance and education

“Hyberbolic geometry is weird and interesting and offers greater possibilities to explain many features of our universe,” says Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin as an opening to his upcoming public lecture on April 3.

He will elaborate on the revolution that has occurred over the last three decades in our mathematical understanding of the 3-dimensional world in which we live, in his lecture titled “Way beyond the parallel postulate: the revolution in modern geometry.”

Professor Martin is a member of Massey's newly established New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, Director of the Centre of Theoretical Chemistry and Physics, and also a member of the Institute. presented a chemists', rather than a physicists', celebration of Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity in his March 6 lecture.

His lecture, titled “Everything is relative' says Albert Einstein, and we chemists are learning it the hard way!” launched the first of four professorial lectures at Auckland this semester.

Surprising, practical insights into the financial markets are promised in Professor Ben Jacobsen's May 1 titled; “Financial Analysts: what are they good for?” and Professor Michael Townsend will challenge misconceptions about the value of educational research in his May 29 lecture “Research in education - science or common sense?”

The series of free lectures will be held at the Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building at 7pm. RSVP to alevents@massey.ac.nz

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

New bike stands on campus

Innovative new bicycle stands installed across the Wellington campus are already a hit with the cyclists using them.

The new stands have design features that should make bikes much more secure when parked on campus. The design deters theft because bicycle locks cannot be manoeuvred to the ground and bikes are secured between tubular tracks on the new stands. The stands are also located in populated areas making them handy to access and easier to monitor.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington

Director Pasifika in role as Director of Health in Niue

Massey's Director Pasifika Professor Sitaleki Finau has just been seconded for two years as Director of Health for Niue.

Professor Finau, who has extensive experience in implementing public health policies and programmes throughout the Pacific region, will maintain his ties with Massey University and is to teach a post-graduate public health course next semester. He says he aims to raise the profile of Massey's Pasifika Strategy in a new regional Pacific network at the upcoming annual Pacific leaders' conference – part of the Pacific Forum - being hosted in Niue in August.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Pasifika

Art additions at Wellington campus

The Art Collection at the Wellington campus is expanding steadily with a couple of recent acquisitions. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Andrea McIlroy has taken an active role in building the collection of works and she was one of the first to make a purchase at the recent opening of an exhibition of new work by fine arts lecturer, Associate Professor Ross Hemera: *Manu Atua – Birdman of Waitaha*.

Earlier in the year Professor McIlroy oversaw the purchase of two works by one of New Zealand's acclaimed photographers, Peter Peryer. The two Peryer photos are *Mussel Farm, Golden Bay, 2003* and *Peace Park, Hiroshima, 2002*. They are both in the lobby adjacent to 4B06 lecture theatre.

Other recent acquisitions for the art collection are: *House of Tiatia, 2007*, Edith Amituanai, a photograph to be located in 7C34 after Easter; *Seahorse and Comma, 2007*, Richard Killeen, pigment inkjet print, located in Museum building; *Untitled, 2007*, Julian Dashper, silkscreen print, Block 2 foyer, Fine Arts.

The following works have been reframed and relocated around the campus recently: *He Pihi – The Shoots, 1988*, John Bevan Ford, coloured inks on paper, displayed in Museum building board room; *Tree Times is slow, 1962*, Kate Coolahan, etching aquatint print, in Museum building; *Space Structure, Don Ramage, Lithograph, Museum building*.

Three John Drawbridge etchings have also been reframed and relocated in the Museum building. They are *Cloud & Pyramid, Interior, 1970*, and *Interior with Tanya, 1983*.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington

New premises for College of Business at Wellington

Wellington-based College of Business staff should be taking over their dramatically upgraded premises in Block 5 by early April. The College is in the final stages of developing a 'homespace' for staff and students on the campus in what was the hospitality area at the northern end of level D, Block 5. The new space will accommodate staff, provide a meeting space and study space for postgraduate students. There will be video conference facilities and a new communications lab.

The redevelopment will result in a 'community of scholars' space for postgraduate students and staff to work and to mix, says the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose. As well as the dedicated postgraduate study space an informal meeting space will allow staff and students to meet and collaborate more easily. It's envisaged that the meeting space will also be suitable for hosting small functions and interacting with business groups.

As well as providing a much nicer working space for the academic administration staff the relocation will improve access to service and administration for students.

The new communications lab with interview suites, control rooms and edit rooms is a very significant new facility for students in the College's growing Bachelor of Communication programme.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington



Dr Lisa Emerson, Dr Hamish Anderson and Dr Heather Kavan will represent Massey in the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence awards this year.

Two extra teachers honoured for excellence

The standard of nominees for this year's teaching excellence awards was so high, the awards committee decided to make two additional awards, says Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington.

"We are delighted to have further confirmation that the high standard of teaching at the University exists across a range of disciplines and academic levels," Professor Warrington says. "This distinctive feature of Massey creates advantages for both undergraduate and postgraduate students studying at the University.

"There is further, striking evidence of the quality of our teaching excellence in our continuing success in the National Teaching Excellence Awards. The University has won nine national awards over the six years since they were introduced. Only the University of Otago, which has won 10, has performed as well and as consistently," he says.

Professor Warrington says it is also significant that four of this year's awards are for sustained teaching excellence. "This shows that our academic staff ensure the quality of their teaching methods is enhanced over time, and remains up-to-date with the latest methods and technologies."

Dr Lisa Emerson of the School of English and Media Studies has been awarded the Darrylin O'Dea Award for Innovation in eLearning. Dr Emerson, who joined the University in 1989, has been involved in designing and teaching courses in writing across the university.

Her research interests include science writing, plagiarism, online learning, and writing in the disciplines. As well as publishing widely on academic writing and related issues, she is author of the Writing Guidelines series and runs The Writery, an online community for creative writers.

As a teacher, Dr Emerson designs and uses innovative eLearning tools to deepen students' understanding of writing and to develop writing communities. Of particular note is her custom-designed 'Integrative Grammar!' which won a Writing Programme Administrators teaching award in 2004: she was the first teacher outside of North America to win this award.

Dr Heather Kavan of the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing receives the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Teaching Excellence. Dr Kavan's specialist area is speech writing: she created Massey's new Speech Writing course. "Speech writing is one of the most effective ways of making our ideas irresistible," she says. "Great speeches change the world."

She has also lectured in Religious Studies and has published widely on religious cults.

Bill MacIntyre of the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy also receives a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Teaching Excellence.

Mr MacIntyre specialises in science education, teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate papers. His research interests are in biology education in secondary schools, assessment, problem-based learning,

investigating as a major goal in science education, appropriate pedagogy for astronomy education and the use of information technology to enhance learning.

He was a member of the National Science Exemplar project for the Ministry of Education and is an executive member of Biology Educators Association of New Zealand.

"In teaching compulsory science courses to pre-service teachers, I attempt to ensure that students leave my courses with a willingness to engage with and become an active participant in learning science. In order to achieve this I make sure that I adhere to the 'M & M' rule [meaningful and manageable] when planning and teaching."

Dr Hamish Anderson of the Department of Economics and Finance receives a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Teaching Excellence.

Dr Anderson is a qualified chartered accountant and worked for a large chartered accounting practice for two years before joining Massey University. His research interests focus on topics that have relevance to industry and enrich his teaching, by demonstrating real world application. His area of expertise is in seasoned equity offerings including stock dividends, public and private equity issues as well as mergers and acquisitions. A key theme is the impact of regulation or market structures on shareholder wealth and its impact on investor and management behaviour.

Dr Anderson says he strives to deliver a relevant and accessible learning experience. "Relevance is demonstrated by connecting theories and concepts to practice using real world examples. The learning is made accessible by first breaking down student learning barriers and reducing complex ideas into easily digestible bites of learning."

Dr Rosie Bradshaw of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences receives the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching First Year Students.

Her research is in molecular plant pathology and she says many of her teaching methods have been learnt 'on the job' and developed in response to feedback from students.

She organises and teaches a first year paper in Biology of Cells, one of the four selection papers for the Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences. The paper has an enrolment of 400 students each year.

Dr Bradshaw says in her teaching she aims to engage students with the material by "using models and analogies they can relate to, along with active learning methods such as quizzes and interactive questions. I also aim to help students realise the importance of understanding concepts and how the concepts fit together, as opposed to rote-learning and 'compartmentalising' facts."

Professor Janet Hoek, a Professor of Marketing in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, receives a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching.

Professor Hoek has taught many papers at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is actively involved in several research programmes that examine marketing and public policy.

Her teaching materials draw heavily on her own research findings and on the expert advice she has provided in court and to government agencies. She believes students require generic skills in critical and analytical thinking, and she encourages them to reflect on the social implications their decisions may have.

"Drawing on my own experiences and working with my students to critique the evidence I reviewed, as well as the material I supplied, has generated wonderful debates in which I learned far more than I taught."

Dr Anderson, Dr Kavan and Dr Emerson are the University's nominations for the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards. The winners of the national awards will be announced in early July.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Teaching

New Facilities Director

Alistair Allan's new job is no pipe dream – as the Auckland campus' new Director of Buildings and Facilities, he'll make sure everything from pipes and plumbing to parking and pathways are in order.

Alistair joins the University from McDonnell Dowell, where he was Project Manager on the North Shore Waste Water Treatment Plant Outfall Tunnel Project. He has previously spent 13 years in various senior management and technical roles and graduated from Massey University as a civil engineer.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

Fulbright Advisor on Auckland campus

The Auckland campus now has its own Fulbright Advisor on campus to assist those seeking information about Fulbright scholarships, lectureships or vacancies as research fellows.

He is historian Dr Adam Claasen – a Fulbright Lecturer in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in 2006. He has had first-hand experience and is able to advise staff and students on study, research and teaching opportunities within the extensive Fulbright programme. Contact Dr Claasen extn 9060 or email a.claasen@massey.ac.nz

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland



More backing for top student athletes

The University's Academy of Sport on the Palmerston North campus held a presentation on Monday evening to formally welcome this year's intake of athletes into the programme. The venue was the Sport and Rugby Institute.

This is the third year for the athlete development programme and it is going from strength to strength. This year sees a variety of individual and team sports from athletes who are competing at national and international level – with a few athletes even on the long list for Beijing Olympics.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington welcomed guests and was the MC for the evening commenting on programmes ability to provide much needed support to each of the athletes to enable them to continually perform both at an academic and sporting level.

The Presentation evening had a special guest speaker, world champion adventure racer and SPARC ambassador, Nathan Faavae, who spoke about what it takes to achieve your goals and in particular, on overcoming obstacles.

To find more information about the Massey Academy programme visit <http://academyofsport.massey.ac.nz> or contact k.rofe@massey.ac.nz

To find out more about Nathan Faavae visit <http://www.adventuremissionevents.co.nz>

Caption

Back row (from left): Ryan Welch (flat water kayak, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise), Ben Bateman (equestrian, BAppIsc), Ryan Groen (barefoot water skiing, BBS), Finlay Milne (football, BBS), Eric Gurden (canoe slalom, BE), Ben Quayle (hockey, BBS), Struan Webb (triathlon, BBS), Anthony Pedersen (motorsport, BBS), Robert Eastham (shooting, BSc); Middle: Mitchell Campbell (rugby, DipAgr), Louis Booth (rugby, BE), Khord Kopu (inline hockey, BEd), Hayden Nelson (inline hockey, BBS), Natalie Moore (basketball, BVSc), Chloe Akers (equestrian, BSpEx), Anna Hurley (athletics, BBS), Hannah Appleton (equestrian, BAppIsc), Gemma Mathieson (golf, BBS); Front: Amy Bartlett (inline speed skating, BSc), Kylee McFetridge (rowing, BSpEx), Rhonda Bridges (football, BE), Charlotte Matthews (flat water kayak, BVSc), Katie Hubbard (canoe polo, BEd), Jessica Jolly (cycling, BA), Emma Petersen (cycling, BSc), Jolene Mark (athletics, BHlthSc), Sarah Chapman (highland dancing, BSc).

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Sport and recreation

New support network for international students

AUCKLAND - Staff from diverse cultural backgrounds and nationalities across the Auckland campus are being invited by the International Support Office to join a support network/data base for international students.

The aim is to provide a service connecting individual international students with a person from their own cultural background for occasions where cultural empathy could bring clarity to a situation.

If you are interested in joining the network, contact Vivien Cheah, Team Leader International & Migrant Student Support (extn 9221 v.cheah@massey.ac.nz) and Jo Wilkins, Retention Officer (extn 9184 j.c.wilkins@massey.ac.nz)

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; International



From left, Dilmah marketing director Dilhan Fernando, PhD student Shiromani Jayasekera, Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan and Dilmah founder Merrill Fernando enjoy a cup of tea after discussing the results of Ms Jayasekera's research on the health-giving properties of tea.

Study unlocks the health benefits of a cuppa

Determining which Ceylon tea has the most health protecting properties – including reducing the risk of stroke, heart failure, cancer and diabetes – has led the Riddet Institute's Shiromani Jayasekera to a research partnership with Dilmah.

Preliminary research established the chemical composition of antioxidant properties found in Ceylon teas, a project of interest to Dilmah as pickers and packers of Ceylon tea. Information on how altitude, soil type, weather, processing and freshness affected the antioxidants was assessed, adding to the collection of knowledge on existing studies that showed tea flavonoids to have antioxidant and anti-mutagenic activities.

Ms Jayasekera, a PhD student at the Riddet Institute, collected tea samples from Sri Lanka's main Ceylon tea growing regions over a 12-month period, with the specimens then shipped to the Institute's home laboratory on Massey University's Palmerston North campus for further analysis.

Dilmah marketing director Dilhan Fernando says the research proves that the quality, flavour and composition of tea is affected by many things in the same way wines are affected.

“Dilmah is keen to continue to learn more about the complexity of its teas,” Mr Fernando says, “so it can offer tea drinkers as much information as possible about its health-giving properties.”

Mr Fernando, with Dilmah founder Merrill Fernando, visited Ms Jayasekera at the Riddet Institute in Palmerston North yesterday (Wednesday). Co-director of the Institute Distinguished Professor Paul Moughan says he was pleased to host the Dilmah visitors and share first-hand the findings.

“The Riddet Institute has had a long and productive association with Dilmah. The results of the tea research are so encouraging that it is planned to follow up with in vivo tests in humans next year,” Professor Moughan says.

Note: The Riddet Institute, formerly the Riddet centre, was named as a Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence in 2007, the only institution to receive new CoRE status. The centre was formed in 2003, bringing together talent from Massey, Auckland and Otago universities. The extended partnership now includes Crop & Food and AgResearch. Re-named the Riddet Institute earlier this year, the centre retains its emphasis on the fundamental science that underpins and advances the food industry.

Date: 20/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Fish net deaths highlight threat to Common Dolphin

The Common Dolphin may not be so common in New Zealand waters in the future if more deaths - such as the 22 killed in a single bycatch by commercial fishing boats - occur, says Massey University marine biologist Karen Stockin.

She prompted the Minister of Conservation Steve Chadwick into releasing photographs - through an official information request - of battered, bloody carcasses of 22 Common Dolphins caught last December in trawl nets off the West Coast of the North Island.

Ms Stockin, a researcher officer with the Coastal-Marine Research Group in Auckland, has been investigating New Zealand's Common Dolphins for the past seven years. Her research prompted her to contact both ministries of conservation and fisheries soon after she heard about the event expressing her "serious concerns about the sustainability of these mortality events on this population."

She feared conservation and fisheries authorities had become complacent about the real plight of the dolphins because of insufficient data regarding their true conservation status.

Her own research shows that Common Dolphins' foraging and resting behaviour has been detrimentally affected by dolphin-watching tour boats in the Hauraki Gulf. The same dolphin population is also vulnerable to pollutants, and has been captured in offshore trawl fisheries. Ms Stockin's research shows common dolphins are most vulnerable to offshore trawl fishing at night, as diet analyses suggest they move further offshore to feed.

Previous estimates suggest up to 300 Common Dolphins are killed annually in just jack mackerel fishing alone. "That estimate, extrapolated from observer data, doesn't account for Common Dolphins that become entangled and die in recreational set nets," said Ms Stockin.

Tougher measures and penalties were needed to ensure fishing boats abided by codes of practice requiring them not to drop their nets in the presence of dolphins.

"Ideally, no trawling should occur between 2am and 4am, the time dolphins usually feed on the deep scattering layer and become entangled in trawl nets".

Date: 21/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Smelling a rat to catch a rat

A novel experiment using laboratory rats to attract wild rats could pave the way for “rat perfumed” bait capable of reducing the millions of rats threatening New Zealand's native species, say Massey conservation researchers.

Using caged lab rats as decoys, or “Judas” rats, Anna Gsell and Mark Seabrook-Davison, both Auckland-based PhD researchers at Massey's Institute of Natural Resources, placed a series of cages near private bush on a farm north of Albany for their experiment.



The scientists recorded trails of paw prints - evidence that hordes of rats had scurried out of the bush to check out their caged cousins. They also used cages without actual rats but containing rat-scented bedding. These also attracted wild rats.

“The idea is based on the mate searching behaviour of rodents in the wild,” they say.

“We wanted to see whether we could use the odour of lab rats to attract wild rats,” says Ms Gsell, who hopes the positive results of the study will open the way for the commercial creation of a synthetic “rat perfume” from rat urine used in baits and traps.

Word of their study – carried out over the past four months at Mr Seabrook-Davison's farm in Coatesville - has also reached the Department of Conservation. DOC recruited the researchers and their rats for an emergency rat-catching mission on a pest-free island in the Hauraki Gulf where a rogue rat was seen. The university's “Judas” rats were walked on leashes around areas of the island, leaving their scent in the hope of attracting the vagrant wild rat, which was caught the following day 50 metres from where the rats were placed in cages.

Ms Gsell and Mr Seabrook-Davison say the results look very promising and could spell doom for the estimated millions of introduced Norway and Ship rats - major predators of many of New Zealand's indigenous animals.

Date: 23/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Most small business owners looking to get out over coming decade as retirement looms

Thirty-four per cent of New Zealand's small business owners indicate they intend to exit their companies within five years and 64 per cent want to exit within a decade, says a Massey University report on the succession plans of small and medium-sized business owners done for the Ministry of Economic Development.

About 350,000 small and medium sized enterprises – many owned by people approaching retirement age – make up more than 99 per cent of all business and account for about 50 per cent of employment, says the University's New Zealand Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research. The centre has recently completed a report on the succession perspectives from small enterprises for the ministry based on a survey that had more than 1300 respondents.

Report authors centre director Professor Claire Massey and researcher Dr Martina Battisti say the aging population is also an issue for SMEs, which make a vital contribution to the economy.

"In recent years the issue of aging population and its impact on economic growth and policy development has gained increasing importance. Clearly there was a need to examine the aging SME owners and their preparedness for succession," say Professor Massey and Dr Battisti.

"Identifying the owners' objectives for their firms and themselves as well as their perception of benefits and barriers to succession and exit is an important step to understanding the issue and informing any need for targeted actions."

Small and medium enterprises are defined as: micro enterprise (fewer than five staff), small enterprise (between six and 49 staff), and medium enterprise (50 to 99 staff).

Of the 1330 respondents, the majority (67 per cent) were aged between 41 and 60 and 22 per cent were over 60. Average turnover in the businesses surveyed was slightly over \$3 million, with the top earner at \$80 million.

Asked about plans for exiting their firms, 58 per cent of the owners indicated they were thinking of selling, 36 wanted to pass the business on and 7 per cent said they were intending to sell or wind the business down. Forty seven per cent had an exit plan but mostly these plans were unwritten or informal.

The greatest barrier to exiting a business, owners reported, was the dependence of the firm on the owner's involvement. This was the case for 62 per cent of those surveyed. Fifty-six per cent envisaged problems finding a suitable successor or buyer and 41 per cent said they found the thought of leaving the firm unpleasant. Of those who had no plans to exit their business, 75 per cent said that it was too soon to make a plan and 38 per cent said they did not have time to deal with the issue.

Compared to the micro-firms, small firms were more likely to have an exit plan. They believed that an exit plan provides financial stability to the firm, maintains harmony with employees, increases the value of the firm and improves the financial standing of the firm.

The researchers say it is clear some SME owners may need professional help to develop an exit plan.

Date: 27/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

'Rainbow Warrior' scholarship funds emergency study

A “Rainbow Warrior” scholarship has been awarded to Massey PhD student Laura Jacobs-Garrod, for her work on improving the way military and humanitarian organisations work together in complex emergencies. The prestigious Peace and Disarmament Education Trust scholarship provides \$21,000 to support Ms Garrod's study, funded from the \$1.5 million received from France in recognition of the events surrounding the destruction of the Rainbow Warrior. The trust's aim is to advance education and thereby promote international peace, arms control and disarmament.

Ms Jacobs-Garrod, a Centre for Defence Studies graduate student, is completing her thesis on *The Humanitarian and the Soldier: Partners for Peace? Case studies on Somalia, Bosnia, East Timor and Afghanistan* have been developed to compare US and New Zealand military and non-governmental organisations.

“In the past military forces and NGO professionals have been at odds as to how to carry out their respective mandates – often they have very different goals. It's a relationship of necessity so the question is how do we enable them to work together more effectively.”

Ms Jacobs- Garrod completed her BA in political science at the University of Oregon, and an MA in international relations at Victoria University on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship. Originally from the US, Ms Jacobs-Garrod's father was in the United States Marine Corps and her mother worked for the Red Cross.

“My real interest in this subject stems from a UN peacekeeping course I did during my undergraduate study,” she says, “looking at the problems post-Cold War and ways to improve our approaches to complex emergencies.

“Complex emergencies are continuing to emerge, that's the unfortunate trend so how we respond is only going to become more of a pressing issue.”

Caption: Laura Jacobs-Garrod is completing her thesis on how military and non-governmental organisations can work more effectively in emergency situations.

Date: 27/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Five-year study will support troubled youth

The most comprehensive study on troubled young New Zealanders is to be led by Massey University, with a focus on support and interventions for struggling youth. The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology today announced the latest funding in the Building an Inclusive Society portfolio, with the Massey Pathways to Resilience project receiving \$3.75 million of the total \$8.1 million.

Principal investigator Dr Jackie Sanders says the Resilience project will run for five years, following 480 troubled young people – those known to Government agencies including Child, Youth and Family - to find what works to overcome adversity and turn their lives around.

“It's really trying to understand from young people what makes the most difference to them – what distinguishes young people who can overcome adversity from those who don't. This will provide us with information on the kinds of things we can do ... the sorts of things that are most likely to make a difference for young people.”

Dr Sanders says the team, which includes collaborators from Victoria and Otago universities and the Donald Beasley Institute, will interview more than 1600 people from statutory agencies including education, welfare and justice, and non-Government organisations to identify the protective factors that support a positive outcome.

“Practitioners know in their gut,” Dr Sanders says, “but this study is designed to tap into the wisdom that's out there and verify it with case records of young people. To be able to say 'if we can do this and do it properly these are the outcomes we can expect' is a huge step forward. Outcomes can and do change for young people but it's difficult to know what made the change.”

The study is part of the international resilience project, flowing from a lead study in Canada led by Dr Michael Ungar. The aim is to identify the combination of services and interventions to support better outcomes for 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. We also hear from professionals in services that it appears that children and young people are starting to show signs of distress at younger ages and that their behaviours are starting to become more serious sooner.

“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.”

Dr Sanders says that a comparison group of 480 young people who are doing okay will also be followed. “One of the things we are interested in is what are the differences, where is the edge that young people fall over where their situation becomes high-risk? Where is that tipping point?”

Dr Ungar visited Dr Sanders and Professor Robyn Munford at the University's School of Social Work and Social Policy last year to identify opportunities for the resilience project. He is returning to New Zealand later this year, to assist establishment of the project.

Date: 27/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Massey defining conversation gets underway

Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey's conversation kicked off on 17 March with a presentation to staff at Palmerston North.

It is the first of seven that Mr Maharey will give across the campuses, outlining his vision for Massey and encouraging staff to put forward their ideas. Mr Maharey said many staff had already given feedback on the email address specially set up for the purpose, which had been included in his email invitation to all staff to attend the roadshows.

His key message is that Massey is uniquely placed to be New Zealand's defining university because of its mix of teaching and research, its ability to embrace change, the four distinct campuses (including extramural) and its specialisations in the areas of education and research New Zealand is recognised for: Biophysical, creative and new economy.

He provided background on himself as a Massey student, staff member, sociologist, city councillor, MP for Palmerston North (his current role) and cabinet minister for eight years. He spoke of the special affinity he felt with the university, particularly when passing the campus late at night coming home from work in Wellington.

"I love this university. I always felt like it was home."

He said universities needed to ensure that despite all the demands placed on them by government and stakeholders they focused on their core roles of teaching and research. Massey needed to both ensure what it was doing was relevant to students and staff and to connect regionally with its communities, nationally and internationally. It had to communicate its message and reach the right kinds of people in the right ways.

Afterwards, outside the Japanese Lecture Theatre, Professor Tony Vitalis said he found the presentation very positive and motivating. More importantly, he said, the goals seemed realistic and achievable. "When he started with Sir Alan Stewart's quotation about the university, I think he got the essence of what the University ought to be...what it was when I came here in 1980...and I think we're coming back to it. "That's exciting and I've talked to other staff and they're all of the same opinion I was and that's fantastic." Professor Vitalis, from the College of Business, said he would be making a submission.

Dr David Tripe, also from the College of Business, said he found the presentation was useful and worthwhile, and he would consider making an email submission. "I'm glad we're not going to have to stop while we do a restructure, which has so often been the problem in the past."

Massey University Students' Association President Ying-Yue Zhao said Mr Maharey met with members of the association, which she felt was promising. "Just to know he has opened the channels of communication is a good start," Ms Zhao says. "It really impressed me that he followed up on suggestions made by executive staff. It showed he was listening. Obviously the association would like to see the student engagement continue, on every level."

Alison Rowland, deputy director of National Student Relations, said Mr Maharey established his knowledge of and linkage with Massey in what was his first meeting with staff since his appointment was announced.

"More to the point, he showed he knows where he wants to take Massey. He's thought about it, he cares about it; he's a no-nonsense get-on-with-it type of guy. I think we need that sort of leadership. We're entering a new era and I think the staff are saying 'bring it on', really."

Lawrence O'Halloran, the Massey branch organiser for the Association of University Staff, said Mr Maharey had also met with members of the branch executive. "We're all for these meetings; we think it's really positive," Mr O'Halloran said.

Associate Professor Mark Brown, the Director of Distance Education, said the the presentation highlighted the fact Massey is on the cusp of an exciting period of redevelopment. "Mr Maharey has showed he is committed to scholarship and values research-led teaching that exploits new models of flexible learning, especially in the design and delivery of extramural papers. "It's refreshing to have a new vice-chancellor who understands that today's universities have to be relevant to students and the diverse communities they serve, " Dr Brown said.

The next presentation in Mr Maharey's roadshow will be at the Auckland campus in the Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre at 1.30pm on Monday 31 March.

Sessions

Palmerston North - Turitea site

Where: Japanese Lecture Theatre.

When: 10am on 7 April 2008,
10am on 14 April 2008.

Palmerston North - Hokowhitu site

Where: KA North Lecture Block.

When: 1pm on 14 April 2008.

Auckland campus

Where: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre.

When: 1.30pm on 31 March 2008,
1.30pm on 4 April 2008.

Wellington campus

Where: Museum Building, Level 3, Room 10A02.

When: 11am on 11 April 2008.

Staff are asked to advise their intention to attend along with the preferred date and venue to this email address: definingrsvp@massey.ac.nz

Feedback on the presentations is welcomed at defining@massey.ac.nz

Date: 28/03/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Vice-Chancellor

Council Report - March 2008

At the first University Council meeting of the year on 7 March the Chancellor Nigel Gould welcomed the three new members of Council – Brad Heap, Ralph Springett and Royna Fifield.

He also welcomed Professor Ian Warrington to the Council table in his role as Acting Vice-Chancellor and noted the attendance of the Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey at the meeting.

Professor Warrington spoke to the report prepared by former Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, drawing Council's attention to the increasing number of research postgraduate enrolments last year. The University enrolled a record number of 875 doctoral candidates and Professor Warrington said he was optimistic the total would be over 1000 this year. He said that the figures underpinned the research culture the University was striving for and was further evidence of the changing nature of the student profile at Massey which was continually moving away from school leavers to a higher proportion of more mature students.

He also noted the awarding of the professorships in biochar and pyrolysis, the commercialisation of the a zinc battery technology developed at the University and the new John's disease research consortium as examples of the University's collaboration with a range of stakeholders including industry and other universities.

Also in her report, Professor Kinnear commented on the financial surplus that was anticipated for the year, which she said reflected the commitment of senior managers and their staff to achieve an agreed goal. She congratulated staff on their efforts in contributing to the favourable outcome which better positioned the University to meet future challenges.

Under other operational items, contributions are sought for a new scholarship fund launched in memory of the late Professor Brian Murphy, College of Business. The Brian Murphy Memorial Scholarship will be managed by the University Foundation and seeks contributions to fund scholarship for senior students completing research in marketing, business ethics or future studies on the Auckland campus.

Composition of the various committees of Council was agreed with Susan Baragwanath and Professor Ray Winger joining Dr Russ Ballard and Mrs Alison Paterson, Chancellor Nigel Gould and Pro-Chancellor Stephen Kos on the Audit and Risk Committee. Mavis Mullins joins the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, Professor Ngatata Love, Professor Mason Durie, Professor Nigel Long and Professor Andrea McIlroy on the Honorary Awards Committee. Bruce Ullrich and Chris Kelly join the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, Dr Russ Ballard and Alison Paterson on the Performance Review Committee.

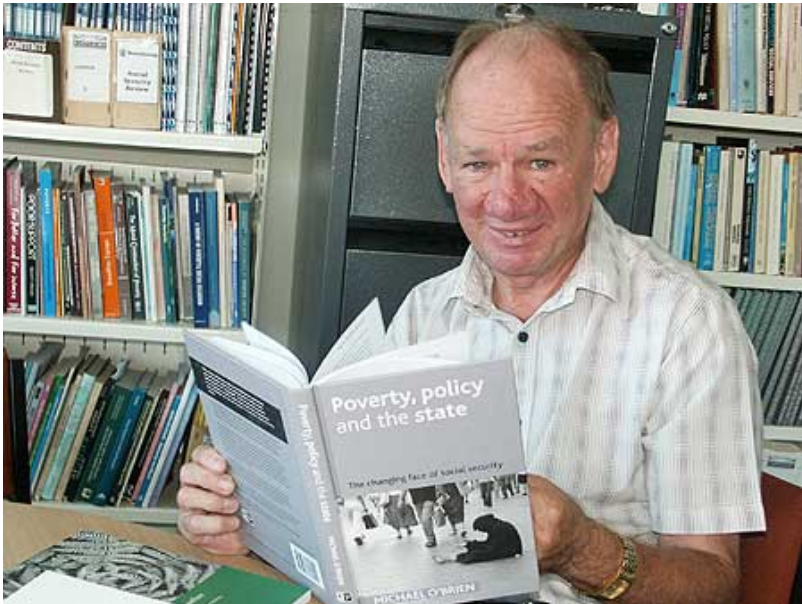
In response to a paper regarding payments to council members, following discussion on the symbolism of the payment or non-payment to staff and whether payment to staff would set precedent for others participating in other university committees, it was reconfirmed that staff representatives would not be paid to attend Council meetings.

As a follow up to item at the previous Council meeting, further discussion was had regarding the ceremony held to honour graduates of the Te Aho Tātai-Rangi programme. While cost is a consideration, comment was made that the graduation was a good promotional opportunity for the University and that it showed our support and commitment to the Māori community. A report is being prepared by University management on the feasibility of the graduation.

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: University News

Categories: University Council



Mike O'Brien.

Eliminating child poverty key to progress

In the debates that are part of this year's election activity, eliminating child poverty has to be a top priority if New Zealand is to make significant social and economic progress, says social policy lecturer Associate Professor Mike O'Brien.

The author of three just-published books on welfare, social policy and poverty may be embedded in an academic setting. But he is just as concerned about the impact of poverty – especially on children – as he was when at the coalface of the welfare system.

His early life as a social worker helping families struggling with poverty and lack of food has had a lasting impact on Dr O'Brien.

“We were all too frequently faced with families who were struggling to make ends meet and to provide adequately for their children, struggles that all too frequently arose from lack of income, and poverty,” he says in the introduction to *Poverty, Policy and the State* (published by The Policy Press UK, 2008), recalling his time as a social worker.

“Since those early professional experiences, most of my work – both academic and professional – has remained strongly focused on tackling the blight caused by poverty.”

While social security has been radically revamped over the past 20 years, poverty still prevails. An estimated 234,000 children live in households dependent on benefits, with many living below the poverty line because their parents do not qualify for In Work Payments under the revised system, he says.

Dr O'Brien explores the extent to which changes in social security provision in New Zealand “have both led to, and been associated with, a weakening of social citizenship and, concurrently, with weakened protection against poverty.”

He argues that globalisation and strengthening of the market economies has fuelled the transition over the past two decades to more emphasis on government support for low-paid workers at the expense of helping the genuinely poor.

Under public service restructuring, the creation of the Department of Work and Income New Zealand to replace the Social Welfare Department as responsible for benefits further reflected this trend. And a move to providing income support for lower paid workers through the government's Working for Families tax assistance scheme has segregated beneficiaries who are unable to work and relegated them to the status of second-class citizens, he asserts.

Dr O'Brien says his book argues the importance of “making certain that changes to welfare states and to social security provisions ensure that the fundamental goal of prevention of poverty is central”.

His other books are *New Welfare New Zealand* (published 2007 by Victoria University Press) – a more detailed look at recent changes in welfare policy.

Social Welfare, social exclusion – a life course frame (published 2007 by Varpinge Ord & Text, Sweden) is a collection of essays he has contributed to and co-edited with Swedish academic Lars Harrysson, and includes writings by 11 international authors on how people can become excluded from basic opportunities, rights and services in society.

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



From front, left: Sian Reynolds, Kezia Lockhart, Anna McLeod, Bridget Telfer, Lois Edwards, Nicole Hammer, Emma-Jayne Hawkins, Lewis Sparrow, Marloes van Geel, Donna Berry, Hanan Kayed, Catherine Hayward, Sarah Bird, Natalie Olivecrona, Anushree Sen Gupta, Ingrid Wilson, Lanheang En, Emma Raine, Tessa Handcock, Stacey Cosnett, Rebecca Diedrichs, Michelle Power, Rosanna Cooper, Emily Phua, Marie Guigou, Timothy Johansen, Nicholas Dow.

Arts and high achiever scholarships awarded

Two arts and 53 high achiever scholarships were awarded to first year students at the Palmerston North campus this year, with recipients acknowledged at a lunch at Wharerata hosted by Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington.

“You are a special group among the 1000 new students on campus,” he said, “and I am going to issue you a challenge. “Do well academically but also get everything out of the experience – I mean really make sure you get the best out of your tertiary education.

“Make sure that in your academic programmes you do your utmost and have the best experience. But also get the most out the other opportunities university can provide. That might be on the sports field or in a drama or arts environment or contributing to the university's interaction with the community. If you leave Massey and all you know about is the classroom you will be the poorer for that as there are so many opportunities for you.”

Guest speaker Professor Margaret Tennant, Dean of the Graduate Research School, compared the students experiences with those of the first intake of 84 students, who would have been mostly male and later intakes including those of the 1970s when women were more commonly on campus and education was opening up to all. “Like them, you have chosen to come to Massey University and we are delighted that you did. We wish you every success in your own terms as well as ours.”

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Palmerston North; Scholarships



Bobbie Hunter and daughter Jodie.

Mother and daughter maths duo to graduate together

Not many mothers and daughters chill out after work by discussing the intricacies of algebraic formulas and revolutions in mathematical pedagogy, but Bobbie and Jodie Hunter cannot help themselves.

To say the love of learning and teaching maths is a way of life for the pair would be an understatement.

They will both graduate together next month in Auckland – Dr Hunter with a PhD in Education and her daughter with a Masters in Education.

Both have researched different aspects of teaching maths – something they are passionate about improving in New Zealand. Their research interests intersected over how best to match teaching tools and methods with the social habits and perspectives of various ethnic groups.

And they both conducted research in “inquiry classroom” settings, whereby students work in groups to question, argue and reason their way through mathematical problem-solving.

Dr Hunter, a senior lecturer at the College of Education on the Auckland campus, says the notion that some people are just naturally good at maths while others are not is false.

“People who are good at maths are those who have been taught well. Most of those who aren't good, or don't enjoy it, have been taught badly,” she says.

As the fourth child of 10 to a father of Scots-Irish descent and mother of Cook Island descent, Dr Hunter was interested in maths and numbers from an early age, and says a fascination with intricate patterns on the traditional tivaevae quilts her mother made was a kind of tactile, visual entry into the world of numbers, shapes and symmetry.

In her doctoral thesis, she has explored how “teachers can develop communities of mathematical inquiry” among student groups. In particular, she looks at ways teachers can tap into ethnic social patterns – such as “assertive communication” within whānau - to facilitate group learning among Māori and Pasifika students who may be uncomfortable about asking questions of those in authority and arguing a point because it is not culturally acceptable at home.

Ms Hunter, who describes her mother as a mentor and “invisible supervisor”, focussed on learning models and methods for algebraic reasoning and unravelling algebraic number sentences for year-5 and 6 students.

She says difficulties in learning maths can stem from a basic lack of understanding of what the “equals” sign (=) means. Many students doing algebra fail to develop an understanding of the equals sign as a symbol of equivalence, confusing it with addition and subtraction where the = sign is equated with “the answer.”

The President of the Primary Maths Association and a teacher at Oranga Primary School in Onehunga, she says she wasn't always a fan of maths at secondary school and although she studied statistics at university, it was only once she became a teacher that her interest flourished.

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; College of Education; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Jazz thesis tells story of little man with huge musical talent

Legendary jazz pianist Michel Petrucciani was but three-feet tall. He played with his chin near the keyboard and his short legs attached to a special contraption enabling him to use foot pedals.

The poignant story of his short life and remarkable musical career, which began in France where he was born and ended in the United States with his death at the age of 36 in 1999, is captured in a Master of Philosophy jazz thesis by one of New Zealand's leading jazz pianists.

Auckland-based Jazz Studies tutor and jazzman Phil Broadhurst revisited Petrucciani's haunts in Paris and the south of France for his study of how this extraordinary Frenchman's musicianship earned him widespread acclaim in Europe and the United States, despite his physical limitations.



“Colouring any discussion of Michel Petrucciani's music is the fact that throughout his life, he suffered from osteogenesis imperfecta [glass bones disease],” writes Mr Broadhurst in his thesis titled *Against All Odds – the life and music of Michel Petrucciani*.

“He had to be carried on to the stage in his early career before gaining enough strength to walk with the aid of crutches. His refusal to allow his incapacity to limit his talent was an inspiration to all, but to what extent the novelty of his disability contributed to his fame is open to question.”

Petrucciani, who was already playing at festivals with top French jazz musicians in his mid-teens and soon after performing at jazz clubs in Paris, made the big time when he moved to the United States where he first joined forces with renowned saxophonist Charles Lloyd and later recorded with iconic jazz label Blue Note. He impressed those around him by living life to the full rather than dwelling on his physical suffering. He never complained about his aching joints and muscles but sometimes sought relief from severe pain by soaking in a scalding bath as a distraction. He had numerous romantic relationships and a penchant for partying, as well as a generous, gregarious nature which infused his music.

“His enormous appetite for life spilled out on to the keys. He could be, in turn, playful, spontaneous, joyful, serious, humorous, tender, direct, romantic, dominating, crafty, bawdy and self-indulgent. “All these characteristics emerge at one time or another in his music,” writes Mr Broadhurst.

Bringing together a rich tapestry of interviews translated from French publications as well as his own face-to-face interviews with Petrucciani's friends and fellow musicians, Mr Broadhurst – a fluent French speaker, self-confessed Francophile and former high school French language teacher – provides detailed analysis of Petrucciani's original compositions, musical style and influences.

“Any consideration of Michel Petrucciani's greatness as a player has to take into account the ailment that dogged his career...” Years after his death “it remains difficult to divorce his physical struggle from the musical evidence that Petrucciani left behind.

“Hearing the piano keys hit with such clarity and force cannot help but remind us of those large hands extending from his relatively bulky torso contrasting so dramatically with such thin, ineffective legs dangling in mid-air.”

Michel Petrucciani outlived medical expectations, exuding boundless energy almost until his death and with a focus on pleasing the audience in concert.

“I always play for people,” Petrucciani is quoted as saying. “I hope that after every concert they go away happy and want to come back. My music isn't intellectual; it's sensual and full of song.”

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Seeing the benefits of workplace humour

In some workplaces, people laugh a lot more than in others and it is all to do with organisational culture. Dr Barbara Plester has just completed her PhD on how organisational culture influences humour in the workplace with a thesis titled *Laugh out Loud*.

As a student in the Department of International Business at the University's College of Business on the Auckland campus, she first began to explore humour at work for her master's thesis, prompted by memories of working in a singularly joyless office. Today, says Dr Plester, there is a lot more awareness about humour, laughter and the impact it has on both individuals and their environment.

"The benefits of laughter are now well recognised. Laughter provides release and relieves boredom and can make being at work more fun. Employers are now seeing value in their workplaces being more fun," says Dr Plester.

To explore the influence of organisational culture on how humour occurs at work, she did interviews and observations at four companies in different industries – a legal firm, an information technology firm, a financial institution and an energy provider.

She found that boundaries to humour-related activity were influenced by the organisational culture and by levels of formality or informality. Humour was more enabled and encouraged in the less formal cultures and more constrained in the more formal work settings, she says.

"When people go to work in new cultures they pretty quickly pick up on what the boundaries are from one workplace to another – what sort of jokes would or wouldn't be acceptable.

"But people within organisations perceive that humour and organisational culture have both positive and negative impacts upon workplace outcomes such as retention, satisfaction, performance and recruitment.

"Humour at work is widespread and a significant component of modern working life. Humour manifests itself within workplace culture and understanding the influence of organisational culture on humour enactment is an important facet of organisational studies".

Dr Plester graduates in April. She is now a lecturer at the University of Auckland Business School in the Department of Management and International Business.

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland); Student profiles

Graduation ceremonies 2008

The University's graduation ceremonies begin in mid-April with more than 1000 graduands from the Auckland campus crossing the stage at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna to receive their degrees. This year there will be a record of 20 PhD graduands from the Auckland campus.

There will be six ceremonies in Auckland starting from Tuesday 15 April with a mix of graduands in sciences, music and creative arts.

There will be morning and afternoon ceremonies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each morning will begin with the champagne breakfast that has become a tradition for the campus.

There will be processions along Takapuna's Hurstmere Road to each of the six ceremonies. The ceremony to honour Pacific Island graduands will be held on campus on the Tuesday evening and the ceremony for Māori graduates will be held at the Bruce Mason Centre on the morning of Friday 18 April.

Of the PhD graduates in Auckland, six are in education, six in humanities and social science, three in psychology, three in science and two in business.

In Palmerston North graduation starts on Monday 12 May with the first ceremony at noon. From Monday to Thursday there will be eight graduation ceremonies with a further ceremony on Friday 16 May for Māori graduates.

All will cross the stage at the Regent on Broadway, with a procession leading to The Square following each ceremony.

In Wellington, graduation is held at the Michael Fowler Centre on 28 May, preceded on 27 May by a special ceremony for Māori graduates.

Date: 31/03/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Auckland); Graduation (Palmerston North); Graduation (Wellington)

Home affordability starting to improve



The long awaited slow down in house price increases has arrived and house prices in some regions have fallen, says the latest quarterly report on home affordability from the Massey University Real Estate Analysis Unit.

The national median house price flatlined around \$350,000 to November 2007 and since then has fallen by approximately four per cent according to the latest home affordability report. The affordability equation is driven by three variables – one is house prices and the other two are mortgage interest rates and wage rates, says the director of the Massey University Real Estate Analysis Unit, Professor Bob Hargreaves. The fall in the national median house price has altered the equation to give an improvement of affordability across all districts of 2.2 per cent. While a drop in house prices may be bad news for existing home owners, it is good news for first home buyers, says Professor Hargreaves.

Over the quarter ending in March, eight of the 12 regions showed improvements in affordability as follows: Northland at 7.1 per cent, Wellington and Southland both 5.5 per cent, Auckland 5.2 per cent, Taranaki 3.8 per cent, Hawkes Bay 2.1 per cent, Otago 2.0 per cent, and Manawatu/Wanganui 0.4 per cent. All other regions showed declines.

However affordability still declined in some regions led by Central Otago Lakes region at 23.3 per cent, followed by Nelson/Marlborough 5.6 per cent, Waikato/Bay of Plenty 2.7 per cent and Canterbury/Westland 1.1 per cent.

Southland is still the most affordable place in the country for house buyers followed by Otago and then Manawatu and Wanganui. Central Otago Lakes is by far the least affordable region, followed by Auckland region then Nelson/Marlborough.

<http://property-group.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 01/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Massey defining conversation moves to Auckland

Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey addressed a full lecture theatre of academic and general staff from all colleges at his presentation on the Auckland campus on Monday, 31 March.

It was the first of two addresses scheduled for the Auckland campus - and the second of seven for the University - to outline Mr Maharey's vision and encourage staff to participate in a conversation about future directions.

Mr Maharey reiterated that Massey is uniquely placed to be New Zealand's defining university because of its mix of teaching and research, its ability to embrace change, its four distinctive campuses (including extramural) and its specialisation in the areas of education and research New Zealand is recognised for: biophysical, creative and new economy.

The Auckland campus had its own distinctive feel, he said, which brought to mind the concept of the new economy, with its location in a booming area of the North Shore that he likened to the engine room of the country. He believed the campus should become the first choice for North Shore secondary students and expand its links with local industry.

"I want people to think about how all the campuses have a special place in their region but also lever off each other and the Massey brand as one truly national university."

With feedback already coming in from Palmerston North staff, Mr Maharey urged his Auckland audience to email their thoughts on his presentation to the address defining@massey.ac.nz and to make specific suggestions as to how Massey could become New Zealand's defining university. He invited Auckland staff to meet with him for further discussion in their own areas of specific interest.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine described Mr Maharey's presentation as upbeat yet realistic and enthusiastically received by staff. "Mr Maharey showed us an inspirational picture of Massey as New Zealand's defining university, strongly collegial and strongly engaged with New Zealand industry and society."

Associate Professor Dennis Viehland, from the College of Business, said he is keen to discuss raising standards and developing a "new economy" vision for the Auckland campus. "Starting with students and then extending into staff performance standards, environmental standards and perhaps others," Dr Viehland said. "Merely announcing that we were raising standards to ensure excellence in output would have a positive impression in the broader community, and academic staff would probably stand up and applaud at the next presentation."

Regional Information Technology manager Barbie Yerkovich says she was very encouraged by what she heard. "If he can achieve half of what he is talking about I will be absolutely delighted," she said. Her main area of concern is how to retain IT staff when pay rates are higher elsewhere in the public and private sector.

Already, email contributions from staff have made suggestions and opened discussions on a variety of topics, including administrative leadership by academics, women in academic leadership, commercialisation and research opportunities, possible new programmes, and greater collaboration with other universities and crown research institutes.

One submitter suggests regular staff satisfaction surveys are successfully used by other employers to aid recruitment and retention "and to develop the type of culture that would ensure Massey is New Zealand's defining university".

Another suggested replacing one of the car parks on the Auckland campus with gardens to provide an attractive place for students to spend time outside. The same staff member would prefer the campus be named North Shore in line with the city's name.

Other comments include:

"Develop a programme along the lines of Otago's Hands-on Science course for school students – might encourage more students from this region to attend Massey as science majors. Offer tuition rebates to children of staff."

"With the technology that is available today and new technologies I can foresee for the near future, the difference between internal and extramural delivery is diminishing. Have just one mode of delivering our papers, which gives students greater flexibility in how they learn."

"Incorporate a focus on resilience, a concept which draws together the themes you identified around biophysical systems, new economy, sustainability, creative industry. There is a loose network of people at Massey, Manaaki Whenua etc already exploring how our institutions can lead research and teaching in this area. The contribution of Maturanga Maori to this debate is crucial."

"Governance and subsequent management of the University must be collaborative and for the common good, rather than promoting the interests and protecting the territory of internal empires."

Mr Maharey is now in the process of setting up meetings in consultation with people across all campuses. Tomorrow (Friday, 4 April) he will be meeting with the student representatives on the Auckland campus and holding the second of his meetings with the campus staff.



Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey with Patricia Fulcher from Executive Education.



Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine.

Remaining sessions

Palmerston North - Turitea site

Japanese Lecture Theatre 10am on 7 April and 10am on 14 April.

Palmerston North - Hokowhitu site

KA North Lecture Block 1pm on 14 April

Auckland campus

Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre? 1.30pm on 4 April.

Wellington campus

Museum Building, Level 3, Room 10A02 11am on 11 April.

Date: 03/04/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Vice-Chancellor



Left to right, Dr David Thompson, Professor Paul Spoonley, Professor Ian Warrington, Professor Barrie Macdonald, Professor Margaret Tennant and Associate Professor Peter Lineham, pictured with the work Tui in the Sound by John Bevan Ford. The limited edition print was gifted to Professor Macdonald by the University.

Emeritus role for "Big Mac"

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Barrie Macdonald was farewelled yesterday after 37 years' service with confirmation that he would be a Professor Emeritus of the University, an honour awarded by the University Council.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington led the tributes to Professor Macdonald, noting that since his arrival in 1971 he had not only served within the History Department but on many boards and committees, and within the community including as secretary of the C Alma Baker Trust and as a board member to the University of the South Pacific.

Professor Margaret Tennant said she knew Professor Macdonald as both a teacher and then a colleague.

"Barrie was wonderfully generous with his time, advice and support ... he was also very compassionate in very practical ways."

Professor Tennant recalled the days when "Macdonald's Marauders" took on the "Corballis Commandos" in an annual cricket challenge between the History and English departments, and the social times enjoyed by the department including one infamous retreat at Mako Mako Primary School, where snoring became the issue of the day.

She presented Professor Macdonald with a book, compiled by Karen O'Hagan and Phillip Roy, of photographs of his time at Massey,.

Associate Professor Peter Lineham noted that Professor Macdonald had, throughout his career, insisted he remain a Professor of History, and suggested that rather than retire, Professor Macdonald could be "enticed back" to his original profession. Dr Lineham noted Professor Macdonald's early work on the Gilbert and Ellis Islands, and interest in colonisation and decolonisation, and his writing including *Imperial Patriot: Charles Alma Baker and the History of Limestone Downs*. Throughout his career, Professor Macdonald had been both the person who knew how to get the best for his department and college, Dr Lineham said, and someone able to write with extraordinary clarity and exceptional realism.





The Macdonald family at the farewell, left to right: Jacqui Hennessy and partner Bruce Macdonald, Maureen and Barrie Macdonald, Gail Campbell and partner Jon Macdonald, Diana and John Macdonald.

Dr David Thompson, a colleague at the Department of History, spoke of joining the University as a temporary lecturer in 1984, at a time when Professor Macdonald was head of department.

“Christmas was approaching and there was the annual Christmas lunch at Wharerata and I was invited as a new colleague. I soon realised there was another reason for the lunch, to thank Barrie for his leadership and his stewardship. Alison Hannah had composed a poem, Ode to Big Mac. How often do any of us write a poem to a colleague thanking them for their leadership?”

Dr Thompson noted that Professor Macdonald had always delighted in the achievement of others, and took joy in getting promotions or grants for others – for his generosity “out looking out for others”.

Professor Surinder Saggar spoke for colleagues at Landcare Research, thanking Professor Macdonald for his work in raising the profile of humanities and social sciences, noting his strategic thinking and the strengthened relationships as a result of his work.

“I hope in your retirement you will be able to accomplish all adventures you have dreamed about,” Professor Saggar said.

Professor Paul Spoonley noted the achievements of Professor Macdonald in integrating 22 departments to a new structure of 10 schools after the formation of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in 1997.

“And the college is now in good shape largely due to Barrie's skills and leadership. In all of this Barrie has promoted research. And research continues to grow from \$3 million to \$15 million.”

Professor Spoonley advised that tributes had come from the Former Dean of the Faculty of Arts Glynnis Crop, former Principal of the Auckland campus Professor Ian Watson, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Arts at Canterbury Professor Ken Strongman and Waikato University's Professor Dick Bedford. Acknowledgement of Professor Macdonald's key role in developing the Maori health workforce through establishment of Te Rau Puawai came from the Accident Compensation Corporation.

Bruce Wilson noted the contribution Professor Macdonald made for two years as acting Pro Vice- Chancellor of the College of Business.

Colonel Al McCone presented a book to Professor Macdonald on behalf of the New Zealand Army, and Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Graham Lintott was also present.

Professor Macdonald in his reply to the speakers shared his “three rules of survival”, advising people not to expect gratitude, don't take things personally, and to keep a sense of humour. Plans for his retirement included continuing his work as secretary for the C Alma Baker Trust and on the board of the University of the South Pacific, some travel, some research “and some yard work on the property”.

Professor Macdonald was joined by his wife Maureen, and sons Bruce and Jon and their partners, and his brother John with wife Diana for the farewell held on the Palmerston North Campus. The University's gift to

Professor Macdonald was a framed limited edition print of the John Bevan Ford work Tui in the Sound. Colleagues at the college also gifted a Martinborough vineyard stay.

Date: 03/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; Wellington

Immigrant professionals battling to get jobs

Highly-skilled immigrants are finding it hard to get acceptance from recruitment consultants – much less find jobs in their professions – because of their overseas qualifications, skin colour, accents and ethnicity, Massey researchers have found.

From an in-depth study of educated immigrants from a range of countries, the researchers found that only a small number had found jobs that matched their qualifications and many remained unemployed or had accepted unskilled work. The barriers to finding employment were language skills, accent, ethnicity, skin colour, prejudice, lack of cultural understanding and a lack of helpful support from recruitment and government agencies.

The study was carried out by two Wellington-based researchers in the University's College of Business. Jacqui Campbell is a lecturer in Human Resource Management and her colleague, Dr Mingsheng Li, is a senior lecturer in Communication.

Their study also raised the question of whether recruitment consultants are friend or foe to professional immigrants, after many of the immigrant group reported having difficulty getting recruitment consultants to refer them for job interviews.

The researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with 23 immigrants, five recruitment consultants and two immigrant settlement agencies. All of the immigrant group had bachelors degrees and 50 per cent had postgraduate qualifications. They came from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Occupations held in their countries of origin included accountant, manager, diplomat, economist, journalist, judge, lawyer, marketing director, psychologist and school teacher.

They put their struggle to find work in New Zealand, down to what Ms Campbell describes as the "conservative attitudes" of New Zealanders when it comes to employing people from different countries and cultures.

"Once they got through the lengthy and difficult process of immigration, they arrived in New Zealand qualified for professional positions and ready to start work and had not been prepared for the struggle that followed once they began applying for professional jobs and contacting recruitment consultants", she says.

"Being underemployed or unemployed has taken its toll on these people leading to loss of income, self esteem and confidence. Three marriages broke down."

Dr Li comes from mainland China but completed his PhD in intercultural communication at La Trobe University in Australia. When he came to New Zealand, he too, struggled to get job interviews in his professional area and worked in a factory as an electronic assembler for 18 months.

"This group of professional immigrants is a potential asset to New Zealand employers because of the fresh perspective and experience they bring but it seems that employers and recruiters here do not recognise the value these immigrants can add to their organisations," she says.

The researchers say their study shows a need for education of recruitment agencies, employers and government agencies.

Date: 04/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Wellington

Long-serving marketing professor dies

Professor Richard Buchanan, a long serving staff member in the College of Business's Department of Marketing, died suddenly at his home in Palmerston North on Wednesday, 2 April.

Professor Buchanan's career at Massey began in 1986 and he was appointed as the University's first Professor of Marketing Education in 2001. He had strong links with the business community and was a sought-after keynote speaker at many industry conferences and meetings. He was the author of a number of books, including *When Customers Think We Don't Care*, which was published in four languages.



The Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose paid tribute to him for his major contribution to the Department of Marketing and says he will be warmly remembered as an outstanding teacher and a loyal and popular colleague.

"Rich consistently received student evaluations and unsolicited testimonials which would have been flattering in small postgraduate papers, but were achieved, not only in these papers, but also in large undergraduate papers," Professor Rose said. "This response from students was testament to his skills as a presenter and teacher; skills that were recognised in a number of teaching awards including a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in First Year Teaching."

Two former staff of the University also died this week.

Dr Ephra Garrett, who established Massey's first Women's Studies paper in 1978 died yesterday. Dr Garrett (Te Atiawa) was also co-founder of the Bachelor of Social Work programme in 1975.

Her contributions to the University community including serving on the Human Ethics Committee. Dr Garrett received an honorary Doctor of Literature in 1993 in recognition of her achievements. The last school where Dr Garrett made a contribution was the School of Psychology. She was proud of the development of bicultural approaches within the discipline. As a result, she saw the success of the Te Rau Puawai: Maori Mental Health Workforce Development programme as a great achievement and a strong foundation for the future contribution of Maori graduates to their communities.

There are many stories about Dr Garrett, some reflected in the book *Te Korowai Aroha: Ephra's quilt*. Of particular note are the many comments on her gentle and uncompromising ways, her commitment, energy and passion for education and her warmth and encouragement for staff and students.

Sybil Cresswell (nee Quin) died on Monday aged 92. Mrs Cresswell was appointed to Massey Agricultural College in 1953 as a technical assistant and was linked with early developments in dairy technology and food technology, working closely with Dr Garth Wallace.

Date: 04/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North



Brewing team member Dr Richard Love pours a Pilot Pils for Associate Professor John Mawson.

Micro brewery's *Pilot Pils* a good Kiwi drop

 [Watch the One News item](#)

Hops from Nelson, well-water from the Palmerston North campus and brewing equipment from across the industry have enabled the first microbrewed beer to be produced on a New Zealand University campus.

The micro brewery at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology was officially opened today, with staff and visitors raising a glass of the pilsner-style beer named *Pilot Pils*. Professor Richard Archer, who championed development of the brewery, says the brew adheres to the Bavarian brewing laws of 1516, but the end result is quintessentially Kiwi.



Brewer John Rutland (right) and Professor Richard Archer.

“This limits the ingredients to water, malt, hops and yeast. The water is well-drawn, the malt donated by ADM Maltings of Marton, and the three varieties of hops all from Nelson.

“It is not perfect, but not bad for the first time.”

Professor Archer says the brewery will provide a teaching facility for students of process engineering and brewing and beverage technology; a research facility for students and industry; and a social environment where interaction among students and staff will contribute to the life of the campus.

“While brewing in itself is an ancient art – and a social glue for many, it is also a science enabling the maltster and brewer to achieve a consistent product regardless of longitude or latitude and regardless of the variability in the biological raw materials.

“Brewing is also engineering. Our brewery is sited in the process engineering laboratory for a purpose. Students usually learn about pumps, piping systems, heat exchange, refrigeration, mixing, filtration and process control on separate laboratory rigs. This brewery brings all these things into one understandable, operational process plant.”

Professor Robert Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences, says that micro brewery research now has a place in mainstream science, with a brewing researcher recently featured in *New Scientist*.

“And with the Food and Beverage Task Force and the FastForward science funding recently announced, the timing is perfect for brewing to contribute further to New Zealand's economy,” Professor Anderson says.

“It is entirely appropriate then that this micro brewery should be here at Massey, where we have existing expertise in food, nutrition and health, and in the agricultural sector from agribusiness to production. The process design, electrical work, control systems and quality assurance protocols behind the brewery are all Massey endeavour. Our people have brought together all that is required to run a factory, albeit on a small scale. We

know we have a can-do approach and this is the core of what Massey contributes: it sets us apart.”

Work on the project started in 2006 after Professor Archer met with John Rutland, of Orica Chemnet. With six years in the brewing industry and a passion for brewing, Mr Rutland shared Professor Archer's vision. By contributing some of his own equipment and enabling donations from his contacts across the industry, Mr Rutland has been a cornerstone of the project. He says he selected a Pilsner style beer for the first brew realising that the Massey well-water was soft and therefore very suitable.

“Despite a number of commissioning problems and general teething issues the beer has come up trumps. We have a nice smooth-finished Pilsner with a reasonably generous bitterness and a clean finish. One of the most pleasing aspects of the first beer is the very attractive foam head formed and upon finishing, lacing of the glass with residual foam. It's a beer that encourages you to try another just to confirm it is in fact the inaugural beer!

“The food technology students are probably the ideal brewers with the combination of theory, practical skills and enthusiasm for the craft. This combination has the potential to produce award-winning beers which we will put up for judging against the best in New Zealand.”

Professor Archer says that the micro brewery could also be used to produce wine.

“And what would be rather nice one day is to develop an ale using barley grown on Massey farms on the land around the University, and to also process the malt right here. The University in fact has quite a history of involvement in brewing, right from when the original biotechnology degree was developed during the 1960s. Brewing has also long been part of the food technology curriculum, and a number of our graduates have carved out careers in brewing.

“In future too we may see also such brews as Vet Pond – a dark, brown ale loosely resembling the campus vet pond – and even Palmy Winter – a clear, somewhat bitter lager drunk very cold!”

Professor Archer says the brews will never sell for money, but instead groups can club their funds to buy the steam, malt and excise needed, contributing their labour and sharing the finished product “be it good or bad”.

Although the beer will not be sold for cash, staff had to follow customs and excise procedures including applying for a licence to brew and will pay excise duty on each brew.

Date: 04/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North



Mixing sport and alcohol

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ONE Breakfast conference preview - 9m 54 sec \(10mb\)](#)

Former All Black Manager Andrew Martin has maintained a staunch opinion on the role of alcohol at the elite sport level since his public criticism of the drinking habits of some players in 2002.

Mr Martin will give the opening keynote presentation at the inaugural Sport and Alcohol conference, from February 8 to 10. He emphasises the need for a balance between the recreational use of alcohol and the demands of top-level athletes.

The inclusion of alcohol in the professional sporting arena, and the way in which we use it, is quite possibly the largest outstanding impediment to consistent high performance. Arguably, alcohol use remains New Zealand sport's Achilles heel, given how inextricably linked it is to our elite teams through sponsorship and its positioning as a part of the culture surrounding many sports.

Conference organiser and competitive cyclist Dr Steve Stannard has first hand experience of the mix of sport and alcohol and keeps a close eye on news reports of sports stars' misdemeanors involving alcohol. Stories of sports stars in the courtroom prompted the unique conference which he hopes to repeat in the future.

Sport is inherently tied up with alcohol at many levels, from the participants to the athletes themselves. New Zealand's situation is similar to that in Australia and most people are well aware of this relationship but do not know its extent, Dr Stannard says.

The media's handling of these cases is the subject of a panel discussion, set for the second day of the conference, between Andrew Martin and Doug Rollerson (former All Black and CEO of North Harbour Rugby Union). Other panel discussions will focus on gender issues, ethnicity and culture, and youth and schools.

The conference is hosted by the Centre for Studies in Sports and Exercise and provides a forum to critically analyse and debate the role that alcohol plays in the New Zealand sporting sphere. Speakers include Peter FitzSimons (ex-Wallaby and rugby commentator), Dave Currie (Olympics Chef de Mission), Nicki Stewart (CEO Beer Wine and Spirits Council), Bernice Mene (ex-Silver Fern captain) and Graham Seatter (Lion Nathan Breweries).

From the University, Professor Gary Hermansson will share his experiences of working with Commonwealth and Olympic athletes as a sports psychologist and Associate Professor Kathy Kitson will present research on medical guidelines for alcohol consumption by pregnant women. Dr Farah Palmer, a sports management researcher and Black Ferns captain, will offer an insight into the part alcohol plays amongst female athletes, and Professor Tony Vitalis, head of the Department of Management, will introduce the business side of the sport and alcohol relationship sponsorship, management, marketing, legal issues, and event management.

For a full conference programme visit: <http://www.sport-alcohol.co.nz>

Is sport drowning in grog?

This question was the focus of a keynote presentation at the inaugural Sport and Alcohol conference currently on at Massey University.

An invited speaker to the three-day conference in Palmerston North, John Rogerson is the director of the Australia Drug Foundation's Good Sports programme. In the past four years the programme has expanded from its initial research pilot to a 600-strong membership of Victorian community sporting clubs, and is piloting programmes in NSW and Tasmania.

He says the misuse of alcohol can take a heavy toll on both sports clubs and their members. The Good Sports programme is working to improve the business practices of the club, and to provide training and guidance on changes to club policy.

Mr Rogerson says initiatives like the programme assist in the development of a culture that attracts families and helps clubs provide for younger players, reduces binge and underage drinking, and leads to lower incidences of offences such as drink driving, violence and assault.

In his presentation Mr Rogerson outlined research results illustrating the levels of drinking in Australian sporting clubs, and explained the benefits to clubs and communities by sporting clubs managing alcohol responsibly.

He says the traditional Australian sporting scene condones the excessive consumption of alcohol, with an average 13 percent of 18-20 year old males typically consuming more than 13 standard alcoholic drinks each time they socialise at their football club. He says this behaviour is reinforced and encouraged by alcohol industry sponsorship in sport, presenting players with prizes and payments in the form of alcohol, and encouraging heavy alcohol consumption after games and at end-of-season celebrations.

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Date: 07/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar; Explore - HEALTH; Sport and recreation

Death of pioneering academic Ephra Garrett

Dr Ephra Garrett, who established Massey's first Women's Studies paper in 1978, died last Thursday (3 April).

Dr Garrett (Te Atiawa) was also co-founder of the Bachelor of Social Work programme in 1975.

Her contributions to the University community including serving on the Human Ethics Committee. Dr Garrett received an honorary Doctor of Literature in 1993 in recognition of her achievements. The last school where Dr Garrett made a contribution was the School of Psychology.



She was proud of the development of bicultural approaches within the discipline. As a result, she saw the success of the Te Rau Puawai: Maori Mental Health Workforce Development programme as a great achievement and a strong foundation for the future contribution of Maori graduates to their communities.

There are many stories about Dr Garrett, some reflected in the book *Te Korowai Aroha: Ephra's quilt*. Of particular note are the many comments on her gentle and uncompromising ways, her commitment, energy and passion for education and her warmth and encouragement for staff and students.

Kia hiwa raa, kia hiwa raa!!!	Be on the alert!!!!
Kia hiwa raa ki teenei tuku, Kia hiwa raa ki teeraa tuku, Kia tuu, kia oho, kia mataara!!!	Look to the left!! Look to the right!! Be upstanding, be awake, be attentive!!!
Kua hinga te tootara nui i Te Wao-nui-a-Taane!!	The great totara of the Forest of Taane has fallen!!!
Kua tauria a Maunga Taranaki e te kapua poouri Kua tiipare koe ki te rau kawakawa He tohu mate, he tohu mate.	Mount Taranaki is shrouded in cloud He is adorned with the kawakawa The emblem of death
Kua hinga too taatou kuia a Ephra Garrett Auee, te mamae e!!	Our dear kuia Ephra Garrett has succumbed Alas the excruciating pain!!
Te uri o ngaa poropiti a Te Whiti raaua ko Tohu Titia te raukura hei tohu arohanui e...	The descendent of the prophets Te Whiti and Tohu Let us adorn the raukura as a sign of respect..

Date: 09/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Kelly O'Donnell on her way to taking second place in the nationals.

Barefooters eye world champs

A trio of Massey University students have secured top places in the national Barefoot Waterski Champs and a place in the development squad for the world champs in February next year.

First-year students Ryan Groen and Kelly O'Donnell placed second in the men's and women's senior divisions respectively last week. Stephanie Hamblyn, who completed two years of her degree at Palmerston North but is now taking a break from study to undertake some practical farm work, took first place in the women's section.



Mr Groen, originally from Wellington, opted to study at the Palmerston North campus due to ease of access to the purpose-built Lake Inspiration barefoot waterskiing facility at Otaki. The second placing is his best to date, with his sights now set on training and barefoot skiing at least twice weekly in preparation for the world championships, which will be held in Otaki.

Both Mr Groen and Ms O'Donnell, who is from Rotorua, are members of the University's Academy of Sport, which assists elite athletes by providing scholarships and support. Ms Hamblyn was also a member of the Academy, but has returned to Hawke's Bay this year. The national champs were held in Otaki from 2 to 6 to April.

(Caption right) Ryan Groen in action on Lake Inspiration during the national champs.

Date: 09/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Sport and recreation



Professor Harjinder Singh is the first New Zealand recipient of the international William C Haines Dairy Science Award.

First New Zealand recipient of Dairy Science Award

Professor Harjinder Singh has been named the 2008 recipient of the William C Haines Dairy Science Award, a prestigious worldwide commendation made by the California Dairy Research Foundation. He is the first New Zealander to receive the award, presented at a conference in San Francisco last month.

Professor Singh holds the University's Fonterra chair in dairy science, and is co-director of the Riddet Institute, named a new Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence last year.

Executive director of the California Dairy Research Foundation Joseph O'Donnell says Professor Singh is an excellent candidate for the award, which recognises excellence in dairy research and development,

“He is an authority on milk proteins and their relationship to dairy technology and processing. His research has contributed to the fundamental understanding and functionality of milk proteins and hydrocolloids in food systems, knowledge that has formed the solid basis of the development of new dairy products with improved nutrition, functionality and shelf life.”

Professor Singh says many graduate students, postdoctoral scientists and collaborators at Massey University deserve to share the recognition that this award presents.

“And the continued support of the New Zealand dairy industry for multidisciplinary, fundamental work on milk protein structure and functionality at Massey University is also greatly appreciated.

“The ability of the dairy industry worldwide to innovate by developing new products with leading-edge functionality depends on how well the fundamental knowledge about dairy ingredients can be translated into product development ideas and concepts. Close interactions between industry and academic researchers are essential to make academic research more relevant and to facilitate uptake of knowledge by the dairy industry.”

Professor Nigel Long, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research), says the award is acknowledgement of the major contribution Professor Singh has made to the industry.

“Professor Singh has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and 15 book chapters, and holds four patents. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Fellow of International Academy of Food Science and Technology and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology. He serves as a member of the editorial boards of seven journals. We are extremely pleased that he has been recognised again internationally for this work.”

Date: 09/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



William Sukala assesses Rachel Osman's weight training.

Weightlifting raised as answer to diabetes epidemic among Pacific Islanders

[▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE News item](#)

A new study will be the first to establish the value of weightlifting in combating diabetes amongst Pacific Islanders.

PhD candidate William Sukala and a team of Massey University health researchers will conduct the first randomised, controlled trial amongst Pacific Islanders, using a programme of supervised weight lifting, known as progressive resistance training.

Their study is called SPIRIT – South Pacific Islanders Resist Diabetes with Intense Training. Forty participants with type 2 diabetes will be drawn from church groups and diabetes health care professionals, most in the Porirua area. All will be tested and assessed. Twenty will take part in supervised weight lifting for 16 weeks while the rest will have usual care. The weight lifting will involve nine exercises, targeting all major muscles of the body, performed three times a week.

Mr Sukala says it is well established that Pacific Islanders are disproportionately affected by type-2 diabetes and obesity, compared with Europeans.

“The epidemic of diabetes within the Pacific Islands community is a major public health concern that must be addressed with appropriate interventions,” he says.

“Other international studies conducted in high-risk groups have indicated that weightlifting is both safe and effective in improving blood sugar control and other factors in type-2 diabetes management.

“However, there has been very little advocacy for its use in the medical management of Pacific Islanders diagnosed with diabetes. This is likely to be because no clinical trials have been conducted within the Pacific island group.

“At present the generic advice given to people with diabetes is usually a vague ‘get out and take a walk’. At this point, nobody even considers the therapeutic value of weightlifting.”

Researchers from the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health have partnered with the National Heart Foundation, the Capital and Coast District Health Board, Porirua-based City Fitness, Pacific Island churches and diabetes health specialists.

“We know that earlier studies support the value of physical exercise in preventing and mitigating both diabetes and obesity in Maori and Pacific Island people. But this is the first randomised, controlled study – and the first New Zealand study – to focus specifically on weightlifting. We intend to prove its value with this research,” says Mr Sukala.

“The objective is to first run the study as a strictly controlled trial, and then adapt it into a self-determined, community-based fitness programme that people want to take part in. That can be encouraged and taken forward by Pacific Island churches and community centres, not just within New Zealand, but back to the islands as well.”

Mr Sukala expects the study will also bring benefits to the wider community.

“The fact that it is taking place will raise awareness within the scientific community and the public of the value of weightlifting as a safe and effective weapon in the fight against diabetes and its close ally, obesity.”

William Sukala can be contacted on (04) 801-2794 ext 6801, or at w.r.sukala@massey.ac.nz

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Date: 09/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Pasifika; Video Multimedia



John Bevan Ford, *Te Kahui Rere - The Flock Flies*, 2000, mixed media on paper.

New exhibition showcases Bevan Ford's work

The work of renowned artist and former University staff member the late John Bevan Ford is showcased at Palmerston North's Te Manawa Art Gallery this month. The exhibition *John Bevan Ford He Aho Tangata: the human threads* is the largest collection of Bevan Ford's work to be displayed in New Zealand and includes outstanding examples of his paintings, sculpture and weaving.

Mr Bevan Ford (1930-2005) Ngati Raukawa ki Kapiti, Ngati Wehiwehi, was a pioneer of the contemporary Maori art movement and established the University's Maori visual arts programme. Born in Christchurch, he lived in the Manawatu from 1974 until his death.

He retired from the University in 1987 to become a fulltime artist, working from his studio in Ashhurst and exhibiting nationally and internationally. As a carver, a sculptor and a painter, he is acknowledged for his prolific and outstanding contribution to the arts in Aotearoa and internationally.

Mr Bevan Ford was inspired by the belief that land gives life, that it carries a spiritual essence that connects people to their environment. He was always mindful of the strengths of his Maori heritage, and drew inspiration from the customary arts of raranga (weaving), taniko (ornamental weaving), whakairo (carving), kowhaiwhai (painted scrollwork) and korowai (woven cloaks).

The University's art collection is loaning five works to the exhibition, with loans also being made by institutions from Edinburgh, Berlin, Amsterdam and Canberra. The exhibition curator is Kura Te Waru Rewiri, formerly a lecturer in Maori visual arts.

Date: 10/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhibition/Show



Albie Marsh drives the tractor to turn the potatoes from the ground, while pickers follow.

Taewa harvest underway

A hot summer and the ability to irrigate has led to a bumper crop of taewa this year, with students and friends working steadily in the late summer sun today to harvest the Maori potatoes.

Project leader Nick Roskruge (right), a researcher in indigenous horticulture, says there is a large crop of taewa. The taewa were grown in a different paddock from last year, and one which had limited irrigation, meaning the potatoes could both take well in the ground and increase in size.



About 18 varieties of taewa are grown at the Palmerston North campus, with the aim of the project to develop a seed-bank able to supply seed for community cropping. Some taewa will be distributed to local marae and the community, with any surplus in demand from many people who wished to buy the still-rare taewa.

Pickers today included students, collaborators and kaumatua, with a hangi laid down for an end-of-harvest celebration. Timing for the harvest is dictated by events including the rising of a new moon, with harvest usually completed within three days of a new moon, Mr Roskruge says.



Kaumatua Piki-Rauhina Winitana assesses taewa carried by student Campbell Crisp.

Date: 10/04/2008

Type: Research



Growth in China's meat and dairy consumption may provide trade opportunity

Big increases in China's consumption of meat and dairy products and growing concern about the sustainability of its domestic livestock industry could mean opportunities for our exporters, says Professor Allan Rae from the University's Centre for Applied Economics and Policy Studies.

As China's livestock revolution has gathered momentum, Professor Rae, in collaboration with Chinese researchers, has been studying the implications for global markets. The research team is studying livestock productivity developments in China, the influence of livestock production on rural household incomes, and a survey analysis of the dairy farming situation in inner Mongolia.

“A big unknown is to what extent the domestic industry can continue to supply this growth, and especially as sustainability becomes a more important issue in China. Environmental problems are already occurring, with some large-scale livestock operations having been relocated away from suburban locations, such as dairy farms moving out of Beijing area and medium/large scale hog farms being forbidden in Shanghai.”

Professor Rae says China seems likely to have continuing self-sufficiency in most livestock products. As outgoing president of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Professor Rae's recent presidential address to the organisation's annual conference in Canberra, focussed on the impact of the livestock revolution on China's agriculture, smallholders and trade.

Food purchasing and consumption patterns differ between urban residents and the 60 per cent of the population who live in rural areas, according to statistics on the changing patterns.

Between 1990 and 2006 in urban households, average home consumption per capita of grains, almost halved, while that of pork, beef, poultry, eggs, fish, milk and fruits increased. The most rapid increases in urban per capita consumption have been for dairy products, at 296 per cent, and poultry, 144 per cent. In rural households, these products have also shown the most rapid growth – 179 per cent for poultry and 392 per cent for dairy.

Professor Rae says he expects the livestock revolution to continue in China although it may take different forms as the Government and industry respond to existing and emerging problems and issues.

He says the volume of livestock products eaten in China will continue to grow, driven by the migration trend from rural areas into urban areas and the increase in people eating away from home.

Date: 10/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Honorary doctorate for champion of consumers



The champion of the consumer, David Russell will receive an honorary doctorate in Commerce at the University's graduation ceremonies in Auckland on April 16.

The former Chief Executive of the Consumers' Institute of New Zealand became the national face of consumers' rights and he is widely acknowledged as a driving force in the changes and development of consumer protection law in his 17 years at the head of the institute.

He became a household name through national media, breaking new ground in rigorous independent research into products and services in the name of consumer protection. He also became an expert in consumer laws and his opinions and interpretations of both the Consumer Guarantees Act and the Fair Trading Act are widely sought.

Over the years from 1990 until last year, Mr Russell led the transformation of the institute from a government department to a successful private business venture. Under his guidance the Consumers' Institute achieved an annual turnover of \$5.5 million and achieved a subscription base for Consumer magazine of 66,000 consumers plus a further 30,000 to the online version.

As the process of self - regulation in industry has evolved, Mr Russell has been an active figure in the regulatory bodies relating to banking, electricity supply, gas supply and advertising standards. He is still a member of the Electricity Complaints Commission Board, the Banking Ombudsman Commission, the Insurance Savings Ombudsman Commission and the Real Estate Institute Licensing Board.

Last year Mr Russell was awarded the Queens Service Order for Community Service. The honorary doctorate from also acknowledges his distinguished public service and the attributes he has applied in the guidance of the Consumers' Institute – integrity, rigour and insistence on excellence.

Mr Russell is no stranger to university classrooms and has frequently been invited to share first hand experience on consumer law and ethical marketing to both law and business students around the country.

He says he is “thrilled and delighted” to be chosen as the recipient of an honorary doctorate.

Date: 11/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Alumni; College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

Search for belonging not always easy for South African migrants

 [Watch the TV3 Sunrise item](#)

South Africans who migrate to New Zealand face various challenges in making the transition, from organising their professional lives without access to cheap domestic labour to being forced into unskilled labour because their academic or professional status is not recognised.

Dr Carina Meares (right) has used a biographical narrative method to tap into the experiences of South African migrants from diverse ethnic groups for her sociology doctoral thesis exploring how the shift from “Rainbow Nation” to “Land of the Long White Cloud” affected their intimate relationships as well as how they organise their work and home lives.



A sociology lecturer and researcher at Massey's Auckland campus who is graduating this month, she has conducted in-depth interviews then analysed the impact that migrating to this country had on migrants' gender roles in marriage, parenting, domestic life and paid employment.

One woman, who in South Africa ran her own home-based business, said mothers and wives had a different role when in South Africa where the availability of servants meant they did not have to do menial work. This meant women were free to take up paid or unpaid work, or socialise.

Dr Meares noted that the problems of adapting to a new social, economic and cultural milieu – such as enduring periods of unemployment - had brought migrants closer together as couples and within families.

“Not only do they have to cope with the practical and emotional challenges of settling themselves and their families into a new country, but they must also negotiate a new way of sharing the multiple responsibilities of paid and unpaid work,” writes Dr Meares, who is the Research Manager for the Integration of Immigrants Programme based at the University's Auckland campus.

Some were “reluctant migrants”, and remained ambivalent about leaving successful business and networks of friends and family, despite having been victims of, or witnessing, violent crime in South Africa.

“Migration can cause enormous disruption to a migrant's life story. The kind of disruption it causes can differ for women and men, but that for all migrants it takes a great deal of courage and hard work to make a life for yourself somewhere new,” she says.

Dr Meares, who is attuned to the migrant experience having grown up in New Zealand as the daughter of an migrant Italian father, says she hopes her thesis – titled “From Rainbow Nation to the Land of the Long White Cloud: Migration, Gender and Biography” - will “increase the level of knowledge and understanding of South Africans' experiences of migration to this country.”

Her interviewees arrived in New Zealand between 1994 and 2001, in the lead up to and beyond the transition to democracy in South Africa.

Date: 11/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

Knowledge hub will help industry learn

Enabling manufacturers to access research and education is the aim behind a new project at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.

Senior lecturer in industrial management and innovation Dr Jane Goodyer is leading the initiative, the only Massey-led proposal to receive funding when the Tertiary Education Commission announced the inaugural Encouraging and Supporting Innovation Fund on 25 March.

The project was awarded \$600,000 to develop a knowledge hub to aid the engagement between the manufacturing sector and universities to promote more targeted and responsible partnerships.

The knowledge hub is to be known as the Knowledge HERE (Manufacturing Knowledge Hub for Education and REsearch). This particular hub model is a New Zealand first, and may even be a world first, according to Dr Goodyer. The hub will be based around a website containing information on courses, short courses, degrees, consultancies and particular research interests offered at each of the seven New Zealand universities.

The innovative approach of the hub model is two-fold: to have all information gathered in one place rather than having to go into the websites of each of the universities and, to create a dynamic interface to connect people in real time.

The hub will provide a one-stop-shop for manufacturers to provide them with anything they want to know about education and research at universities, in order to make them an effective growing business, Dr Goodyer says. "It's really all about trying to make it easier for the manufacturers to engage in the education sector. "

An additional feature of the website will be the ability to collect statistics about the manufacturing industry, which will help universities to understand how and where they have contributed directly to economic growth in the industry and where they need to go in the future.

It was years of experience in industry and academia and close contacts Trade and Enterprise that made Dr Goodyer aware of the gap in manufacturers' knowledge of what universities have to offer.

I knew the difficulty we had engaging the manufacturing industry. In New Zealand there are a lot of smaller companies that are very resource-strapped, and the time and the lack of ease of getting information on the education sector is like a brick wall to them. Dr Goodyer's project is a pilot.

If this project is successful, why not include the polytechnics as well, and if they can be incorporated successfully, why not apply other sectors, such as the health industry? But that is of course the long-term plan.

Important collaborative partners in the project are the Head of School of Engineering at AUT Dr Thomas Neizert, Dr Don Houston from Flinders University, Australia (formerly Massey) and director of specialised manufacturing for Trade and Enterprise Craig Armstrong. The project will run for 18 months from 1 June.

Date: 13/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Engineering

Hands on education show

The University and UCOL have created a novel way to show secondary school students what study and career options are available to them in Palmerston North

They have joined forces to hold a Tertiary Discovery Day in the city, with interactive displays and activities that students can take part in. The organisers say it's based on the principle that the best way to make a decision is to try out the options first hand.

As well as exploring the displays and trying out the equipment, visiting students will be able to talk to academic staff.

Student Liaison Adviser Brent Costley and UCOL External Relations Team Leader Danette Whitehouse say the timing is important. "It's relatively early in the year, which will allow senior students plenty of time to consider various tertiary study options for 2009 and to seek more information on their chosen subjects.

"The event is also intended to encourage students to study in Palmerston North, by showcasing the variety of options available at UCOL and Massey University. It has the support of the Palmerston North City Council's Student City initiative," they say.

Tertiary Discovery Day will be held on tomorrow at the Palmerston North Convention Centre and will run from 11am until 7pm to allow students to attend with their school during the day and with their parents in the evening. Members of the public are also welcome. There is no entrance fee.

The Massey displays will allow students to:

- Experience the thrill of flying a plane
- Get information about food and its creation
- Learn what makes people tick, with Psychology staff
- Check out the special equipment in the sports area.

The UCOL displays will allow students to:

- Dress up in high-fashion gear
- Watch top chefs in action and sample the goodies they create
- Rev it up with power tools
- Check out their performing arts skills with UCOL Singstar
- Get a fitness analysis
- Take an inside look at animations and simulations
- Relax in the massage area.

Date: 13/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

String Quartet kicks off concert series

A shortened lunchtime concert series at the Palmerston North campus will kick off with the New Zealand String Quartet.

Concert co-ordinator Associate Professor Robert Hoskins says the noon sessions, held in the Humanities Auditorium, Old Main Building, on 16, 23, 30 April and 7 May, offer a strong line-up, combining depth and variety.

The first concert comprises the quartet playing Schubert's final string quartet.

"This work is gripping beyond belief," says Dr Hoskins, "at times harrowing but unswervingly compassionate. Audiences will be mesmerised by the quartet's interpretation."

The quartet has been a regular visitor to Massey and premiered its famous cycle of Beethoven quartets here before touring nationally.

On 23 April, pianist Richard Mapp, senior lecturer in piano at the New Zealand School of Music and a familiar concert artist, will play works by Scarlatti and Chopin along with the Bach-Busoni Chaconne.

"This is a work that knocks the breath out of your lungs," Dr Hoskins says.

Jazz pianist Norman Meehan and friends from the school will present new settings of the poet E E Cummings on 30 April. The final concert, on 7 May, sees the return of Richard Mapp with viola player Donald Maurice, also on the staff of the school. Professor Maurice has transcribed George Enescu's third violin sonata for viola.

"It's a breathtakingly brilliant work – a haunting and unsettling tale of Romanian refugees which perfectly examines what lies at the heart of all humanity," Dr Hoskins says.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Palmerston North) and the New Zealand School of Music sponsor the concerts. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Date: 13/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Exhibition/Show



Massey links high schools with high-tech career pathways

Virtual engineering, America's Cup boat design, green technologies and robotics are among the exciting career options a group of Auckland secondary school students are learning about through a programme jointly run by the Auckland campus and Smales Farm Technology Office Park.

Nearly 200 students from 12 schools in West Auckland, the North Shore and Whangaparaoa visited the Auckland campus recently as part of 21st Century Career Pathways in Technology 2008 – an entrepreneurial programme aimed at inspiring Year 12 and 13 students about the range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics career opportunities available through tertiary education.

The programme, which has been running for several years, links students with role models from some the country's top technology, business and research companies for information sessions and industry placement over the next few months.

Professor Ian Maddox, programme director (Engineering and Technology) and academic director (Auckland) for the College of Sciences, is the University's coordinator for the programme and says it offers a great chance for students keen on science subjects to gain more knowledge and ideas about exciting industry developments as they consider their futures.??

Date: 13/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

New Doctorates at Auckland

Doctors of Philosophy

Amal Al-Dujaily – PhD in Information Systems

Dr Al-Dujaily's research focused on the personality effect in the design of adaptive e-learning systems. She investigated how future adaptive e-learning systems could embody the personality feature to address each individual's differences.

She conducted empirical experiments in Oman and New Zealand, where students had different learning styles. Her findings support inclusion of the personality feature in the design of e-learning systems to improve the learners' performance.

Findings also confirmed that co-operation between different types of personalities could motivate better, collaborative, learning experiences.

Jane Elizabeth Bone – PhD in Education

Dr Bone studied the support given to the spiritual experience of young children in three early childhood settings. The bicultural early childhood curriculum, Te Whāriki, includes a spiritual dimension.

Qualitative case studies were set up in a Montessori casa, a private preschool, and a Steiner kindergarten. They revealed that the central concept of everyday spirituality was an aspect of daily pedagogical practice.

The spiritual themes were explored in narratives that described ways of being together, rites, rituals and transformations. This thesis argued that early childhood environments support spiritual experiences.

Jacqueline Susan Feather – PhD in Psychology

Dr Feather's research addressed the need for effective therapy for children with trauma from child abuse. A trauma-focused cognitive behaviour therapy programme for children was developed and evaluated.

The children who participated had been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of abuse.

Findings showed that with treatment, symptoms decreased and self-reported coping increased.

The results support the use of evidence-based treatments and research in child abuse and child protection, and highlight the contribution psychologists can make to ensure quality outcomes.

Grant Marc Gillon – PhD in Public Policy

Dr Gillon's research examined the unique factors that contributed to the success or otherwise of New Zealand's first three coalition governments under MMP from 1996 to 2002.

He assessed the relevant impacts of three influences: policy, personality and opportunity, and investigated factors which contributed to each government's formation, continuation or termination.

His research found that although parties' policies and politicians' ambitions were influential in determining the success of any coalition, a crucial and previously overlooked component is the inherent intra-party and inter-party relationships in a coalition.

Susan Flint-Hartle – PhD in Property

Dr Flint-Hartle's thesis investigates the widespread phenomenon of franchising in the real estate agency sector. Franchising systems are defined as entrepreneurial organisations in which cooperation between two different types of entrepreneur takes place.

The franchisor initiates the system and builds the brand while the franchisee develops the local market and value is created as entrepreneurial ventures are established. Franchisors and franchisees amalgamate innovations and franchisees develop their own resource competencies, complementary to the parent organisation.

Franchising in real estate is shown to be fully compatible with entrepreneurship constructs.

Helen Dorothy Hedges – PhD in Education

Dr Hedges' research focused on the co-construction by teachers and children of an early childhood curriculum built on children's interests. She assumed the role of "critical friend" to teachers in two early childhood centres.

Her findings provide a new perspective on children's interests to recognise their fundamental inquiries, and also justifies the contribution of teachers' interests to curriculum. She also validates the notion of a "critical friend" who takes sufficient time to understand the context of the work of teachers, and to assist them in integrating research, practice and professional learning.

Roberta Kathleen Hunter – PhD in Education

Dr Hunter explored how two teachers developed communities of mathematical inquiry, which facilitated student access to, and use of, a range of proficient mathematical practices.

A collaborative design approach supported the development of a communication and participation framework. Higher levels of student involvement in mathematical dialogue resulted in increased intellectual agency and

verbalised reasoning.

The research findings provided insights into ways teachers can be assisted to develop practices, which support constitution of inquiry communities.

Michael Ray Irwin – PhD in Education

Dr Irwin's research aimed to develop a clearer understanding of the learning needs of boys and identify an improved pedagogy for boys. In order to hear and record boys' voices accurately, he developed a research methodology that trained boys to be co-researchers in the collecting and interpreting of material.

The study found that boys require clear expectations and standards, sport and physical activity, group interaction and challenge to optimise learning. A key contributing factor is a teacher/boy relationship based on mutual respect and individual dialogue.

Maria Talaitupu Kerslake – PhD in Sociology

Dr Kerslake's research examined structural adjustment programmes promoted by international financial institutions to help solve the financial problems of developing countries. She examined programmes in Samoa, focusing on the restructuring and privatisation of the former Public Works Department.

She found important differences between claims by development economists, consultants and planners, politicians and reform managers, and the experiences of those directly involved in the process. She concluded that people in different positions have different experiences of the same programmes, and these are significantly influenced by their social status within Samoan society.

Hayley Ann Lawrence – PhD in Genetics

Dr Lawrence focused on the use of genetic techniques to gain and apply knowledge for conserving the world's most endangered seabird, the Chatham Island tāiko. High levels of genetic variation were found, unusual for such a rare species with a falling population size of only 120-150 individuals.

Her research also provided understanding of sex-ratios, mating systems and behaviour in the tāiko. Ancient DNA from sub fossil bones was used to investigate the bird's history and DNA sequencing led to the identification of the enigmatic magenta petrel as a tāiko and suggests there are more tāiko yet to be found, helping the continued survival of the species.

Guangjin Lu – PhD in Food Technology

Dr Lu investigated a novel strategy by using controlled atmosphere (CA) in combination with lactic acid bacteria to control common food-borne pathogens, and so enhance the safety and shelf life of seafood products. His results showed that CA significantly reduced the growths of all tested food-borne pathogens.

He also demonstrated the antimicrobial activity of lactic acid bacteria against these pathogens through the production of the antimicrobial compound reuterin. It is proposed that a comprehensive strategy, incorporating the acid and a controlled atmosphere, could be developed to control food-borne pathogens in seafood products.

Carina Letizia Meares - PhD in Sociology

Dr Meares analysed the gendered experience of migration from South Africa to New Zealand, in a series of case studies. After noting the incidence of migration-related disruption, she used the idea of biographical disruption to develop new ways of describing, explaining and representing the gendered experience of international migration. She used these tools to examine the effect of migration on the gender dynamics of South African migrants' intimate relationships, concluding that international migration affects gender dynamics in diverse and sometimes contradictory ways.

David John Moore – PhD in Management Systems and Ergonomics

Dr Moore investigated the context, scale and cost of loss of control events involving quad bikes on New Zealand farms. The single, greatest area of concern in farm safety, identified by the Department of Labour, is the 70,000 quad bikes in use in New Zealand; each year there are on average seven deaths and in excess of \$3.6 million paid out by ACC for quad bike-related injuries.

The research identified the need for interventions relating to farm management, work organisation, regulation, vehicle design, and rider awareness, to help reduce injuries in the future.

Annette Claire Mortensen – PhD in Sociology

Dr Mortensen's research focused on the integration of refugee groups into the New Zealand health system. It noted the impact of changes to resettlement policy, giving priority to high health and social needs, and the restructuring of publicly-provided health, education and welfare systems.

Noticeable ethnic diversification has been one element of the changes; the other has been long-term social and economic exclusion in refugee groups. The study indicates that New Zealand's notably humanitarian refugee resettlement policy is not matched by adequate central government and public institutional responses and resources to integrate refugee groups.

Richard Beresford Nightingale - PhD in Social Policy

Dr Nightingale examined the dynamics of shaping a Māori workforce within New Zealand from 1935 to 1975, as

an outcome of colonial engagements under the capitalist system. Māori labour formed a second stage in the need for industrial labour power, particularly after World War II. A raft of government initiatives was justified on the grounds of progress, perceived to benefit Māori and the nation, and instituted in a period of enormous change in Māori society and in relationships between Māori and Pakeha. The thesis identified the nature of Māori responses to government policies.

It noted the retreat by Māori from issues of class deprivation to the promotion of issues that centred on loss of land, language and culture.

Barbara Anne Plester – PhD in Management

Dr Plester's research explored the relationship between humour and organisational culture in four New Zealand companies. She contends that formality and/or informality influence humour and organisational culture. Within organisations, boundaries were created and these constrained and/or enabled humour activities. Specific individuals (either jokers or gatekeepers) assumed dichotomous roles and either challenged or constrained the humour boundaries. Organisational members perceived that humour and organisational culture have both positive and negative impacts on workplace outcomes.

Karin Du Plessis – PhD in Psychology

Dr Du Plessis explored attachment bonds and their association with conflict beliefs, conflict resolution behaviour and relationship satisfaction in intimate relationships. Her findings from studies of individuals in committed relationships indicate the importance of conflict behaviour learned in the context of the bonds with parents as it still impacts on conflict behaviour in current intimate relationships.

The findings have implications for attachment theory and the understanding of couples' conflict resolution behaviour, as well as understanding of these concepts in distressed couples.

Opeti Manisela Taliai – PhD in Social Anthropology

Dr Taliai's thesis offers an alternative dimension to how the struggle for power of control works in Tonga. It addresses the dialectical relationships involving the three kingly historical dynasties as backbones of Tongan society.

The discussion evaluates the Hegelian theory of dialectics, as explained through Slavoj Žižek's theory of "the universal exception". This leads onto a collapse of the widely rationalistic use of dualism theory in the social sciences.

A significant outcome in this historical legitimisation of economic and political power in Tonga is the implosion of the first two dynasties to become the present one universal ruling dynasty.

Mei Wah Marjorie Williams – PhD in Psychology

Dr Williams investigated and extended the self-control theory of crime. Low self-control is ranked as a strong risk factor for crime but there is a lack of explanatory power.

She studied the mechanism by which a person with low self-control is at greater risk for crime, using groups of students and prison inmates. Low self-control was predictive of behavioural intentions to do crime for the prisoners, but not for students.

The determinants, normative influence and perceived control, exerted considerable influence, increasing the explanatory value of self-control theory. This has implications for including significant others and behavioural control variables in understanding the causes of crime.

Doctors of Education

Jennifer Anne Harnett – Doctor of Education

Dr Harnett facilitated an action research study in two primary school classrooms. The study investigated the effects of teacher knowledge and thinking on classroom learning conversations, while providing teachers with opportunities to develop their professional knowledge and practice.

Findings revealed discrepancies between teachers' espoused theories and theories-in-use, fragmented understanding of learning and assessment theory, and practice detrimentally influenced by routinised behaviours.

They have implications for teacher education and development and show the effectiveness of classroom-based action research as a model for reflective professional development.

Patricia Martha Stringer – Doctor of Education

Dr Stringer's study explored capacity building for school improvement in one low-decile, multi-cultural, New Zealand primary school. A case study inquiry situated within an interpretive research paradigm was used.

The research defined capacity, ascertained its external and internal influences, and established links between capacity-building and school improvement.

Findings showed that capacity-building is the result of situated activity; connectedness; governance, leadership and management; and capacity outcomes. This thesis has taken a fresh look at what schools do to meet challenges of change and improvement, productively.

Date: 13/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Dianne Wilson.

How to make the principal-whānau connection

Leader, visionary, trusted servant of the community, and someone who pronounces Māori words and names correctly – these are some of the qualities the ideal school principal should embody from the perspective of Māori communities, says researcher and te reo teacher Dianne Wilson.

For her masters thesis, Ms Wilson explored the relationship between secondary school principals and the Māori communities they serve by making a case study of Awatapu College in Palmerston North, where she is currently employed to find ways of enhancing Māori student achievement and support.

College principal Tina Sims, as well as staff and whānau, all came under the research spotlight.

Ms Wilson (Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Raukawa) says her findings identified trust, good communication, sharing a vision with all stakeholders in the school and ensuring Māori content in the curriculum is authenticated by local iwi as some key elements to foster positive principal-whānau relations.

On a more pragmatic level, she found that communication through traditional newsletters and hui were not enough and more efforts were needed on the part of the school to reach out to its Māori community.

“One whānau member stated that the person responsible for liaising with whānau needed to be like a missionary, go door knocking on every whānau, re-educate them about engaging with the school,” Ms Wilson says in her thesis.

The principal was expected to be a leader on one hand, and also seen as a servant of the community who delegated leadership to those with the necessary knowledge and skills for a particular task. Responses reflected a preference for “a definite servant leadership style whereby the needs of the students, staff and community take priority.”

With most secondary school principals being non-Māori, she hopes the findings of her thesis will bring fresh insights and suggestions for improved whānau engagement.

With seven years' teaching in Central Normal Primary School's Māori language immersion team and four years at Awatapu, s Wilson embarked on an M.Phil Māori. This added to her BA in Education and postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching from Massey.

Her recommendations for ways in which principals can further engage with Māori communities include government funding for staff dedicated to whānau liaison, whareniui-style buildings available as part of the building code in all schools, developing a shared understanding with iwi and whānau of whānau engagement and a plea that non-Māori teachers should not assume an absence of Māori parents around the school means they are not engaged with their children's learning. She says they may just be content that staff are doing a great job.

Date: 14/04/2008

Type: Research



MoU with China

Senior staff from China's National University of Defence Technology visited the Palmerston North campus recently, signing a memorandum of understanding during the visit.

From left are Associate Professor Li Geng, Professor Wang Weiping, Professor Wen Xisen, president of NUDT, Professor Sen Zhiyu, Associate Professor Glyn Harper, Professor Robert Anderson, Professor Janina Mazierska, Major Steve Challies and Associate Professor Alex Chu.

Dr Harper said the memorandum signalled opportunities for co-operation between Massey and the NUDT, which is the largest university of technology in China and one of the top-ranking.

Date: 14/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any



PhD in property for real estate business woman

Dr Susan Flint-Hartle has had three careers, owned her own business and raised a family, but a love of learning has led her full circle, back to the classroom and a PhD in Property. She is the University's first PhD in this subject.

Auckland-based Dr Flint-Hartle is a senior lecturer in property in the College of Business but she will not be celebrating with her colleagues in graduation week because she will be in Rarotonga at her son's wedding. Instead, she has already graduated before the University Council.

Her career and pathway to study began with a Bachelor of Arts degree and for more than a decade she taught English in an Auckland secondary school. Looking for a career change, she went into real estate.

She spent another decade as a sales manager in a Ponsonby real estate agency before becoming branch manager of the agency in the midst of one of Auckland's hottest property spots. From there she took the plunge and opened her own boutique agency and had five successful years trading inner city property.

In 1996 she was persuaded by the Real Estate Institute to take a role in teaching a programme for real estate agents seeking a licence and she came to the Auckland campus part time to establish the course for the industry.

Once on campus she was won over by her love of learning and left selling houses to pursue a Masters in Business Studies, teach a range of property related papers and ultimately to embark on her doctorate.

Her doctoral thesis investigates the widespread phenomenon of franchising in the real estate agency sector.

She says her research shows that those who choose to go into the business as franchisees are atypical of people who go into franchises in other industries in that they are very entrepreneurial rather than risk averse, as might be expected.

"I found some very sophisticated and powerful franchise systems operating in the sector. While we might expect that people would seek a franchise because they wanted assistance from the mothership, I found instead that the decision to take this route into business was a strategic one, based on advantages to be gained, rather than limiting risk."

She says her finding expands existing debate linking franchising with the entrepreneurship domain. She says in the real estate industry franchising system, co-operation between two different types of entrepreneur take place. The franchisor initiates the system and builds the brand while the franchisee develops the local market.??

Date: 14/04/2008

Type: Graduation



Record PhDs for Auckland graduation

More than 1000 graduands from the Auckland campus this week cross the stage at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna to receive their degrees.

A record of 20 PhD graduands from the Auckland campus will be capped during ceremonies, with another having graduated before council.

The six ceremonies in Auckland start from Tuesday with a mix of graduands in sciences, music and creative arts. There will be morning and afternoon ceremonies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each morning will begin with the champagne breakfast that has become a tradition for the campus.

There will be processions of graduands along Hurstmere Rd to each of the ceremonies. The ceremony to honour Pacific Island graduands will be held on campus on the Tuesday evening and the ceremony for Māori graduates will be held at the Bruce Mason Centre on Friday morning.

Of the PhD graduates in Auckland, six are in education, six in humanities and social science, three in psychology, three in science and two in business.

Date: 14/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Auckland campus graduation week underway despite elements

Torrential rain forced the cancellation of the first graduation processions in Auckland today but did not dampen the excitement of more than 300 graduates at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna.

The ceremonies, both of which started on time despite flooded roads, carparks and footpaths, were for graduates from the Colleges of Creative Arts, Sciences, and Education, along with their friends, families and University staff.

University Chancellor Nigel Gould welcomed a large crowd to both ceremonies and noted the presence of the founding principal of the campus, Professor Ian Watson and the former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Neil Waters, who spearheaded the development of the campus at Albany.

Former Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright, guest speaker at the College of Education ceremony, said education was a lifelong pursuit that would continue well beyond graduation day. She told graduates that as educators they were a particularly important group in society, especially in light of critical teacher shortages worldwide. "You are joining a noble profession, one that will have an enormous influence on so many of our population," Dame Silvia told them. "My hope is that all of you will become distinguished members of your profession."

Tomorrow (Wednesday) there will be ceremonies for College of Business graduates at 10.30am and 2.30pm, both preceded by parades on Hurstmere Rd, weather permitting.

On Thursday there will be a third College of Business ceremony at 10.30am and a ceremony for College of Humanities and Social Sciences graduates at 2.30pm.

On Friday a special ceremony to honour Maori graduates will be held at 10.30am.



Dame Silvia Cartwright, Chancellor Nigel Gould, Pro-Chancellor Stephen Kos and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine.



The six doctoral graduates from the College of Education, from left: Jane Bone, Helen Hedges, Roberta Hunter, Michael Irwin, Jennifer Harnett, Patricia Stringer.



College of Science PhDs, from left; Amal Al-Dujaily (information systems), Guagjin Lu (food technology), Hayley Lawrence (genetics).



Phil Broadhurst, head of the campus Jazz School received his masters degree.

Date: 15/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Dr David Russell addressing the graduation ceremony, and outside the graduation ceremony with son Sean Ellis, grandsons Jack (left) and Dave, and Dr Russell's partner Louise Wrightson.

Better public-private balance needed in tertiary funding, says consumer advocate

Consumer champion David Russell says the Government should pick up a bigger share of the cost students currently pay towards tertiary education in recognition of the public benefit that arises from study and research.

At a ceremony in Auckland this morning, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Commerce, Dr Russell recalled the days when students were not only paid to go to university but they could also get funding for training in various occupations and skills – in his case, learning to fly a plane.



"Now there is a bit of history that perhaps you shouldn't pass on to current Massey aviation students," he told the other graduates. "Envy can be distracting!"

Dr Russell said Government spending priorities had changed. "The true cost of tertiary education has been calculated and you [students] have had to pay a percentage of the figure. I don't believe the right balance has been struck between the public and personal benefit that is derived from tertiary education.

"I'm not advocating going back to the halcyon days of free handouts, but I believe there is room for a more equitable split between the gain that flows from having a well-educated society – the collective national benefit – and the dollars individuals have to pay to gain a qualification – the personal benefit."

Dr Russell urged the students – all of whom were graduating from Massey's College of Business – to maintain high ethical standards in whatever areas of commerce or industry they were employed in.

"You may be tempted to take unfair personal gain at the expense of innocent consumers or less well informed traders. Resist.

"I've spent a working life observing, commenting on and working in the commercial world. I've seen the cons, the tricks, the deceptions. I've also seen generosity, fairness, consideration. With few exceptions the crooks get caught and the ethical trader gains. Stay on the side of the angels and you will be rewarded with self-respect and, with few exceptions, financially."

Emeritus Professor Tim Brown said Dr Russell, a former architectural draughtsman who joined the Consumers' Institute in 1971 and was chief executive from 1990 until his retirement last year, had played a major role in developing many of the statutory and industry-led protections that consumers now enjoyed and remained involved in many of the bodies that dealt with the rights of customers in areas such as banking, real estate, insurance, electricity and gas.

Dr Russell received a standing ovation after being bestowed with his honorary doctorate by Massey University

Chancellor Nigel Gould. He said later he was surprised and a little overwhelmed at the reception and recognition he had received.

Date: 16/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



From the lunch room to the classroom

The journey to a Bachelor of Science in human nutrition and sports science was a long one for Kyla Moore, but yesterday the 31-year-old graduated.

Ms Moore's dreams of education and career went out the window after the then 17-year-old became pregnant at the start of seventh form at Rutherford High School in Waitakere.

With family support Ms Moore completed a hospitality course then tried working as a chef, but found the long hours very hard to reconcile with solo parenting. Still searching for the right career, she returned to the classroom via the lunch room at her son's primary school where she worked as 'the lunch lady' for four years.

"I realised how much I liked working with children and I that I wanted to teach," Ms Moore says.

Ten years after leaving school, she realised her school certificate qualifications would not equip her to tackle Massey's Bachelor of Science degree. So in her late 20s Ms Moore returned to Rutherford High School to study sixth-form chemistry and biology, before enrolling at the Auckland campus.

"In the first semester I found it all so hard I didn't think I could do it, but then I settled into it and with the support of peers, staff and my family, I made it."

Ms Moore is now training to become a secondary school teacher.

Caption: Ms Moore at graduation with her parents Lynne and Peter Moore and her son, 13-year-old Lyon.

Date: 16/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Success celebrated in big capping week for Auckland campus

Capping ceremonies for the Auckland campus wound up this afternoon with a packed Bruce Mason Theatre in Takapuna cheering on nearly 200 degree and diploma recipients – among them nine PhDs – from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Guest speaker was North Shore Mayor Andrew Williams, who paid tribute to Massey's contribution to the city, the Auckland region and the nation.

The week will finish with a ceremony to honour Maori graduates tomorrow morning.

A dinner to honour Pacifica graduates was held at the campus on Wednesday night, with Minister of Pacific Island Affairs Luamanuvao Winnie Laban as guest of honour.

Mrs Laban said education was essential to the success of Pacific communities and the beneficiaries of that success were not just "our people" but the nation, the region and the world.

She praised Massey's Pasifika strategy as the first "public, plain-language declaration of commitment by any New Zealand university".

Since Tuesday more than 1100 former – and some ongoing – Massey students have crossed the stage for capping. Three of the ceremonies were for College of Business but all five colleges, including Education, Creative Arts, Sciences and the New Zealand School of Music, were represented in the celebrations of successful completions.

Among them were a record 20 PhDs, with a 21st having graduated before the University Council.

The capping parades down Hurstmere Rd that normally precede each ceremony had to be cancelled on Tuesday because of torrential rain and flash flooding the Parades down. Today, in contrast, the sun shone.

Other guest speakers included former Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright, honorary doctorate recipient David Russell, engineers and business leaders Sir Ron Carter and Peter Menzies, and entrepreneur Seebj Woodhouse, the Orcon Internet founder.

Many of the graduates had returned to Auckland from throughout New Zealand, the Pacific, Asia and elsewhere.

Date: 17/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Seeby Woodhouse (right) following the College of Business graduation at Auckland's Bruce Mason Centre with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine.

Orcon millionaire sees answers in education

Technology millionaire Seeby Woodhouse realised in hindsight how a university education would have provided the answers to many things he spent a long time learning. Guest speaker at the University's College of Business graduation in Auckland, Mr Seeby said he had "the utmost respect for education".

"Although I didn't stay at university to finish mine because I couldn't wait to get into the Internet business. Later, when I opened some of the books, I saw the answers to so many things I wished I had known were right there."

Last year Mr Seeby sold Orcon Internet – the company he started a decade ago – for \$24.3 million and effectively retired at just 30 years old.

"If I can achieve that without an education – imagine what you can do with your business degrees. I think running a business is a lot easier than getting a university degree."

Mr Seeby has started or invested in many businesses outside the technology sector, and in 2004 was named both New Zealand Young Entrepreneur of the Year and HiTech Achiever of the Year. His latest venture is a company that buys and sells carbon credits.

Learning is a lifelong thing without which humanity would not evolve, Mr Seeby said.

"I believe passionately in the ability of humanity to solve problems and you people will be part of that problem solving."

"Think big and have huge dreams."

Date: 17/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)



Massey defining presentations now on video

Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey has completed his initial round of seven talks with staff.

A video of the of the penultimate conversation, held last week at the Japanese Lecture Theatre, Palmerston North campus, is available in various browser formats, viewable by Windows and Macintosh computers.

Mr Maharey says Massey is uniquely placed to be New Zealand's defining university because of its mix of teaching and research, its ability to embrace change, its four distinctive campuses (including extramural) and its specialisation in the areas of education and research that New Zealand is recognised for: biophysical, creative and new economy.

Each campus has its own distinctive feel, he says. "I want people to think about how all the campuses have a special place in their region but also lever off each other and the Massey brand as one truly national university."

He is keen to hear from all staff about what they think of the ideas he has presented and their own ideas for Massey's future as the nation's defining university.

Send emails to: defining@massey.ac.nz

Click the links below to view the presentation. There are two versions available for Windows and Macintosh users.

- [Version for PCs using Internet Explorer](#)
- [Version for Firefox, Mozilla and Apple Macintosh users](#)

Steve Maharey
Vice-Chancellor Designate

Date: 22/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Internal Communications; Vice-Chancellor



Dr Maria Kerslake at graduation in Auckland , with her sister-in-law Meleane Sio (left), brother Leota Laki Sio, daughters Taoa Kerslake, Perise Kerslake and Fotu Kerslake, husband Tagaloa Kerslake and grandson Isaac Wulf.

Community service goes hand-in-hand with study of Samoan society

Dr Maria Kerslake spends her weekends at the local rugby field organising fundraising barbecues to pay preschool teachers in her village, but her mind is also on the bigger picture of Samoan society and the forces shaping it.

Her study of the fall-out from the restructuring of her country's Public Works Department for her sociology doctoral thesis has made her the first Samoan to gain a PhD from Massey's Auckland campus.

The mother of six and grandmother of five (pictured with family) lectures in sociology at the National University of Samoa, where she is Dean of the Arts Faculty. She flew from Samoa last week for graduation in Auckland and was one of three Pasifika PhDs to graduate this year – a record for the campus.

For her case study, Dr Kerslake interviewed a cross-section of Samoans from the Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Aiono Lupefeso, to government road workers to gauge the effectiveness of free market reforms in combating corrupt practices, nepotism and inefficiency.

She set out to establish whether the changes, which aimed to improve economic growth, productivity and efficiency, benefited Samoans as promised by the politicians and international financial institutions that promoted them.

She says many felt the restructuring was successful, “partly because Samoa is a small country, and also because the changes were introduced after those affected [by redundancy] were thoroughly briefed and it was done with a Samoan flavour and in tune with Samoan culture”.

But she also found some Samoan employees felt they had been victimised by the privatisation programme. “The promises of flourishing businesses and becoming a member of the business elite are an elusive dream as the employees of the former PWD experience financial hardship and sacrifice,” she writes.

Dealing with the human toll of the structural adjustment she studied consumes much of Dr Kerslake's time. On the positive side, restructuring and upgrading of public services has meant people in small, remote villages now have electricity. But they lack the income to pay for it, so Dr Kerslake has been devising ways for Samoans to earn more money by pushing for better trade deals for the export of local produce with New Zealand, Australia and other countries.

While juggling family commitments and work demands as a lecturer and researcher at the university in Apia, she is also involved in numerous community projects. She also helps run an internet centre in her home village of Saoluafata, where local students can use five government-funded computers for research, and village women use them to organise budgets and accounts, and email family overseas.

She also established a preschool for 35 village youngsters and organises fundraising barbeques at weekend rugby matches to pay the teachers.

And as board member of Samoa's Family Health Association, she is actively involved in sexual health public awareness programmes, coordinating a mobile road show and health clinic to combat high teenage pregnancy rate.

Dr Kerlake says she finds it hard to believe she completed her PhD. "I'm amazed. I had to be very focused and lock myself away any time I had a break to get it done."

One of her supervisors, Dr Cluny Macpherson, a senior sociology lecturer, says her thesis is important because her discussions with a wide range of people, including many whose views are not typically considered, challenged the view promoted by international financial institutions and the Government that structural adjustment programmes were generally successful and beneficial.

"It was also important because she suggested that while the privatisation programmes were successful in purely economic terms, they came with high economic and social costs for some people who were displaced in the process. Dr Kerlake's thesis is also constructive because it suggests ways in which privatisation programmes, which are clearly here to stay, can be refined to produce both economic and social benefits."

Date: 22/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland); Pasifika



Wellington city landscape inspires 'brooding' textile design

Textile designer Sheree Davis' alternative to the clean, green touristy image of New Zealand was inspired by Wellington hillside suburbs.

Her design is hand-printed on to hemp fabric, using transparency ink. Called Urban Intrusion, she says the idea for the textile came after she studied imagery used by the Tourism Board and realised that there are many special parts of the nation's landscape that tend to be ignored but are no less compelling.

The textile has won recognition from design magazine Home New Zealand, which recently published a feature on Ms Davis, the only textile designer to be a finalist in its annual design awards.

Her entry was described as "a lonely, slightly haunting design of suburban sprawl in the hills of Karori, Wellington". Ms Davis' "brooding graphic, where weatherboard houses are hidden behind tree-clad hills interspersed with electricity pylons, captures the everyday mundanity [sic] of our suburban landscape".

Ms Davis completed a Bachelor of Design, majoring in textile design, at Massey Wellington last year. The Urban Intrusion fabric was a project completed during the fourth year of her study. For the awards entry, it was printed for her by two fourth-year Design students, Amy Pyle and Amy van Luijk.

"We shouldn't just be looking at nature – we should be appreciating contemporary scenery as well," she says. "There's something majestic about a pylon – we've just been taught not to appreciate them."

She says she is honoured to have been singled out by Home New Zealand, which runs the awards with the Auckland-based Eon design company. "Being featured in the magazine this way has already lifted my profile in the industry and opened doors for me. My work has been featured as being new and having a different spin and that is attracting interest."

Ms Davis works for an Auckland wholesale furnishing fabric company and is also starting her own label, selling both textiles and jewellery. She says her Massey study has proved valuable as she makes her way forward in the industry. "It equipped me with the right tools and pointed me in the right directions."

Textiles Programme Leader Dr Sandy Heffernan says Ms Davis was a great student and very passionate about her work.

Date: 22/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



PhD student John Appleby (left) and Honours student Rob Dykes in a boat on the lake measuring depth with an echo sounder.

Tasman Glacier retreat extreme

▶ VIDEO Watch the [ONE News](#) - [TV3 News](#) and [Sunrise](#) items

The Tasman Glacier is retreating faster than ever and will ultimately disappear, glaciologists are warning.

In 1973 there was no lake in front of the Tasman Glacier, says Dr Martin Brook, lecturer in physical geography in the School of People, Environment and Planning. New measurements taken last week indicate the lake, formed by ice melt from the glacier, is now 7km long, 2km wide and 245m deep. The lake has been formed as the ice which makes up the glacier melts.



“In the last 10 years the glacier has receded a hell of a lot,” Dr Brook says. “It’s just too warm for a glacier to be sustained at such a low altitude, 730m above sea level, so it melts rapidly and it is going to disappear altogether. Significantly, the deeper the lake, the faster the retreat of the glacier.”

Dr Brook says the lake can only grow to a length of about 16km, which would mean a further 9km of glacier retreat.

“Using the empirical relationships between water depth and glacier retreat rate we could expect further retreat of between 477m and 822m each year. At these rates it would take between 10 and 19 years for the lake to expand to its maximum.”

His work indicated that an extreme scenario for the future retreat of the Tasman Glacier, developed by Dr Martin Kirkbride in the 1990s, was correct.

“The last major survey was in the 1990s and since then the glacier has retreated back 180 metres a year on average. This has exposed a huge rock basin which was eroded more than 20,000 years ago when the glacier was a lot larger and more powerful.”

Dr Brook and a number of research students are studying the glacier and the lake using a new towfish sonar and echo sounding equipment to measure the depth and analyse sediments under the lake.

“The glacier followed a slow retreat phase for a while, in that a thermo-erosional notch in the ice cliff face would develop at the water line, melt back into the glacier undercutting the ice above, causing the ice to collapse into the lake.

“But what is happening now is that a short foot of ice is extending out into the lake away from the ice cliff, and the glacier is now in a period of fast retreat. This is because as the water depth increases so does the speed of retreat – simply, a much larger part of the glacier is submerged and the water, even at only two degrees celcius,

is still able to melt the glacier ice.

“The result is large pieces of ice fracturing off the ice foot and floating on the surface – the debris on the icebergs on the surface of the lake and the icebergs are a reflection of this.”

As well as addressing the future of the Tasman Glacier, which is in Aoraki Mt Cook National Park, the team is analysing the newly exposed sub-surface landscape. The project is also interested in the glacier because it is very different to the clean-ice glaciers on the West Coast. Tasman is covered in rock and debris, and has a different relationship with climate, Dr Brook says, as well as different patterns of retreat.

“In particular, although there's a near-vertical ice cliff at the front of the glacier that terminates in the lake, there's actually a sub-surface apron of ice that slopes away under the water for at least 50m or 60m from the front of the glacier. As this ice-apron melts, blocks of ice break off and float to the surface. This happens pretty quickly and is potentially a hazard for the tour boats that cruise up to the cliff – the blocks just pop out on the surface and some are between 5m and 10m in size.”

Caption: From left, technician David Feek, senior lecturer Dr Ian Fuller and PhD student Claire Robertson looking at sub-bottom sediment using the towfish sonar. In the background is a high-precision GPS transmitter attached to the towfish, which gives its location to about 5mm accuracy.

Date: 23/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues; Video Multimedia



Mr Rodley at graduation with his parents Sam and Bruce.

Maori scholar at cutting edge of gene research

Chris Rodley had to wrench himself away from his Massey University Auckland science laboratory, where he is entranced by cancerous cells, to attend a graduation ceremony for Maori students last Friday (April 18).

The 24-year-old Dairy Flat student graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biosciences with First Class Honours. He is now in his first year of doctoral research, investigating DNA interactions, which he hopes could lead to new disease therapies.

Mr Rodley (Ngati Koata) left Long Bay College aged 16 with no qualifications, having been suspended three times.

“I got in with the wrong crowd. I was bored,” he says.

But his lifelong fascination with science, especially genetics, always remained with him. After a spell of apple picking in the South Island and then a three-year stint as a bank teller in Auckland, restlessness and boredom compelled him to pursue his dream of becoming a medical researcher. Encouragement from one of his former schoolteachers also helped to spur him on, he says.

He enrolled aged 20 as an adult student, and found his first year “quite a struggle”.

“I had to do a lot of independent study to fill in the gaps in my knowledge base.

“I made a lot of sacrifices to do well. I didn't have much of a social life – I had to study ten to twelve hours a day.”

The hard work and dedication paid off. Mr Rodley was named top Maori student for 2007, and was awarded a Purehuroa Maori Postgraduate Award in 2007 for excellence and achievement. He also won a Health Research Council of New Zealand Māori PhD scholarship worth \$105,000 for three years.

These days his life revolves around cutting edge genetic research working with Dr Justin O'Sullivan as a member of an Institute of Molecular Biosciences research group studying DNA to DNA interactions. He is investigating the mechanisms of gene interaction and expression, with a view to implications for disease development and treatment.

The crux of his research is to determine how the three-dimensional organisation of DNA in the cell nucleus affects the switching on or off of genes. Using cancerous cells and bakers' yeast, the research into how interactions between DNA sequences separated by large distances can turn genes on or off is a relatively new area, he says.

“What I love about my work is that every day I come into the lab and wonder if today will be the day I discover something new,” says Mr Rodley, who expects to publish the results of the first phase of his research in the international science journal *Nature* later this year.

Date: 23/04/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland); Maori



Professor Margaret Tennant is Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate Research School. She has published widely on New Zealand social history, with a particular emphasis on women's history, and the histories of health, disease and social policy. Previous books include Past Judgement: Social Policy in New Zealand History (co-edited with Bronwyn Dalley, 2004), Children's Health, the Nation's Wealth: A History of Children's Health Camps (1994), Paupers and Providers: Charitable Aid in New Zealand (1989) and two collections of essays on women's history, co-edited with Barbara Brookes and Charlotte Macdonald (1992, 1986).

Helping hands

In the wake of co-editing a book on social policy and history in New Zealand, Professor Margaret Tennant found she had something of a problem: “I had grossly over-researched things”. Over the course of a host of early mornings spent at her laptop, her cat in faithful attendance, that left-over research – extended by further investigation – has been transformed into her recently published book, *The Fabric of Welfare: Voluntary Organisations and Welfare in New Zealand, 1840–2005*. She spoke to Malcolm Wood.

Before the arrival of the welfare state was New Zealand a better, more generous place?

Some organisations have tried to promulgate the idea of the 19th century as a golden age of charity before it was corrupted by the welfare state. It wasn't.

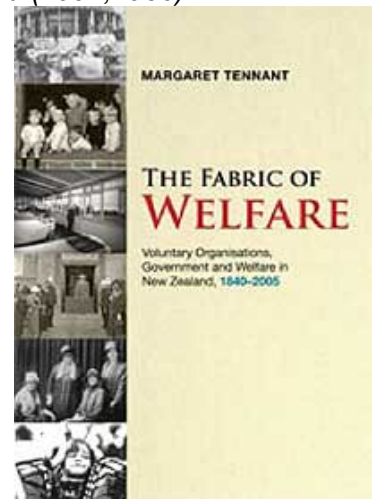
We lacked that tradition of wealthy philanthropists giving to the poor. On the whole, 19th century New Zealand was a place where status was gained by making money, not by giving it away.

And right from the start charities seem to have expected state support. Take the Auckland Ladies' Benevolent Society formed in 1857: within four or five years of its formation it was off to the provincial government asking for a subsidy. And the emergence of the welfare state didn't spell an end to voluntary welfare. The architects of the welfare state saw the state and charities as working hand in hand. Then, as now, the voluntary sector was seen as being more human and more flexible than the state in delivering community-based and face-to-face services. Whether this is so in every case today can be debated, but certainly that's the rhetoric still informing the devolution of welfare services.

What about the influence of the church?

Churches were the mainstay of the voluntary welfare sector until quite recent times. But early on they had their own problems. Some have argued that the processes of churchgoing were broken by immigration, and in any case the churches had to establish themselves and their own infrastructures before they could involve themselves in social service work beyond their own congregations.

They also found it very hard to sustain ongoing effort. It was one thing to raise money for emergency needs – say a family's house burns down, or a man is injured and can't support his family while recovering, or a widow with children needs the fare to return to her extended family back in England. It's quite another to give long-term assistance to the more unpopular elements of society – that's where charities really stumbled.



It wasn't really until the late 19th century that the churches were able to take on more of a social welfare role. When they did, it was at first in providing for moral reform for prostitutes, so-called 'fallen women' – the popular understanding of a 'women's refuge' in the 19th century was very different from today's. Then the churches tended to get into work with orphans, partly perhaps as a way of sustaining their own numbers. After World War II government subsidies led to the church providing a wave of welfare and residential services for the aged – services from which they are now increasingly exiting in order to provide community support and counselling services.

How do you think New Zealand compares with less secular, more faith-based societies like the US?

How secular are we? It depends on your measure, whether it's church attendance or personal belief. As a historian, one of the things that struck me was that many in the voluntary sector were very active indeed, and that they acknowledged their strong Christian belief as a motivating force. And there were individuals within the public sphere – politicians and public servants – whose Christian faith influenced them in an official capacity. And yet, many denominational social services agencies today no longer require Christian belief of their workers, and struggle to articulate just what is different about 'Christian social services'.

Do you have any thoughts about the changing role of women?

Women have always been the backbone of the voluntary social services, out on the street collecting or dealing with clients face to face; the men would more typically be on the executive deciding how the finances would be spent. That said, there were some men whose involvement was more direct, in dealing, say, with discharged prisoners or recalcitrant youth, and I'm interested in the gender dynamics which decided the division of labour within various organisations.

One of the challenges today is the declining availability of women's voluntary labour as women have moved into the paid workforce, both generally and within the voluntary sector.

How do you think the nature of volunteering will change, particularly as the baby boomers enter their retirement years?

I think the trend has been for people to be involved more in individual pursuits at the expense of more communal endeavours. For example, organisations like the Boy Scouts – with its strong tradition of service and helping others – have declined in vigour. In the past these youth associations provided a training ground for a strong 'other-directed' voluntary ethos in adult life.

So just because there are retired people able to volunteer doesn't mean that's what will happen. Some overseas studies have shown that volunteering in retirement is predicated on experience of volunteering in earlier life. In retirement it's just as easy to sit in front of the television or follow your own interests.

The nature of volunteering may also be changing. Workplace volunteering, one-off volunteering, or event-based volunteering – as opposed to more sustained volunteering for a single cause or cluster of causes – may be the patterns we see emerging.

The fourth and final section of your book is called the contract crunch. Why "crunch"?

Angst just seeps from the records of the organisations I was studying from the late 1980s on. The governmental contracting requirements and the need for more professional approaches created deep conflicts. Organisations had to change their entire ethos and culture. In the early days the compliance costs associated with contracts were enormous, and many saw the way in which contracting was rolled out as inflexible and heavy-handed.

Looking at things from the other side, the issue for public servants today is the same as it was in the nineteenth century – making sure that taxpayers' money is properly accounted for. The issue of accountability makes public servants very nervous, particularly when, as occasionally happens, there are disclosures in the media about expenditure that's misappropriated or that's regarded as a weird or inappropriate use of public funds.

More and more people are being employed to do jobs that once would have been undertaken voluntarily. Partly this is because the legislative requirements and expectations of professionalism have increased so enormously. It's one thing to volunteer thinking you are going to be making cups of tea and another to find you are on a committee and suddenly responsible for large sums of money and have to comply with the law and OSH requirements.

Or volunteering because you want to make a difference and then discovering you are only allowed to make cups of tea?

Yes, the rise of professionalism and a managerial ethos have seen some organisations sideline volunteers, many of whom have considerable practical experience. Managers of organisations are concerned nowadays that errant

volunteers might damage the 'brand identity'!

How has the “crunch” affected New Zealand's best known home-grown charities, Plunket and Children's Health Camps?

Children's health camps started out as the idea of a public servant, Dr Elizabeth Gunn. She brought a whole raft of volunteers on board, running and staffing the camps and selling health stamps. Then the movement was drawn closer to the Government in the late 1930s when legislation was passed and a central board was assisted by a secretariat from the Department of Health. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Government pulled back and now the health camps movement is back to being, if you like, a purer form of non-profit under a charitable trust [the New Zealand Foundation for Child and Family Health and Development/Te Puna Whaiora]. Whether the children's health camp movement will survive and regain the iconic status it once had remains to be seen.

Plunket was the main women's organisation for much of the 20th century; it flourished remarkably despite decades of Health Department opposition. Many of its leading women advocates had the ear of the Minister of Health of the day. They were very effective politically, but the leadership of these women volunteers was undermined by professional and managerial appointments from the 1980s.

The controversy surrounding the loss of Plunket's contract to run what is now termed the 'Well Child' telephone support service [to a branch of the multinational helpline McKesson Corporation in 2006] was hugely symbolic. But then even the wording 'well child' sounds odd to my generation. Once upon a time everyone knew that Plunket meant infant health.

We now have a contestable environment in which such dominant entities as the children's health camps and Plunket are two providers among many.

How do matters now stand between the state and the voluntary sector?

They've improved. In the early 2000s there was a deliberate softening of the Government's approach, part of which was the appointment of Steve Maharey as the first Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector. However, I don't think the softening has gone as far as he had anticipated or the sector would like.

Do you see your book leading on to other things?

I'd hoped to move historical analysis away from the history of the welfare state and more towards voluntary effort. One of the nice things about writing such a wide-ranging survey is that it uncovers a whole range of other research topics. I'm already having other academics ringing up and saying 'I see there's a reference to something on page such-and-such, do you think there's a PhD or masterate topic in this?' It's lovely to feel part of an on-going research conversation – that's what I hoped would happen.

Has writing the book changed your thinking about the roles of the state and the voluntary sector?

As the title of my book puts it, the provision of welfare in New Zealand is a fabric: the activities of the state and voluntary organisations have been particularly closely interwoven in New Zealand. I came to see the immense value of the voluntary sector as both a supplement and a complement to the state.

But I still certainly believe in a welfare state and I don't think the voluntary sector could ever replace it, even if the boundaries between the sectors are getting increasingly blurred. Still, there was also something wonderful for me as a historian to see an organisation like the Onehunga Ladies' Benevolent Society, which goes back to 1863, still hanging in there as a symbol of continuity and voluntaristic commitment.

The Fabric of Welfare: Voluntary Organisations and Welfare in New Zealand, 1840–2005
by Margaret Tennant, ISBN 978-1-877242-37-3, Bridget Williams Books, \$49.95

This article was first published in Issue 24 of the [Alumni & Friends magazine](#), April 2008. See related links below for more articles from this issue.

Date: 29/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Mag-Interview; Massey Magazine

Pedersen takes podium spot in street race

Business student Ant Pedersen had a successful weekend at the inaugural Hamilton V8 Supercar Street race event.

Despite never having driven at a street race before, Mr Pedersen, driving the Volvo Construction Equipment/JA Russell Porsche GT3, carded a very respectable run through the three races after setting the third-fastest time in qualifying on Friday afternoon.

“The weekend was awesome”, says Mr Pedersen. “I’m stoked with the way the event panned out for us. We ran in good positions all weekend and it was a good result for our sponsors, our team International Motorsport and myself to end the weekend on a high.”



For his efforts the 19-year-old ended up on the final podium spot for the round in third place behind championship winner Craig Baird and team mate Jody Vincent.

“There were plenty of positives to take out of the weekend but there was still a few times where a better result went begging,” Mr Pedersen says, referring to the first and second race where in both he had the chance to finish in a higher spot than what he did.

In the first race the young rookie got a poor start dropping back to sixth before fighting his way forward to third. Unfortunately Jody Vincent managed to get his way past, dropping Mr Pedersen back to fourth just as the chequered flag came out.

In the second race Mr Pedersen got a very good start from fourth and held position before muscling his way past Jonathan Lester on lap four. This allowed Mr Pedersen time to set his sights on second placed Mr Vincent which with two laps to go the younger of the two made his move.

“I had a go up the inside of Jody into turn one; unfortunately I just locked the rears and didn’t scrub off enough speed where I should’ve. I had to take to the inside kerb and half spun the car allowing Jody to go past and Australian David Reynolds.

“It was unfortunate as we we’re much faster than Jody but I just didn’t execute the move well enough”, says Mr Pedersen.

Pedersen got another great start in race three from his starting position of third before being passed by Mr Baird into turn two. From then until race finish the positions remained the same with Mr Pedersen coming home again another solid fourth, to place him third overall for the round.

With no more racing for a while, Mr Pedersen’s attention can now be turned back to study for his Bachelor of Business Studies and upcoming exams.

“I think I have a few lectures to catch up on before I’ll be allowed to think about anymore racing!”

Mr Pedersen, who is based in Palmerston North but originally from Rotorua, is the son of successful V8 driver Paul Pedersen. In his first year at Massey he was one of the rising athletes and sport stars selected for the Academy of Sport, which helps students who compete at national and international level with support, mentoring and extra tuition to ensure they can maintain their competitive edge while studying for a degree. Massey University has also provided financial support and is recognised on his Porsche GT3 along with other sponsors.

Date: 29/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; College of Business; Sport and recreation

Science graduate a finalist in national beauty pageant

Former Massey student Rhonda Grant finished third in the Miss Universe New Zealand beauty pageant this month after being first runner-up in last year's Miss Manawatu contest.

Ms Grant, 22, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in human nutrition next month and is continuing postgraduate studies at Massey extramurally while working full-time. After five years at the Palmerston North campus, she is working as a nutritionist for the National Heart Foundation based in Napier. Her job involves visiting schools to promote healthy diets and lifestyles.

She grew up in Paeroa and Havelock North, attending Havelock North High School, and is enjoying being back in Hawke's Bay but still regularly visits Palmerston North. "Massey was awesome, I loved it and I loved Palmy," she says. "I was there for the study but I really liked the social side of it and meeting lots of people."

She says she was attracted to the degree because she liked athletics, health "and my father's a mad-keen gardener. I enjoy looking after myself and other people." But she struggled with the biochemistry and chemistry papers and had to do some of them several times to pass. "I kept persevering with it because I really wanted that degree."

She also did several Maori studies papers while a full-time student and now plans to put those towards a postgraduate diploma in Maori development, which she will complete extramurally. Her early years at bilingual Paeroa Central School involved daily Te Reo lessons and kapa haka as well as regular marae visits.

"I decided to carry my Maori studies on at high school in Hawke's Bay and at university because I know how lucky I was to have that upbringing, and especially in my field of health and nutrition, how vital it is to have this knowledge. Having studied Maori has really helped open up many job opportunities in my life."

More...

- [Read what the Association of University Staff president said about this story](#)
- [And what one of the beauty pageant judges said in reply](#)
- [The New Zealand Herald report](#)
-  Watch the [TVNZ Close Up](#) and [TV3 Campbell Live](#)

Date: 29/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Student profiles; Video Multimedia



Beijing partnership for e-centre

The University's business incubator, the e-centre, has entered into a partnership with Beijing's Hi-tech International Business Incubator (HTIBI) to provide a new route into China for technology-based New Zealand firms.

The three-year Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate business match-ups, technology transfer, shared market information and provide easier access and support to New Zealand companies.

Providing access to 76 Beijing business incubators, HTIBI is currently operating in several countries including Canada, France, Spain and Singapore, offering small and medium-sized enterprises access to Chinese business opportunities and a contact for companies wanting to establish a presence there.

E-centre chief executive Steve Corbett says the relationship struck with HTIBI follows the success of another e-centre partnership which over the last 18 months has enabled six New Zealand companies to enter Indian markets.

"We are delighted to be able to offer our New Zealand business partners direct access to major global markets and to offer them market intelligence. Technology is increasingly fluid and global. With this partnership we want to help New Zealand firms increase exports and also add value to technology that we attract from overseas partners.

"While the MOU is with the e-centre, we have agreed with HTIBI that the arrangement can be extended to other New Zealand based incubators and technology companies. We see this as an opportunity for any New Zealand technology company wanting to expand into Asia," Mr Corbett says.

HTIBI chief executive Kash Zhang says the e-centre was chosen as a leading business incubator in New Zealand.

"We are impressed by the gains the e-centre has made in spin-off business incubation and internationalisation, and see very good mutual opportunities in working closely together."

In 2006 the e-centre established an exclusive New Zealand partnership, CMCTEC, with CMC, a subsidiary of the Tata group, to promote sharing of technology and market information to help New Zealand businesses enter the Indian market.

Date: 29/04/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

Bookshelf - In Print April 2008

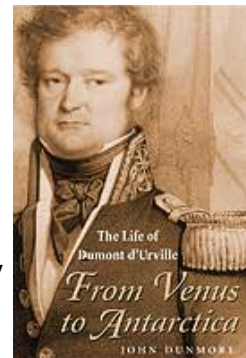
Reviews of recent publications by Massey alumni and staff.

- [From Venus to Antarctica: The Life of Dumont D'Urville](#)
- [Looking Flash](#)
- [Don Merton: The Man Who Saved the Black Robin](#)

From Venus to Antarctica: The Life of Dumont D'Urville
by John Dunmore. Exisle, \$49.99.

For a case of history being written by the victors – or maybe the settlers – it would be hard to go past the case of Jules-Sebastien-César Dumont Durville. Dumont D'Urville (1790–1842) undertook three global voyages of exploration and is the navigator who made the single greatest contribution to perfecting the map of the Pacific in the 19th century.

If he had been English, no doubt we would have had a full-length English-language biography long ago. As it is, the wait has been worthwhile. Emeritus Professor John Dunmore has masterfully chronicled the life of this aloof, intelligent, complex man. In doing so he pulls off a hat trick of French 19th-century Pacific explorers. Dunmore's earlier works include biographies of the Louis de Bougainville and Jean-François de La Pérouse.



Looking Flash

Bronwyn Labrum, Fiona McKergow & Stephanie Gibson (editors), Auckland University Press, \$49.99

On page 80 of *Looking Flash* there is a strange fashion plate from 1868. A Mrs Jewell is shown outfitted in a smart fitted jacket with a small upright collar and set-in sleeves that are cut in the typical banana-shape of the period; a low-crowned hat with upturned brim; and a full skirt, somewhat shortened but otherwise conforming to the fashionable silhouette of the period – or so the text tells us.



So why strange? The material is hand-cured sealskin, the thread New Zealand flax, its place of manufacture, the Auckland Islands where Jewell and her fellow survivors of the wreck of the *General Grant* lived for the 18 months before their rescue by the *Amherst*. Although perfectly serviceable, these clothes are about much more than their utility. As Bronwyn Labrum puts it in her introduction to *Looking Flash*, “Even under the most adverse circumstances, a concern for contemporary expectations and the fashions of the day remained important to those who feared being seen as wild and uncivilised.”

Clothes maketh the man – or woman. What we wear – even those us who forswear fashion – is a window into culture. In *Looking Flash: Clothing in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Labrum and her fellow contributors – 14 historians, museum curators and researchers in all – examine the cultural content of a number of clothes-related topics. Take the kilt, arguably a faux-Scottish icon anyway (its origins lie in English Victorian nostalgia as much as anything else), and now transmogrified into a popular choice of girls school uniform, and, in the past couple of decades, an item of fashion among the gay community. Or the black singlet (also, the reader is informed, now appropriated by the gay community). Or the resplendent uniforms of that peculiarly New Zealand institution, the girls marching teams, melding the militaristic with the feminine. Or, for that matter, to hare off in a different direction, the manner in which an extraordinary collection of '60s '70s and early '80s New Zealand haut couture came to occupy one Mr Eden Hore's converted tractor shed in Otago.



Labrum's own chapter 'Hand-Me-Downs and Respectability: Clothing and the Needy' is a corrective to those who see clothes only through the prism of fashion. Nowadays, when we are awash with cheap clothing made in Asian factories, it is hard to remember those not-so-distant times when clothing was a much more significant item in the family budget and “looking decent” meant “home sewing, adaptive reuse and passing on clothes within and between families”. Author Janet Frame, writing about her 1940s childhood, voiced the feelings of many of her generation when she wrote of the humiliation of wearing of “day after day the same hand-me-down tartan skirt that was almost stiff with constant wear” and of the alarm and worry that went with looking different, while from the 1880s Labrum takes the instance of the casual labourer James Cox, who, as he set out in his diary, though he hankered for decent clothes, could afford to buy clothes only in a good earning year and otherwise got by patching and altering what little he had.

Clothing, which means one thing to the comfortably off, as Labrum observes, may mean something quite different to the marginalised and impoverished.

Looking Flash is lavishly illustrated with fashion photographs, advertisements and cartoons.

Don Merton: The Man Who Saved the Black Robin
by Alison Ballance, photographs by Don Merton, Reed Books, \$60

During a remarkable 50-year career in conservation, Don Merton has helped bring endangered birds back from the brink of extinction, both in New Zealand and overseas.

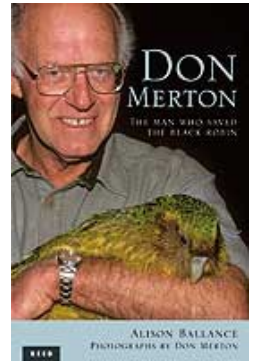
There could hardly be a better choice of author than Massey alumna Alison Ballance, who is an established author and an award-winning producer for Natural History New Zealand, and with Merton's extensive photo archive to draw on, the book is beautifully illustrated.

This article was first published in Issue 24 of the [Alumni & Friends magazine](#), April 2008. See related links below for more articles from this issue.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Book; Mag-Reviews; Massey Magazine





The world in a window

Di Billing talks to Geographic Information Systems senior lecturer Derek Williams and GIS graduate Derek Phyn.

By what magic does the Wellington Tenth's Trust rediscover the long-forgotten Kumutoto stream and the pa site of the same name beneath Wellington's urban Woodward Street?

What allows historians to calibrate the exertions of soldiers in the Battle of Messine in World War I? Were they charging (or limping) uphill or downhill at the strategic moments?

What is it that allows the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, steering one of New Zealand's most significant ecological restoration projects, south of Cambridge in the Waikato, to more accurately assess the risk of erosion as they plan strategies for the total and permanent removal of all pest mammals and subsequent restoration in the area?

It is a tool called Geographic Information Systems or GIS. A GIS is an information system – in today's world usually computer based – that is capable of integrating, storing, editing, analysing, sharing, and displaying geographically referenced information.

In the past twenty years GIS has become a ubiquitous and indispensable aid to planners, scientists, government, utilities managers, environmentalists, explorers, statisticians, educators, developers, businesses, executives and even sports event managers.

Derek Phyn, a GIS Officer in the Spatial Analysis and Modelling Services unit of Environment Waikato, who graduates this year with a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (GIS), says he enjoys the liberty GIS gives him "to manipulate the data and see the results".

This could include physical or human factors, perhaps to establish what land use outcomes or conditions are more likely in the future.

When I meet with him, Phyn has stopped by the Palmerston North campus to show his lecturers the dynamic land use model he began work on as his double-semester final project.

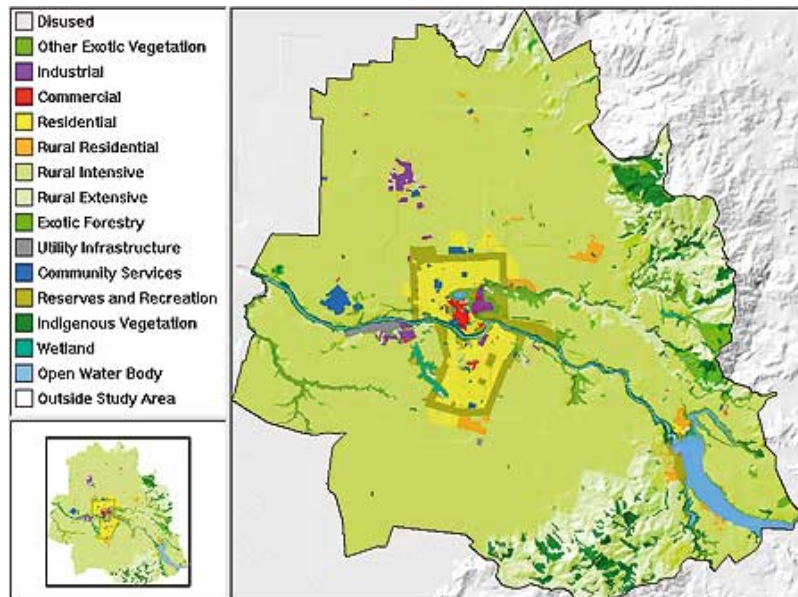
"GIS is now a vital tool for planners," he tells me. "It can be used to help us see things in terms of suitability, priority and risk, to explore how things may change and what impact that change may have. For example, a bypass may be planned: GIS could be used to map and identify the possible impacts. It's a way to explore scenarios – and then to use that knowledge to assist us in making better decisions.



“For land use, for example, exact mapping or predictions are hardly ever possible but GIS can get you closer to picturing the truth. It allows us to identify and explore the relative merits of proposed solutions to problems.”

Despite having had a fascination with maps and geography from his childhood, Phyn only became a GIS adherent in relatively recent times. In the late 1990s, as an undergraduate at Massey (working towards his Bachelor of Science with Honours majoring in Geography) he had tried some GIS papers: “But back then the systems were DOS command-based rather than Windows ‘point and click’-based and trying to type perfect commands in order to get things to work really wasn't my thing.”

In 2001 he started work at Environment Waikato. Here he quickly realised that the GIS he was seeing was very different from the GIS he remembered. This generation of GIS offered a much more user-friendly experience, and he could see that it had huge potential for the tasks required of a large regional council.



Screen shot from a dynamic land use model developed by Derek Phyn. Called CLUMP, the model began life as his double-semester final project. The model shows Cambridge and its surrounds using the Metronamica model designed by RIKS in the Netherlands. It has been used to calibrate and test the Metronamica model and how well it can be applied in a small, rural New Zealand context. CLUMP was developed with assistance from the Research Institute for Knowledge Systems (RIKS), Landcare Research, Waipa District Council and Environment Waikato.

In 2004, encouraged by his manager, he enrolled again at Massey, this time studying extramurally, for the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (GIS).

Massey's Geographic Information Systems Programme, which Phyn would join, was founded by Senior Lecturer Derek Williams and his colleague Rachel Summers.

Williams had his personal GIS epiphany in the early 1990s. A bell ringer by avocation, he was researching the locations of early bell founders in Britain. “Mapping by hand was not realistic”, he says. “GIS was new and I immediately got into it.” Using GIS he was able to show that bell foundries were usually sited centrally in the markets they served rather than close by the resources of metal ore and charcoal they needed.

He also used his new skills to analyse British tithe maps – the tithe being the tenth part of income delivered to the church – to analyse the social and economic conditions that influenced land use patterns in early Victorian England.

Summers, on the other hand, used GIS to analyse the Battle of Messines.

In the early 2000s the two of them began working on a Tenths Trust project, helping the Trust set up a GIS system to support its Waitangi Tribunal claims in the Port Nicholson area (Wellington and Hutt cities). Drawing on the Trust's historical research, they digitally mapped more than 600 pieces of added data including pa sites, vegetable gardens, waka landings, burial grounds and streams. It allowed the Trust to restore tribal names in areas now covered by cityscape.

In the model Derek Phyn has brought along to Massey he has explored the development of Cambridge area of Waipa district: taking data drawn from 1991 and feeding into a model; using the model to predict the land use in 2006; then comparing the predictions with what actually occurred.

He has also used the exercise as a test case for the use of Metronamica, an as-yet relatively little-used software package in New Zealand.

Williams describes the case study – a GIS exploration of development in a small settlement in a reasonably rural area – as novel and pushing the boundaries.

For a paper in an earlier year, Phyn created overlays within a GIS to assist a trust in its ecological restoration of the bushland of Maungatautari Mountain in the central North Island.

Phyn is not atypical of the profile of the average diploma student. Most are employed (in the likes of local authorities, government agencies or consultancies), most study extramurally, and many of their projects are real world.

“We encourage them to use what they are doing at work as part of the course or to do something that is useful to their work,” says Williams.

And for those not already employed in GIS, he says, the field offers job prospects for both the behind-the-scenes system administrators who run the GIS systems and for the analysts who employ GIS: “they might be business people wanting to know where to open a bank branch or they might be planners wanting to know where they should allocate housing. They might be DOC people wanting to know where particular species are under threat.”

So what happens now? Williams sees the field rapidly expanding as computing power and storage becomes ever cheaper, the software becomes more sophisticated, and the use of advances, such as GPS systems, becomes more widespread.

GIS has even arrived for the masses in the form of applications such as Google Earth. The people who use Google Earth to create composite maps – so-called mashups – showing their genealogy, for example, are unwittingly employing their own GIS systems.

“The great thing now in GIS is that there is a lot of data around. In the past it took a lot of money or time to acquire data. These days there is such a lot of data around you can do lots and lots of analysis very, very quickly. “It is a very dynamic field.”

For enquiries about the Graduate Diploma in Geographic Information Systems or the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (GIS) contact Derek Williams at the School of People, Environment and Planning.

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Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Extramural; Mag-Around & About; Massey Magazine

Making babies

Bioprocess engineer Gabe Redding has found an unexpected career in IVF research.

An honours degree in bioprocess engineering has taken Dr Gabe Redding in an unusual direction: fertility research. As a PhD student, he mathematically modelled the human oocyte – aka the ova or egg – and its immediate environment. Now a postdoctoral fellow, he is soon to head away to France to digitise the world's largest collection of cross-sectioned slides of ovarian follicles. His work at the interface between engineering and medical science may crucially affect decisions about how oocytes are cared for in the laboratory and about how embryos are selected for transfer – decisions with huge implications for the would-be parents who turn to IVF as their treatment of last resort.



Dr Gabe Redding

Do you know someone who is undergoing fertility treatment? If you do, you are not unusual. Infertility is a product of the times, as women have increasingly chosen to delay child bearing. In the early 1970s the most common age for child bearing was 20 to 24; today it is 30 to 34, and many women are bearing children – or trying to – in their late thirties and early 40s.

But biology conspires against the older intending mother. All else being normal, on average it takes three to four months for a 25-year-old woman to conceive, double that for a thirty-five-year old, and four times that – the average time to conception rising to 15 months – for a 39-year old.



Associate Professor John Bronlund

As many as one in 15 couples have a fertility problem at some point in their reproductive life. But medical science has advanced apace, and there is now a range of medical interventions, from changes in life style and diet through to the procedure known as in vitro fertilisation – in vitro, literally 'in glass', being the counterpart of in vivo, 'in life'.

Typically in the course of in vitro fertilisation a regime of injections will be used to first stimulate the development of multiple follicles of the ovaries and then trigger ovulation. Harvested using a thin needle, the eggs are fertilised in the laboratory and one or more embryos are transferred back to the – with good fortune – mother-to-be.

Louise Brown, the first 'test tube' baby was born in Britain 1978. Five years later New Zealand had its own first IVF birth. In the succeeding decades the techniques have become more and more sophisticated. Every year hundreds of New Zealand babies are conceived and delivered as a result of IVF.



Sophie Blomfeld

Massey's involvement with IVF research began with an approach to Associate Professor John Bronlund of Massey's School of Engineering and Advanced Technology by Alan Hart of AgResearch, which had been funded by the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to develop sensors to measure the oxygen levels in the fluid of human ovarian follicles.

AgResearch had been chosen because of its long experience in IVF with farm animals, and Hart knew Bronlund as someone who could simplify any problem down to its basic engineering components.

Shortly afterwards Redding visited Bronlund's office enquiring about possible PhD projects. Bronlund said he might have just the project for him to consider.

That this was not a standard engineering project was something Redding soon came to understand. Bronlund and Hart suggested that the new boy should see something of the practical reality of IVF, which is how Redding, who is needle phobic ("I cringe when I see a needle on TV"), came to find himself an awkward spectator in the corner of a surgery in the presence of very long needle which was being used to take the eggs from a female patient.

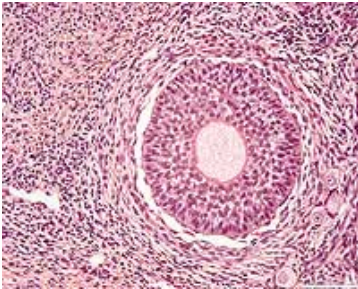
Aspiration, as it is known, is an uncomfortable, sometimes painful procedure. "I was quite glad to get out of there and back to the laboratory," says Redding.

But the experience underlined the human reality of IVF. The commitment of couples to having children no matter what. The cycle after cycle of treatment many couples undertake, often at their own expense. The roller coaster of emotions: hope, despair and elation.

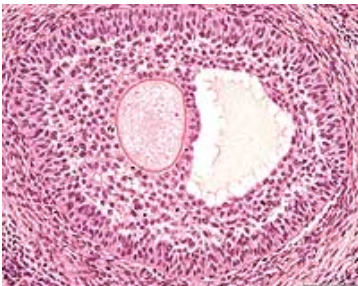
The ovarian follicle is the base unit of female reproduction: this is the structure that contains and nourishes the single egg or ovum. The follicular fluid, contained within the follicle, surrounds the ovum. This is the soup of sex steroids, glycoprotein hormones, plasma proteins, mucopolysaccharides, enzymes and dissolved gases that provides the ovum with nourishment and guides its growth.

Understand the composition of the fluid and you should be able to better mimic conditions within the follicle inside the laboratory and, by measuring the composition of the fluid drawn from a follicle, make predictions about the health and viability of the egg.

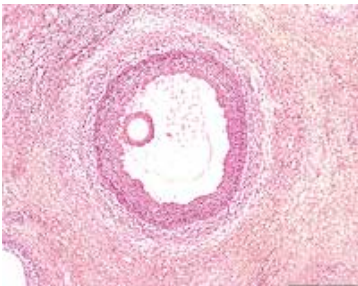
But using physical methods is awkward. The health and reproductive success of the woman can in no way be threatened. Quite properly, there are rigorous ethical protocols that must be met.



The developing follicle shown as it begins to fill with fluid.



A follicle in the early stages of development, with the circular follicle and the egg, at centre, being surrounded by a thick red membrane. Encircling the egg is a thick ring of granulosa cells, and around that a thin moat of follicular fluid.



As fluid builds up inside the follicle, the egg and follicular cells can be seen to be pushed off to the left hand side. In a preovulatory follicle the central fluid-filled space will be much larger still, and very many times the size of the egg.

However there is another approach – mathematical modelling – and this is what Redding, supervised by Bronlund and Hart (the ideal combination of creativity and rigour, Redding says) went on to do.

The egg and its follicle have a particular problem, says Redding. Unlike most body structures, they lack a network of capillaries to pump oxygen-bearing blood through their cells. Instead they must rely on passive diffusion of oxygen from the follicular fluid, and this imposes certain limitations, one of them being the size a follicle can reach.

In fact, says Redding, there is a stratagem that part-way allows the follicle to grow larger. “Think of a potato. Here is this big lump of cells without any capillaries for circulation, and because of this a potato can grow only so big and no bigger. Now think of a pumpkin. It too lacks capillaries, but it can get much bigger. Why? Because it has this big airspace in the middle.”

In the same way, the follicle becomes a sac of cells, filling with fluid at its centre until the pressure ejects the egg into the fallopian tube in ovulation, an event so physically dramatic that many women actually feel it take place. The build up of fluid has always been seen as part of the mechanism of ovulation; Redding's mathematical

modelling for his PhD has shown that physics holds sway as well: without the build up of liquid at the follicle's core the egg would be starved of oxygen.

(Oddly enough, cancer tumours are the other place where this structure is seen: a layer of live cells surrounding a liquid filled "necrotic core".)

Redding's work, published in *Reproduction*¹ attracted wide interest and may help account for his success in gaining a postdoctoral fellowship worth \$261,000 over three years from the Foundation for Research Science and Technology.

During his fellowship, Redding will develop models of the transport of glucose and the products of its breakdown, CO₂ and lactate, and of the key hormones in follicle development.

But this time he intends to include the detailed structure of the follicle within his modelling.

The virtual follicle – the first ever – will be constructed after Redding has made a visit to France, where he will digitise one of the world's few collections of slides of cross-sectioned follicles, most likely applying the same work ethic that sustained him through his PhD: often rising at 5.00 in the morning and working until exhaustion sets in. And a holiday? Perhaps, time allowing.

Once the model is complete, Redding intends to put it at the disposal of other researchers. "If I am going to put in the effort, no one should have to repeat it."

The other by-product of Redding's research is the cluster of IVF engineering expertise now beginning to form within Massey. During the course of Redding's doctorate, he and his supervisors formed links with New Zealand's Fertility Associates, who provided their entree into the intricacies of IVF.

Massey PhD bioprocess engineering student Sophie Blomfield is currently hosted by Fertility Associates where, funded by Fertility Associates and a Technology in Industry Fellowship, she is following the IVF process from egg collection to embryo transfer, identifying where the eggs, sperm and embryo are most vulnerable to stress and how to reduce what stresses there may be. Her supervisors are Drs Bronlund and Redding from Massey and scientists Drs John Peek and Bert Stewart from Fertility Associates.

"Because IVF grew from zoology and biochemistry, embryologists have largely focused on improving embryo culture solutions", says Peek, "with only cursory attention to what happens to eggs and embryos during handling in the laboratory. Moreover, biologists like to measure things before they believe them. Many of the steps in IVF are too intricate to lend themselves to measuring changes in temperature, pH or oxygen concentration. The engineer's perspective that you can model what you can't measure is very liberating."

In the past 10 years IVF pregnancy rates have doubled due to advances in the culturing of embryos, says Peek.

"We are hoping that the knowledge gained from Gabe's and Sophie's work makes another significant improvement."

A small group of engineers with expertise in reproductive technologies – that would be good for Redding, good for Massey, and good for New Zealand, which, he says, while unable to compete on economies of scale can yet host clusters of world-leading research excellence. From the time Bronlund first invited him to take on his PhD, everything has worked out to out to an extraordinary degree.

"I have been so lucky."

1. Redding G. P., Bronlund J. E., and Hart A. L. (2007). Mathematical modelling of oxygen transport-limited follicle growth. *Reproduction*. 133, 1095-1106.

Taking the temperature

The early days of IVF entailed a series of engineering problems. How do you locate and remove an egg from the follicle in which it grows? How do you keep it at body temperature? But as these problems were surmounted and the methods became well established, the advances increasingly came from molecular biology.

Generalisations are risky things, but there are differences in approach between engineers and medical professionals, one of them being that whereas engineers are inclined to work through problems from first principles, medical science is often more conservative, preferring to place its faith in long established practice.

Redding experienced the difference in world view early on when he submitted a paper to a journal of reproductive science on the changes in temperature an egg is subjected to when being aspirated – sucked from

the follicle using a fine needle. Anyone versed in the physical sciences, he says, would expect applying a vacuum to a fluid to lead to a drop in temperature, and sure enough this was what happened, both in his mathematical models and when he conducted experiments using cow's follicular fluid.

In fact, the drop in temperature was so sudden and dramatic that he was certain the IVF community would want to take notice. Using a standard aspiration kit, he found the temperature fell abruptly from about 37 degrees to 29 degrees Celsius.

“And then the practice is to place the egg on a heated platform.”

So he was nonplussed to have his paper refused by first one journal and then another. The rationale behind the refusal? Humans and cows may both be mammals, but cow follicular fluid is not human follicular fluid. Yet from an engineering standpoint, says Redding, both fluids are essentially the same thing – water.

In the end, his findings were published as a short communication.

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Leader of the pick

Massey-developed robots will soon be working in New Zealand orchards. By Lindsey Birnie and Malcolm Wood.

It was a bulletin on Radio New Zealand's 6.30am rural report that made Garth Atkinson pause. The kiwifruit industry was going through one of its perennial crises. The fruit were ripening on the vines, but growers could not find the labour to pick them.

During the course of the 13-week season, the newsreader said, 100 million kiwifruit would be picked by hand.

By hand, thought Atkinson. In an age of automation the idea seemed an anachronism. Perhaps, he thought, Massey could do something about that, and as a business development manager with the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology he had an idea about who to approach.

Dr Rory Flemmer, the expert in robotics to whom he took the problem, was more certain.

With what he knew and the expertise he had to hand, an automated picker was definitely do-able.

In an industrial workshop on Massey's Palmerston North campus the proof of Flemmer's assertion is taking shape. At a series of workstations postgraduate students are designing the specialised circuitry that will link the picker's servomotors to its central controller. In a forecourt, PhD student (and project managing director) Alistair Scarfe is fabricating the four articulated arms that will do the picking. Close by is the gleaming metal chassis with its oversize Tonka-toyish tyres on which the picker will manoeuvre.

Some time in mid-2008 the picker will despatch itself on its maiden voyage out into an orchard. Its instructions, says Flemmer, will be simple: go to a set of GPS coordinates; identify a row of vines; pick that row and successive rows; if your bin is full, go and change it; and when you have finished picking, come back and stop.

"The picker is completely autonomous," says Flemmer. "It will go out and follow thinking behaviour patterns."

The lineage of industrial robots goes back almost half a century to 1961 when Unimate, the first of its kind, unobtrusively entered service with General Motors. Unimate was first used as a pick-and-place robot to transfer hot metal parts from a die-casting machine. Six years later it was being used for spot welding, and in 1970 the carmaker opened an automated spot welding line of 28 robots.

In the early 1980s, when the Japanese became converts to the new technology, the field began to take off.

Since then the numbers of industrial robots has burgeoned. A survey published in 2004 estimated that at least 800,000 were in use within industry worldwide, 350,000 of them in Japan, close to 250,000 in Europe, and about 112,000 in North America.

In the automobile industries of Japan, Italy and Germany the ratio is one robot for every 10 production workers.

It is not unusual for an industrial robot to have a pay-back period of as little as one to two years.

"The modern economy is completely dependent on robotics," says Flemmer. Everything you purchase is made

by robots. If it weren't made by a robot you couldn't own it – it would be too expensive. If you had a car that was made by hand it would cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars. And in fact it couldn't be made by hand. All of the electronic aspects are made by robots because the components are too small to see, never mind place and solder.

“We think [a product] is made in China by people; it's not, it's made in China by robots.”

But those robots are largely in foreign factories. We don't see them.

Picture this then. You are driving through the green Bay of Plenty countryside when you see a far off movement among the vines.

Manoeuvring itself through the kiwifruit trellises at a measured walking pace, pausing when it needs to, is an extraordinary machine, its four grey powder-coated arms dancing from vine to bin and back. The only sound is the gentle pulse of a generator. Elsewhere another picker goes about its business.

Even from the distance of your car window, these machines seem to be behaving oddly. There is an apparent intelligence to their actions. Choices and decisions are being made.

The picker only pauses to return its bin to the orchard headland and collect another. The uncanniness of the sight becomes still stronger when, after a while, you may notice that the two pickers appear to be coordinating their picking paths.

And if you were to approach the machines, the detail of their actions would come in to focus. The pickers are choosing particular fruit: fruit that is neither over- nor under-ripe; fruit that falls in a given size range; fruit without blemish. Four kiwifruit a second are being placed in the bin. That's 14,000 kiwifruit-an-hour-per-machine, picked from the moment the dew dries on the vines until late into the night.

During spring these same machines carrying modified arms will be used to dispense puffs of pollen into the waiting flowers. And in the off season? The machines will be packed into containers and shipped to the kiwifruit orchards of Italy.



Alistair Scarfe uses an arc welder on the forks that carry the picker's bin. The picker will be powered by either a generator or the low-carbon-footprint option of a rechargeable battery. The controller is quad-core-chipped computer – a high-end PC – running the open source operating system Linux. Like the computer and generator, the cameras and electric motors are also off-the-shelf. What won't be off-the-shelf are the picking arms, each of which will work in three axes. Arms like these are commercially available, but the team will fabricate these themselves at a fraction of the cost. Also being assembled is the base station that the pickers will interrogate remotely whenever instructions are needed. It is the base station that will coordinate the picking paths when two or more pickers are in action. Once the prototype is perfected, the fabrication of the more specialised parts (but not of the final assembly) is likely to be outsourced to local manufacturers. The Massey-designed pickers and packers (see page 24) will be owned by an independent commercial enterprise, which will lease them to industry.

It is all a far cry from the traditional bucolic images of harvest time, of good-spirited communal labour. But then those times are long past anyway. Nowadays it is a struggle to find enough people to pick. Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated general manager Mike Chapman sketches the industry's labour needs. “Through winter into spring we have repacking and winter pruning, and we have about 11,000 full-time workers. We need about 9000 extra workers for the kiwifruit season, starting from the end of March to a finish mid-to-late June.

Every year it's a challenge finding those additional workers. We expect this year 5000 of that 9000 will be from existing staff, and approaching 2000 brought into New Zealand under a recognised seasonal employers scheme. The rest are people on working holidays – backpackers.”

A fruit picker in New Zealand may not earn a fortune, but he or she earns far more than someone in China or Chile and the cost of wages, a large component of the cost of production, must be passed on to the producer and ultimately the consumer.

Then there is the problem of quality assurance: making sure the fruit is picked in optimum condition and carefully handled from then on. Like so much of the work for which robots are well suited (the word robot comes from the Czech word for drudgery), picking is highly repetitive, even tedious, work. Humans are notoriously intolerant of boredom; sometimes there are lapses of attention.

Previous attempts at mechanisation have proved difficult in the orchard, Chapman says, but he's “interested” in how Massey's kiwipicker pans out.

“Anything is useful that will improve the dynamic and the quality of work done, anything that maintains the quality of fruit is most welcome, anything that makes utilisation of labour better.”

Why is a kiwifruit picker so late in arriving on the scene? Why, when there are tens of thousands of robots welding car components, are so few used in agriculture and horticulture?

Flemmer believes it has to do with one problem in particular – realising effective artificial vision. Robots may have become smarter, faster, stronger, smaller, cheaper and more accurate, he says, “but you don't hire blind workers. Robots really need to see what they are doing.”

And artificial vision is complicated and demanding.

This is Massey's competitive advantage. Flemmer and his wife Claire understand artificial vision to a highly unusual degree, the result, he says, of a 20-year pedigree in building commercial industrial robots.



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E-mail: H.Bakker@massey.ac.nz*

The kiwifruit picker employs a panoply of cameras: two are mounted looking forward and enable the picker to make its way around the orchard; two are mounted looking toward the rear “because sometimes it has to go find itself a kiwifruit bin, figure out its orientation and then drive in to pick it up with its forks”, and there are “a number of cameras that look up at the canopy to see what is going on – and of course there has to be hand-eye coordination with the picking robots”.

A particular technical problem is dealing with the extreme fish-eye effect of the very short focal length wide-angle lens the picker uses when identifying and picking fruit.

The short focal length allows the lens to take in a usefully wide span – around 120 degrees – but an uncorrected image looks like a reflection from a fun-house mirror. To locate objects such as fruit in three dimensional space

the picker must reconcile the information from two of these lenses and hence two of these highly distorted images in real time.

Solving this problem has been Claire Flemmer's particular interest. Flemmer says he and his wife have a balance of strengths: "She is more theoretical; I am more mechanical."

The kiwifruit picker has been carefully designed to avoid any risk to the people or animals that enter its operating space.

It can detect the movement of people or animals using infrared sensors and the picker will instantly stop if the soft bumper system running round the edge of the picker encounters an unexpected obstacle.

Then there is the conventional stop mechanism: the red button. The picker will have a number of strategically placed red buttons. You can even stop the picker by telling it to – the picker's control module allows for voice control.

Flemmer and Atkinson are now eyeing other automation projects. Work has already begun on automating the apple industry – which will, in fact, install their packing machines before the kiwifruit industry.

Flemmer anticipates having eight packing cells working this packing season and a specialised apple picker ready for the season beyond.

Apples are New Zealand's third most profitable horticultural export, coming after kiwifruit and wine. Atkinson says strawberries would be "easy".

"They are just sitting there so all you'd need is the machine to see a flash of red..."



The visionary

Ask development manager Garth Atkinson about his colleague Rory Flemmer and he will at one moment describe him as someone who never stops thinking and at the next as someone who knows how to do things. In fact, over his career Flemmer seems to have amassed an almost perfect command of practical hands-on experience and theoretical skills.

Born in South Africa, Flemmer graduated with a BSc and MSc in mechanical engineering and a PhD in chemical engineering at the University of Natal.

But Flemmer could, as he puts it, see the writing on the wall, and in 1985 he left his increasingly violent and anarchic homeland for the US. His girlfriend Claire, whom he had met at university, followed to pursue her PhD, and the two married and together established both a family and a company specialising in building advanced automation machinery.

The Flemmers soon accrued clients such as General Motors, Siemens and Bausch and Lomb. Machines designed by the Flemmers were used for everything from processing timber to handling precision optics (in harsh, hot, glycol-and-glass impregnated environments).

The family migrated to New Zealand in 2005, where the Flemmers both took up positions with Massey's School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.

"We have pretty much shared an office almost all our lives. A day spent apart is a day wasted," says Flemmer.

Flemmer was a leading light in introducing Massey's new engineering major of Industrial Automation. Currently he has five PhD students. The first of these – Alistair Scarfe – is working on the kiwifruit picker. The others are working on translating the visual field into an aural field so that blind people can 'see'; on pure artificial vision in a project called "If there is an object in this field, what is the object, and what is the orientation of the object?"; on applying spectral analysis to Landsat images of kiwifruit orchard canopies to determine the state of the crops; and on one of the big issues, robotic consciousness.



The business development manager

An industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars has a problem. A university-employed engineer fresh from a commercial career in North America proposes to build a solution. You would think someone could be found to fund the development?

Not so. Grant Atkinson describes the early days of looking for funding as "encountering one brick wall after another". FRST (the Foundation for Research Science and Technology) had a fund that seemed to fit called Technology for Business Growth, but for some reason the proposal for a robotic kiwifruit packer that Atkinson took to the Foundation wasn't seen as fitting an export emphasis. Atkinson suspects that the very rapidity with which it was proposed to develop the packer caused the unease. ZESPRI, another potential investor, also balked at what was now a packer-and-picker proposal; it already had ties to HortResearch and it was reluctant to risk its shareholder funds in other ventures.

In the end the project was rescued by an angel investor – Atkinson will not name him – from within kiwifruit industry. "At that stage he was interested in robots for pollination. We said we can build that, but why not let us build a robot picker and we can change the arms. Then he became interested in the kiwifruit packer as well."

Atkinson is a relative newcomer to the world of university commercialisation. For the past twenty years his career has been in aid and development, first as an employee and in later years as a much-travelled consultant based out of Auckland. His move to Massey was happenstance: a daughter studying at Massey in Palmerston North had been in a car accident and needed his support. Atkinson moved to Palmerston North, and when his daughter graduated and left to pursue her career, he stayed on.

Atkinson's career as a consultant had given him some experience in cutting through bureaucracy and, while his experience was not explicitly within the commercial sector, he had worked in developing commercialisation initiatives for rural communities. He had been at Massey for little less than a year when Rory Flemmer arrived on staff. Atkinson was soon impressed by the newcomer. "Rory can just do things.

"He wanted to do something here – something with a bit of wow to make people start taking notice." This was the partnership: "Rory with his ability to see exactly what is needed and what has to be done, and me to think my way through the bureaucracy."

How does Atkinson view New Zealand's ability to fund commercial research and development? A fundamental problem, he says, lies in scale. Most New Zealand businesses fit the category of Small to Medium Enterprises, and with ten or fewer employees most lack the resources to support research and development.

Within the universities there is a subset of problems that arise from the expectations and obligations placed on academic staff: teaching, research and commercial development.

Academic careers – and the Tertiary Education Commission's Performance Based Research Funding – are built around publication records rather than commercialisation initiatives. If a government wishes to encourage commercial development within the university system then it must arrive at a balanced set of incentives.

Ideally, says Atkinson, people like Rory Flemmer should be able to migrate from industry to academia and back, cross fertilising both, without sacrificing their career prospects.

Atkinson also believes that universities should be more measured in their expectations of return from successful commercial ventures.

How does he feel about his career shift? The months ahead are going to be hectic. The first of the apple packers will be installed in Washington State as part of an alliance with a group of Nelson growers.

He's looking forward to seeing the picker out among the vines – a shared achievement that began as “a few drawings on a piece of paper after discussion in a packhouse”.

“I think lots of New Zealanders have that I-want-to-be-an-inventor feeling,” he says

The managing director

No one who knows Alistair Scarfe's background should be surprised at his choice of career. Scarfe grew up on a series of dairy farms in the Wairarapa and his father, he says, always had a basic workshop.

What is more, a family friend who lived a couple of kilometres away had a full machine shop of mills and lathes. “He showed me what to do, and he'd bring me home steel off-cuts from his work.”

Scarfe built a number of projects in his father's workshop (a trailer was one) and when someone gave him a motorbike that had burnt out after an encounter with an electric fence he removed the forks and installed them on his mountain bike. His verdict: “Heavy but effective.” He also tinkered with electronics, again with the assistance of his father, a former ham radio operator.

Senior lecturer Rory Flemmer, who is working with Scarfe on the kiwifruit picker, describes him as driven, grounded, and extraordinarily smart. “He's a very fine fellow. He can look at a mechanism, understand it and build it. His skill in mechanical design has raised the picker from the merely utilitarian to a work of art – if you like that sort of art.”

For Scarfe, the picker is a dream assignment. “There is just nothing else that I could think of doing that includes mechanical engineering and electronics and ties them together in a package this advanced in all of its aspects.”

Scarfe, who graduated from Massey in 2007 with a BE in mechatronics with first class honours, will use the kiwifruit packer project as a means of pursuing his PhD. His academic investigations are likely to address aspects of artificial vision and of managing ‘swarming behaviour’, using algorithms to calculate the optimum path for each picker to follow when several are working in an orchard.



Leader of the pack

Judicious, diligent, untiring, and very, very gentle with fruit, the latest recruit to New Zealand's kiwifruit industry is a welcome arrival. Run by 27 computers, the \$125,000 packing machine with its 10 robot arms and advanced artificial vision will eventually be able to pack 250 to 400 trays per hour.

The packer grades fruit to within 0.1 gram and using its artificial vision to grade to ZESPRI standards, it can assess blemishing, detect soft spots, and label, 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,” says Flemmer, who more than anyone else has been responsible for the packer's design.

The packer can custom-pack and label fruit according to the specifications set for a particular market and assess the quality of the fruit that comes down the processing line.

“For example we will know how many fruits are coming in too large or small, too ripe or too blemished,” Flemmer says.

It has been estimated that spoiled fruit costs the New Zealand kiwifruit industry up to \$20 million a year.

The packer will also help solve a perennial problem for the industry: the shortage of seasonal labour. A conventional packing line can require as many as 120 workers; the packing machine will need a couple of skilled workers in attendance.

The economies offered by automation should also equip the industry to outperform overseas producers who are advantaged by very low cost labour.

Update

Although the packer was first designed for kiwifruit, it will in fact first see use in the New Zealand apple industry. The first apple line will be automated this year with 16 robots and more installations are likely swiftly to follow. Plans are also advancing for the packer to be installed in Washington State, where each year the apple industry harvests between 10 and 12 billion apples.

Kiwifruit

Although the Chinese gooseberry has been in New Zealand from the beginning of the twentieth century and was first exported to Britain as early as 1952, it was in the 1970s and particularly the 1980s that New Zealand's export industry rose to prominence. Four million trays of kiwifruit (the name adopted for the fruit after a 1959 publicity campaign) were exported in 1982, 10 million in 1983 and 46 million in 1987. With the money to be made from kiwifruit, many people invested in plantings, but in 1988 as production in the rest of the world overtook New Zealand, things began to change. As the European market became oversupplied in the early 1990s, prices slumped, and the boom became a bust.



However the kiwifruit industry has proven itself resilient. It launched the brand name ZESPRI, corporatised itself, honed its production, supply chain, marketing and distribution skills and launched a new variety, ZESPRI™ GOLD. ZESPRI kiwifruit earn a premium over their competitors in the European market.

In the year ended June 2006, kiwifruit exports were worth \$699.4 million, 24 percent of which came from ZESPRI™ GOLD. Exports of New Zealand wine in the same year amounted to \$510.2 million.

In 2007, 13,170 hectares of New Zealand were planted in kiwifruit.

Worldwide, New Zealand is second to Italy in the volume of kiwifruit grown.

Apples

In recent years the New Zealand apple industry has been going through difficult times, with export returns for a number of commonly planted apples varieties falling below the cost of production and exports having trended down since the 2003/2004 season.

In June 2007 New Zealand had approximately 9340 hectares of apple orchards, a decline of 15 per cent on the area in orchard in 2005.



Nonetheless, for the year ended June 2006 apple exports were still worth \$330.2 million, and a number of newer apple varieties, such as Jazz, are commanding premiums and returning healthy profits.

In the international marketplace the New Zealand industry is hampered by relatively high costs of production. Chile, New Zealand's most closely comparable competitor, has costs per 18kg carton which are 50-60 per cent of New Zealand's. China's are 25-35 per cent.

These lower cost producers are still able to make good profits at current world prices.

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Defence expert

Malcolm Wood talks to Melbourne-based medical researcher Jane Oliaro

Notwithstanding all of those advertisements for washing powders and cleaning agents, the very best defence against infection is the one the body mounts itself. Every day we inhale or swallow many thousands of bacteria and viruses that would, in the absence of an immune response, make short work of us, not to mention the body's own rogue cells – cancers and tumours – that must be kept in check.

How does the immune system work? The complexity and sophistication of our multilayered immune system and the way it deals with pathogens have been a career-long fascination for Jane Oliaro, who in December 2007 was honoured with an achievement award by Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).



The award came as the icing on the cake for an ebullient Oliaro, a researcher at Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. She loves Melbourne, loves what she does. Down the long distance line her voice fizzles with enthusiasm.

Among the people celebrating Oliaro's success is Associate Professor Alan Murray of Massey's Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, who in 1993 employed Oliaro as a Research Assistant. Murray, who specialises in a hardy group of bacteria called Mycobacteria, needed someone to help with work on Mycobacterium paratuberculosis, a bacterium which causes Johne's disease in sheep and cattle.

The young woman he employed might have been a godsend. A first class honours graduate from Melbourne's Monash University, Oliaro had been working in a series of casual jobs in Palmerston North, a city she had relocated to for reasons of the heart. ("I was young," Oliaro laughs.)

Murray was principally interested in M. paratuberculosis as an animal disease, but the bacterium is also a principal suspect in Crohn's disease in humans, and in Wellington's Wakefield Clinic gastroenterologist Professor Vinton Chadwick began taking an interest in the laboratory's work.

It was Professor Chadwick who proposed that the laboratory should take a look at another bacterium, Helicobacter pylori. In the early 1980s, as is now the stuff of scientific legend, two Australian scientists (Drs Robin Warren and Barry Marshall, who would later win the Nobel Prize for their work) had broken with the conventional medical wisdom: stress, worry or diet, was not the principal cause of stomach ulcers, they said, H. pylori was.

The implications? If you suffered from ulcers, there was suddenly the prospect that your condition could be cured with a short-term course of antibiotics rather than held at bay with a lifetime's worth of medications. H. pylori was suddenly a hot research topic.

For her PhD at Massey, Oliaro set out to identify proteins expressed by H. pylori which initiated an immune response. The idea was that if the body were producing antibodies to one of the bacteria's proteins, then this could be used in diagnosis – a blood test is a less unpleasant procedure than a stomach biopsy – or in the eventual creation of a vaccine. Eventually Oliaro was successful in detecting a candidate lipoprotein which gave rise to antibodies in 70 percent of the Helicobacter-infected patients tested.

Oliaro then took up a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Montpellier in the South of France. This time her research subject was the host response to Brucellosis, a disease of farm animals that can be passed on to humans via animal products. "It was fantastic. I loved France, the lab was great and the work was really interesting."

That must have been a study in contrasts: Manawatu versus the South of France; Palmerston North versus Montpellier? Strangely enough, says Oliaro, there were likenesses. Both Palmerston North and Montpellier are very much student cities, full of bars and pubs, bustling with life during term time and falling quiet during the breaks.

In 2002 Oliaro returned to Melbourne to join the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the largest cancer research group in Australia, where she is now a member of the cancer immunology division and works in the immune signalling laboratory.

Oliaro is particularly interested in a category of immune cells called T cells, the 't' standing for thymus, where the cells mature. Some subsets of T cell direct and regulate immune responses; others directly attack infected or cancerous cells, injecting them with packets of cell-killing molecules.

"We are trying to understand how T cells generate the multitude of different kinds of cells that are required in an immune response.

"One of the viruses we are interested is measles, which we have shown can influence the immune response by confusing the signals that the T cell gets."

One source of signals are antigen-presenting cells, which prime certain T cells to mount a response to an invading pathogen. "They tell the T cells to activate, to proliferate, and to go off and kill," says Oliaro.

"When some viruses, like the measles virus, bind to the T cell they can tell it to change its form in such a way that it can't respond properly to the antigen presenting cells any more, which we think might be a cause of suppressed immunity in these patients."

Oliaro's work might lead to ways of fine tuning the immune response to better combat infection or cancer.

The NHMRC achievement award came about almost by accident. Oliaro had applied to the NHMRC for a category-one career development award, a fellowship open to postdoctoral researchers two-to-seven years out of their PhDs. Oliaro was seven years out and she knew that of the 300 applicants perhaps 30 would be successful. In 2007 she learned she was one of them. But it did not stop there. The NHMRC then decided that whichever of their applicants was ranked most highly should be honoured with the achievement award. "It turned out I was the top," says Oliaro with amused aplomb.

Why the ranking? First, that measure of academic success, her publication record. In the last three years she has been a co-author of papers in Immunity, the Proceedings of National Academy of Science, and, most prestigiously of all, Science magazine. Second, her ability to attract funding. "The year before the award I received a research grant of half a million dollars."

Does she still keep in touch with Massey? Yes, it's the place where arguably her research career began, e-mails do make their way across the Tasman, and she visited Alan Murray when she was last in New Zealand, "what... three years ago?"

This article was first published in Issue 24 of the [Alumni & Friends magazine, April 2008](#). See related links below for more articles from this issue.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Mag-Features; Massey Magazine; School of Veterinary Science



Taking it to the bank

Adam Gifford talks to banker, soldier and adventurer Paul Bayly

On a Monday morning Paul Bayly is building an M26 Supermarine Spitfire.

Not a full-size Spitfire, but an 80-percent-scale kitset replica of the plane that kept the Luftwaffe from seizing England's skies in the Battle of Britain.

Working at the Museum of Transport and Technology with a team of four volunteers, he is assembling aluminium components, getting ready to drop in the 380 horsepower motor that will one day get the plane travelling at more than 200 knots.

"Every boy grows up, but when I saw this for sale, I thought 'why not'," he tells me.

Paul is also involved in MOTAT as a board member who chairs the fundraising sub-committee.

"We need about \$20 million for a new hangar so it's a big project, lots of governance. When you're accepting a lot of money from people it needs to be spent well."

Bayly is a director of the merchant bank Cranleigh, which he founded in 1996 with twin brother Andy, another Massey BBS graduate. Bayly has been in the money game for more than 20 years.

I am next scheduled to meet Bayly at Cranleigh's Vulcan Lane offices, but a call comes through at 7am. "I'm going to be at Arch Hill this morning. Can we meet there?"

That's how I discover Bayly, in addition to being a banker, is the Commander of the Auckland and Northland Regiment, overseeing two battalions of Territorials.

"It could be a full-time job. My predecessor did that, more or less, but I try to work this round everything else," he says.



For a soldier he's not physically imposing, but he's wiry and obviously fit and he projects an air of easy efficiency as he attends to his paperwork, gets a quick update from staff on various projects, and then takes me on a tour of the headquarters, with its battle standards, photo memorabilia, and prized pieces of ancient weaponry.

Bayly talks about the people who have passed before him, including another Bayly, this one a not-so-distant relative, who commanded the Auckland Company in World War I and died when a stray machine gun bullet hit him while on board the boat taking him to shore at Gallipoli.



Bayly didn't know of the connection when he joined the Regiment. But the Bayly family have been well represented in the military. His father was in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the Solomon Islands during World War II, a grandfather was at Gallipoli and the Western Front, and his great-grandfather fought in the New Zealand Wars.

"There are some families where the generations fall at the wrong time so they get called up," he explains.

Bayly joined the Regiment as part of 1985 Territorial intake immediately after graduating from Massey.

"I thought, 'where else can I get experience leading people'," Bayly says.

"I thought I would only be in for a few years. Give it a go, have a bit of fun, and here I am into my 22nd year. It's the longest thing I have done in my life."

Bayly spent a year in the ranks – "I was hopeless, couldn't march, real country boy, overlong steps" – before taking a commission. When he later moved to Britain he joined the Queen's Regiment in London.

"I had a wonderful time. It was real British stuff. Officer training every Tuesday night, you wouldn't miss it. A wonderful meal, five courses, brandy, port, cigars, the whole lot.

"The cocktail parties were fun."

- 1980 – 82, 84 Massey University, Bachelor of Business Studies (Accounting and Finance)
- 1987 – 88 London School of Economics, Bachelor of Science (Economics) – Passed Postgraduate Diploma with Merit, including a Distinction in Mathematics
- 1997 – 00 Massey University, Master of Philosophy (Defence and Strategic Studies)
- 2008 Harvard University John F Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executive Fellows Programme



Later still, during a stint in Australia, he would join the Australian Commando Regiment, which is part of their Special Forces. "That was a tougher game and much more satisfying."

When Bayly calls himself a country boy, he is being no more than literal. The family farm was at Kai Iwi, near Wanganui, and Bayly and his brother went to Wanganui Collegiate before heading off to Massey.

"I did accounting and finance for my first degree. I had a bloody good time, rowed for Massey, I was in the New Zealand Universities Rowing VIII for three years, so that was my other big thing."

On graduation, rather than join an accounting firm – the choice made by every other graduate in his class – he joined New Zealand Steel. It was the middle of the Think Big era, and the steel mill was in expansion mode.

"It was a fantastic operation, very exciting. I was living at Glenbrook, auditing, looking at business proposals and company acquisitions, and that crystallised my thinking. I knew I wanted to get into merchant banking.

"I worked for a year and then went back to uni. I did 11 papers that year, worked incredibly hard. I think you need that year somewhere in your life."

With chartered accounting and cost management accounting tickets to his name, Bayly then joined Citibank's New Zealand branch as a management trainee.

"It was great training. I did two months in the Philippines, and when I came back to New Zealand they said 'Why don't you set up the world corporate group?'" With one of his colleagues, he went on to do just that, targeting multinationals that had global relationships with Citibank and weaning them off the local banks they had been using.

"I learned a lot about multinationals, how they shift money around, the way they manage tax liabilities."

In late 1987 Bayly began postgraduate studies in economics at the prestigious London School of Economics, helped by a Portuguese flatmate who tutored him in mathematics in exchange for English lessons.

"In other places economics is all theory, but LSE wants to see the maths so I really needed to bone up. The only way to do it was to get in donkey deep. I got a distinction in maths that year."

(Antonio Franco, the helpful flatmate, is now the World Bank country manager Timor-Leste.)

At the end of the year, in the wake of the sharemarket crash, Bayly took up contract work for small merchant banks, carving out a niche in the City.

Here he found being a Kiwi had its advantages. “They don’t know how to handle colonials,” he says. Humour and a healthy disregard for the establishment helped him negotiate the complexities of the British class system.

Next came Africa, where Bayly took on a two-year contract to facilitate trade of plantation-based forestry products across eastern and southern Africa for the UN Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

“It was interesting work. I had the info, I had the money and the contacts. I went around Africa putting people in touch with one another.”

When his time in Africa drew to a close, Bayly had a watershed decision to make – take up a job running a timber mill in Swaziland or head Down Under to pursue a relationship with a woman he had first met at a London party before his African contract began.

The heart won out, and Bayly ended up in Australia with wife-to-be Laura, working for a range of firms.

He returned to New Zealand in 1996 and immediately started some projects with twin brother Andy, who had made his own way in the financial world at KPMG, Southpac and Lloyds Merchant Bank in London.

“We bought a print finishing company, invested in a waste bin business, did a luxury townhouse development in Parnell, and all the time people who knew Andy from Southpac would come for business advice.

“Most of our time was spent in the print business in south Auckland. It had a big boardroom, with a double pane window looking out at the factory.

“It was great advertising. People would come to talk about their problems, and they could see we understood business – after all, our own successful business was on the other side of that glass.

“After some time we thought we should do it properly, so we set up our merchant banking firm and it’s grown from there to include investment banking, corporate advisory and latterly getting into asset management following the launch of our first fund to invest in clean energy technologies.” The firm has its main office in Auckland servicing clients throughout New Zealand. They have also recently opened an office in Sydney as they are increasingly advising on international deals.

He says Cranleigh’s strength is its understanding of New Zealand conditions.

“We do offer advice, but we’re more interested in achieving an outcome. We want to make sure there’s some implementation.”

Bayly says the elegant models and flow charts presented by some of the big name international consulting firms aren’t necessarily appreciated by New Zealand business.

“They want practical stuff like ‘how do I address issues to do with economies of scale or foreign exchange? How do I address succession planning when my family is against me and my children aren’t interested? Or, I’ve worked 50 years and it’s going down the gurgler? How do I merge my business or sell it? How do I list it? What can I do to grow it? How do I de-risk it? How do I get my weekend back?’

Good information, he says, is key – and good information is something many businesses lack. Bayly has also been a member of the Small Business Advisory Board since early 2007. The board, its members appointed by Cabinet, scrutinises government policy that affects small businesses. Government departments are required to consult with SBAG before they submit their policy recommendations to Cabinet.

“We report annually on Government’s performance in developing and implementing small-business friendly government policy and legislation. It is a responsibility that you have to exercise carefully.”

One of the organisations Bayly advises is Massey, helping his alma mater think about its business more commercially, not just managing its balance sheet but getting to grips with issues like long term financial forecasting.

He would like to see more research partnerships between universities and the private sector. “There’s the potential for us to do more here. We’ve got some bloody good minds here. But it’s so fragmented and dispersed. We need a concentration of effort and a New Zealand Inc. perspective.

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In late 1987 Bayly began postgraduate studies in economics at the prestigious London School of Economics, helped by a Portuguese flatmate who tutored him in mathematics in exchange for English lessons.

“In other places economics is all theory, but LSE wants to see the maths so I really needed to bone up. The only way to do it was to get in donkey deep. I got a distinction in maths that year.”

(Antonio Franco, the helpful flatmate, is now the World Bank country manager Timor-Leste.)

At the end of the year, in the wake of the sharemarket crash, Bayly took up contract work for small merchant banks, carving out a niche in the City.

Here he found being a Kiwi had its advantages. “They don’t know how to handle colonials,” he says. Humour and a healthy disregard for the establishment helped him negotiate the complexities of the British class system.

Next came Africa, where Bayly took on a two-year contract to facilitate trade of plantation-based forestry products across eastern and southern Africa for the UN Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"It was interesting work. I had the info, I had the money and the contacts. I went around Africa putting people in touch with one another."

When his time in Africa drew to a close, Bayly had a watershed decision to make – take up a job running a timber mill in Swaziland or head Down Under to pursue a relationship with a woman he had first met at a London party before his African contract began.

The heart won out, and Bayly ended up in Australia with wife-to-be Laura, working for a range of firms.

He returned to New Zealand in 1996 and immediately started some projects with twin brother Andy, who had made his own way in the financial world at KPMG, Southpac and Lloyds Merchant Bank in London.

"We bought a print finishing company, invested in a waste bin business, did a luxury townhouse development in Parnell, and all the time people who knew Andy from Southpac would come for business advice.

"Most of our time was spent in the print business in south Auckland. It had a big boardroom, with a double pane window looking out at the factory.

"It was great advertising. People would come to talk about their problems, and they could see we understood business – after all, our own successful business was on the other side of that glass.

"After some time we thought we should do it properly, so we set up our merchant banking firm and it's grown from there to include investment banking, corporate advisory and latterly getting into asset management following the launch of our first fund to invest in clean energy technologies." The firm has its main office in Auckland servicing clients throughout New Zealand. They have also recently opened an office in Sydney as they are increasingly advising on international deals.

He says Cranleigh's strength is its understanding of New Zealand conditions.

"We do offer advice, but we're more interested in achieving an outcome. We want to make sure there's some implementation."

Bayly says the elegant models and flow charts presented by some of the big name international consulting firms aren't necessarily appreciated by New Zealand business.

"They want practical stuff like 'how do I address issues to do with economies of scale or foreign exchange? How do I address succession planning when my family is against me and my children aren't interested? Or, I've worked 50 years and it's going down the gurgler? How do I merge my business or sell it? How do I list it? What can I do to grow it? How do I de-risk it? How do I get my weekend back?'

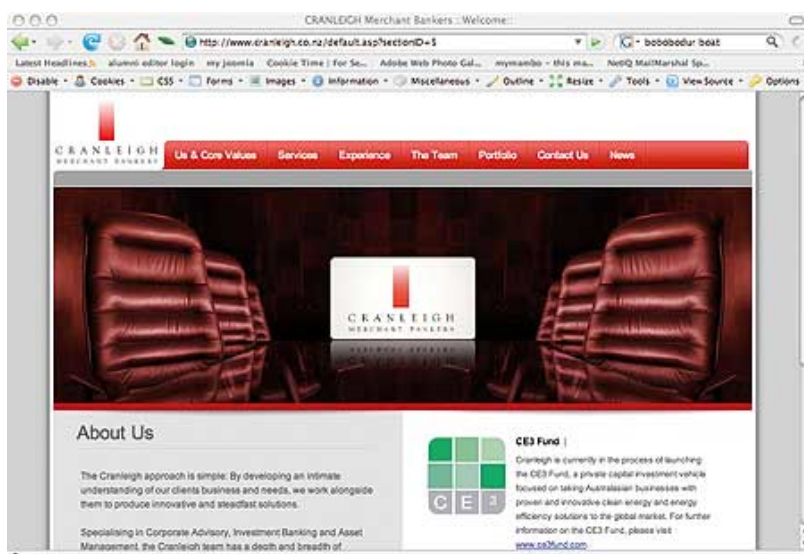
Good information, he says, is key – and good information is something many businesses lack.

Bayly has also been a member of the Small Business Advisory Board since early 2007. The board, its members appointed by Cabinet, scrutinises government policy that affects small businesses. Government departments are required to consult with SBAG before they submit their policy recommendations to Cabinet.

"We report annually on Government's performance in developing and implementing small-business friendly government policy and legislation. It is a responsibility that you have to exercise carefully."

One of the organisations Bayly advises is Massey, helping his alma mater think about its business more commercially, not just managing its balance sheet but getting to grips with issues like long term financial forecasting.

He would like to see more research partnerships between universities and the private sector. "There's the potential for us to do more here. We've got some bloody good minds here. But it's so fragmented and dispersed. We need a concentration of effort and a New Zealand Inc. perspective.





In history's wake

A few nights into the Indian Ocean, Paul Bayly was starting to question what he was doing.

The wind had risen, and, hauled along by its massive mainsail, the Borobudur, a reconstruction of an Indonesian double hulled ship from the 7th century, wasn't handling the conditions well. "Every so often the outrigger would catch on a wave and haul the ship over," Bayly says.

"The night watch guy said he'd seen the speed gauge showing 13 knots as we hoofed down these huge waves. Late that evening someone said they'd seen 16 knots. The highest speed over 24 hours was 22 knots.

"It was fast, noisy and scary."

In the cold light of morning, the question was asked: "Is this a race or something?"

"We decided to trim the sail at night, and after that it got safer," Bayly says.

The voyage was the dream of Philip Beale, an ex Royal Navy, ex sharebroker and banker, Bayly had met during his time in the City of London. Beale had seen the design of his vessel-to-be in a carving on the Borobudur temple in central Java.

"He talked for years about sailing from Indonesia to Africa," says Bayly.

"He rang me in 2002 and said 'I've left my job and I'm going to do it'."

If boats like the Borobudur had been used to trade with Africa, that might help explain the presence of Indonesian plants and cultural influences in Madagascar and mainland Africa.

Bayly was brought in to do logistics and safety. "I had done a lot of amphibious ops with the Commandos so I knew about things water and safety issues.

"The safety briefing was 'don't fall off, and if you do, grab something, because it will be two or three hours before we can turn round and get you – if you are lucky!'"

The Borobudur left Jakarta on August 15, 2004, arrived in the Seychelles in late September before heading south to Madagascar and on to Capetown, arriving there the following January. The voyage finally finished at Accra in Ghana.

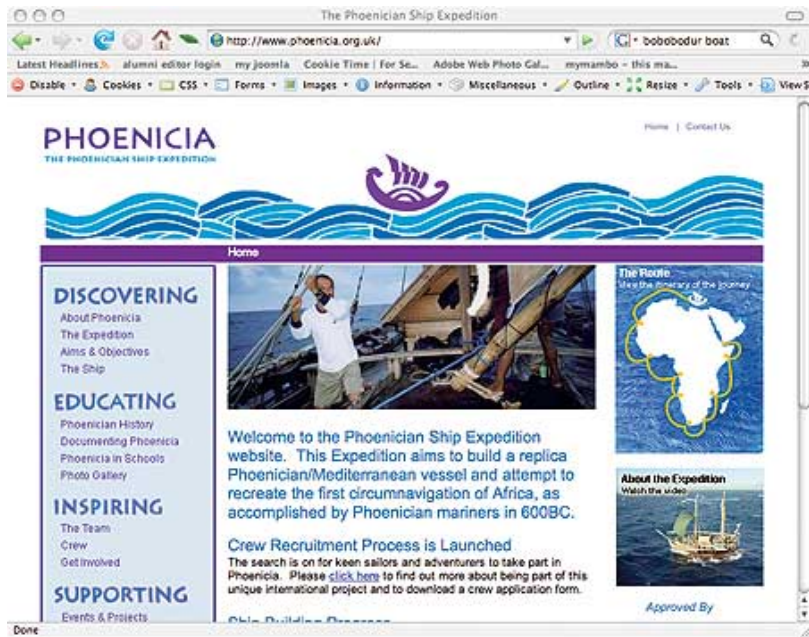
"Phil had the idea they could have got round the Cape of Good Hope with the technology that was available at the time, and he proved they could."

Beale now wants to recreate the circumnavigation of Africa by a Phoenician trireme in 600 BC. The ship is being built on an island off Syria.

"It's due to launch in June 08, and the difference this time is we will have rowing as well. I can't wait," Bayly says.



"I'm going to beat the drum or something."



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Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Mag-Features; Massey Magazine

The price of milk

The rising price of agricultural commodities offers an unparalleled opportunity for New Zealand to establish a sustainable competitive advantage, writes Professor Jacqueline Rowarth. But first certain conditions must be met.

Supermarket prices are causing shock and indignation. In the last quarter of 2007 the price of milk rose almost 5 percent, the price of cheese 17 percent and the price of butter a massive 41 percent. Milk price rose again at the beginning of the year – another 4 percent. Cheap dairy products, something New Zealanders have come to regard as a birthright, are cheap no longer.

The consolation: if we are paying more, so is the rest of the world. As the economists point out, New Zealand's saving grace is its agricultural industries. Without them – and particularly without the current high dairy payouts – our economy would be in severe trouble.

So what will happen when the price of dairy products sinks to more accustomed levels? It may not. This time the prices we are seeing may not be an expression of market cycles but of something more sustained, a phenomenon the Economist magazine has headlined as “the end of cheap food”.

The reasons for the global price rises? One is the substantial use of maize as a feedstock for ethanol, with knock-on effects throughout the market; the other, the increasing affluence of emerging economies such as China and India. When people earn more, their diet changes. They move away from food grains and towards products such as meat and dairy.

In 1985 the Chinese consumer ate 20kg of meat per year (FAO statistics); by 2000 consumption per capita was 50kg per year. By 2050 it is projected the world will have to produce twice as much meat as it does today to meet demand.

One estimate has it that by 2020, developed countries will be consuming 32 million tonnes more milk products than they did in the '90s and developing countries will be consuming 177 million tonnes more.

All of this should bode well for the New Zealand farming industry, which, since the '90s, has become a poster child for efficient subsidy-free farming.

In fact, I and many others believe the opportunity is at hand for New Zealand to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage over its competitors, an advantage that lies in ever more efficient production, in the uncompromising pursuit of quality, and in environmentally sensitive, low-carbon footprint production and export. But before this can happen, certain conditions must be met: we must produce more science and agriculture graduates and we must do more to support agricultural research.

What should New Zealand be trying to produce? We do need to do more than just rely on price rises occurring in all agricultural commodities. Professor David Hughes, of London's Imperial College, told a conference in Napier last year that New Zealand should be producing the kinds of food for which consumers are prepared to pay a premium.

Which consumers are these? The supermarket giant Tesco segments its shoppers into a number of categories: the price sensitive shopper, the traditional shopper, the convenience shopper, the healthy shopper and the finer food shopper. Of these, two should be of particular interest to us – the ‘healthy’ shopper, willing to pay for organic and sustainably-grown attributes, and the ‘finer foods’ shopper, who wants well-packaged foods of uniform colour and shape as well as exclusive access to premium gene-stock associated with taste. Taken together they make up 26 percent of Tesco's shoppers.

But there is a complication. As Claude Lévi Strauss put it, “food has to be good to think as well as to eat”. The discerning consumer is buying not only the product, but also the story attached to it. The shopper who purchases New Zealand lamb has, in the past, bought the story of an animal raised in the open air, in a near-pristine environment, in a far distant country – with spring as winter sets in for the northern hemisphere increasing the allure.



Sadly for New Zealand, that narrative is changing. Just look at the food shows starring Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsay or Hugh Fearnley Wittingstall. These are chefs who exercise so much influence on the British consumer that supermarkets now do their utmost to stock up on particular products featured on these programmes before they go to air.

The celebrity chefs are encouraging consumers to eat locally and seasonally and it is a message that has found increasing political support. The encouragement is not confined to Britain. Read the writings of Michael Pollan (e.g., *The Omnivore's Dilemma*) for the American equivalent.

If we do nothing to counter these arguments – and an AgResearch study has shown that in many instances the imported New Zealand dairy product has a smaller carbon footprint than its British equivalent despite the travel costs (because New Zealand cows are not housed for several months a year) – the only answer will be to wait until the considerations of cost or supply are overwhelmingly persuasive and trump environmental concern and patriotic conscience.

We need to put the New Zealand case – and we need to establish our credentials as an agricultural and sustainable producer.

Agriculture, like any other human activity, has environmental impacts. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that livestock production directly and indirectly uses 30 percent of the earth's ice-free land and generates nearly one fifth of the world's greenhouse gases. Closer to home, the recently released OECD Environmental Performance Review of New Zealand, while noting the progress that had been made in integrating environmental concerns into the daily management of agriculture and forestry operations over the past decade, also implicated livestock production in deteriorating soil and water conditions.

So here are some challenges for New Zealand agriculture. We must promote the fact that we have high quality products and sustainable production systems. We must continue to improve our production efficiency to maintain cost competitiveness. And we should think about how best to take our 'story' into our key markets.

But to do any of these things well we must produce more science and agriculture graduates and we must do more to support agricultural research.

There are now more than 2000 students a year graduating in the 'creative and performing arts', while in 'agriculture, environment and related studies' there are just 355. That might not be such a concern if those graduates stayed in New Zealand, but many will not.

Twenty six per cent of New Zealand's tertiary graduates are now overseas (in comparison with a mere 3 per cent of Australia's), and 28,000 New Zealanders emigrated to Australia last year, a significant number identifying themselves as being aligned with agriculture.

Australia is going to continue to be a potent lure for agriculture graduates. Professor Les Copeland of The University of Sydney has calculated that Australian agriculture will have 123,000 new jobs in the next five years. Who will fill them? Julian Cripps of Sydney's University of Technology has written about Australia's shortsighted slashing of agriculture research, the many agricultural scientists now entering retirement age, and the collapse of university agricultural science enrolments. While Australia has been preoccupied with its drought and the forecast consequences of ongoing climate change, he writes, a second drought is nearing: "an agricultural knowledge drought". This is a mirror image of what has happened in New Zealand.

Professor Cripps also points out that in the past 15 years most conflicts and many refugee movements have had, at their core, a scarcity of food, land or water. "Australia has not yet understood that agriculture policy is defence policy. It is refugee policy, immigration policy, as well as health, food and economic policy. We persist in seeing it as an issue all on its own."

It is not surprising that students are choosing to take degrees other than agricultural science. They want to be associated with industries which they perceive to be growing, exciting, and offering challenges, opportunities and material reward. That has not been the image associated with agriculture. During the turmoil that surrounded the withdrawal of subsidies, agriculture was deemed a sunset industry. Instead, information technology, biotechnology and the creative and performing arts were regarded as the great hopes for the economy. Agriculture lacked the silver screen factor.

In fact the agricultural sector has a lot to offer. Although choosing to study agriculture, agricultural science, agribusiness or food technology at university is not the easy option, the primary sector offers careers with responsibility, challenge, variety, money, work-life balance, caring for the environment, and doing social good, for instance, as well as the excitement of working for a dynamic and expanding sector. These are all the things that members of the younger generation say that they want in work.

Massey Agriculture is doing what it can to spread the word on the importance of agriculture. We are constantly keeping our subjects and degrees up to date in consultation with industry. We have appointed four new professors in soil, pasture and animal science (as well my own professorship in pastoral agriculture). We do our best to make sure the University promotes agriculture and the opportunities it offers, particularly among the 85 percent of the New Zealand population who live in towns and cities.

However, this isn't enough. If wider society fails to recognise how important our agricultural expertise is in managing the complexities of land use or does not properly acknowledge the overwhelming importance of agriculture to our economy, students will continue to make other choices.

Fast Forward, the Government's new endowment fund for science-food-farms, currently standing at \$700 million and building, is a statement about value. The Government has shown that it recognises the importance of the primary sector for the future development of New Zealand. Industry is investing in the fund and the aim is to achieve a \$2 billion pool.

The Fast Forward initiative sends the very clear message to society that New Zealand's future is about innovation in food and farms – and that very good, well-funded science is needed to achieve a truly sustainable productive competitive advantage.

With this endorsement, people deciding on where to put their working lives can again choose the primary sector, and all it embraces, with confidence.

The primary sector, from paddock to plate, farm to fork, laboratory to lips, studio to stomach... offers all that people need want and desire from work – and Fast Forward makes it clear that the Government regards the sector as a vital part of New Zealand's future. If we value the research system and environment managers (farmers) as we should, I foresee a bright future. New Zealand can and will lead the world as an innovative, environmentally aware, cost-competitive agricultural producer.

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Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Mag-First_Person; Massey Magazine



Sir Edmund Hillary K.B.E., by Edward J Halliday, 1955. Image courtesy of Auckland Museum. The Museum has mounted an online [tribute to Sir Edmund](#).

The big man

Sir Edmund Hillary's work in Nepal shows the benefit of aid and development done well, writes Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens. This is what he wanted to be remembered for. If we are looking for ways honour him, we should look no further.

If you are a fan of what-ifs, it is worth thinking about what would have happened if the weather in the Himalayas had been a little different on May 22 1953. If the wind been that bit lower – and the oxygen sets worked that bit better – it might have been Englishmen Charles Evans and Tom Bourdillon who would be remembered as the conquerors of Everest. They were the two climbers chosen to mount the first attempt on Everest; the 33-year-old New Zealand beekeeper and the Sherpa would get their chance two days later.

Had that happened, some other icon would occupy the space filled by Hillary's craggy features on the \$5 note, mountaineering would have had some other ambassador, and there might never have been the extraordinary link that exists between Nepal, a small landlocked country in the midst of the world's highest mountain chain, and New Zealand, an island nation in the midst of the world's largest ocean.

Sir Edmund Hillary was a remarkable mountaineer, physically gifted, experienced, and absolutely determined. The ascent of Everest put him among the pantheon of New Zealand sporting greats, and he would go on to many other adventures.

But that is not why he occupies such a special place in the hearts of New Zealanders and Nepalese alike. That story begins on another expedition, three years after Everest. In Hillary's words, “a group of us were huddled around a smoky fire on the Tolam Bau glacier and the conversation turned idly to the welfare of the Sherpas”.

“What will happen to you all in the future?” Hillary asked one of them. He paused and then replied: “In the mountains we are as strong as you – maybe stronger. But our children lack education. Our children have eyes but they cannot see. What we need more than anything is a school.”



In 1961 Hillary built the first permanent school in the remote Solu Khumbu region and in 1964 he banded together with friends, family and other mountaineers to form the Himalayan Trust.

During its lifetime the Himalayan Trust and its affiliates together with hundreds of volunteers have constructed 27 schools, two hospitals, and numerous health clinics, airstrips, and water supplies. They have repaired monasteries; run teacher training programmes and women's literacy classes; funded university scholarships; and planted more than a million trees.

The first ascent of the world's highest mountain was, as Lady June Hillary reflected, "...a stepping stone. It made it possible to raise the money needed to assist the community".

Was this charity? In development circles, the word charity has some unfortunate baggage. It smacks of patronage, of favour bestowed on a passive recipient. Charity, in this sense, is anything but the relationship Sir Ed struck up with the Sherpa communities.

His connection was very personal. Until a few years ago, the Hillarys made annual visits to Nepal where they trekked through familiar Sherpa lands, visited old friends, and both supervised and provided hands-on assistance with Himalayan Trust projects.

Although many development agencies today pride themselves on partnership, it is difficult to think of any other that can lay claim to such an enduring partnership between the community it serves and a senior member of the management team.

From the outset, Hillary regarded the Sherpa communities as partners. He recognised and respected their knowledge and skills and never tried to impose anybody else's ideas about how they should 'be developed'. The Himalayan Trust responds to requests for assistance, and plans and implements development initiatives together with Sherpa communities; the communities own the projects. Communities that want the Trust's help with a new school or clinic commit to allocating the land and organising people to work on the construction.

At the management level of the Trust, it is notable that the Sherpa Advisory Committee has taken over a greater range of responsibilities.

Some of the work carried out by the Trust comes in part to ameliorate the problems created by the growth of the tourism that followed in Hillary's wake.

One of Hillary's first projects was the Lukla airport (apparently soon to be renamed Tenzing-Hillary airport). Lukla, he later wrote, hastened the onset of officialdom and tourism into the Everest area. "Already the Khumbu has received many of the blessings of civilisation – forests are being denuded, rubbish is piled high around the campsites and monasteries, and the children are learning to beg. The Sherpas have a hospital and half-a-dozen schools, and more work is available – but is it sufficient recompense? At times I am wracked by guilt."

There were 4017 tourists to Nepal in 1960. In 1970, with Kathmandu on the hippie trail, there were 40,000. In 1995, in the age of trekking and cheap air travel there were over 363,000. In 1999 – before the Maoist insurgency intervened – it was 491,504.

Such a rapid increase in the number of tourists puts particular strain on small communities and the fragile environments in which they live.

In academic circles it has been common to criticise tourism to developing countries. Tourism, it is argued, highlights the inequitable power relations between tourists and the people who live in regions they visit. Often the businesses are foreign owned and the profits repatriated. And tourism leads to social disruption and environmental degradation.

Certainly the last of these – as Hillary observed – is a very real problem for Nepal. Trekking may seem like a low impact activity, but lodges must be built for them, food cooked, and water heated. Every trekker consumes six to seven kilograms of wood per day; wood harvested from dwindling slow-growing alpine forests, and every trekker creates wastes, which if left untreated break down only slowly in the chilly mountain environment.

The Himalayan Trust has trained Sherpas to be wardens in the national parks declared to conserve parts of the alpine environment, and the Trust has helped the Sherpa community take ownership of the tree nurseries central to reforestation efforts.

No one seriously argues that Nepal can or should forgo tourism, the country's number one foreign exchange earner. Tourism has given the Sherpa people viable alternatives to their traditional activities of raising yaks and trading salt. Along popular trekking routes, the Sherpa communities have prospered. Sherpas work as porters and mountain guides, they run small lodges and teashops. A number of the more enlightened tour operators devote part of their income to the charitable work of the Himalayan Trust and other development agencies.



The question for Nepal and for the development community is how we maximise the benefits to the Nepalese – remembering that most of the trekking happens in a limited area within the country – while minimising the social and environmental costs. In development circles the talk is of 'pro-poor tourism', a new approach which seeks to increase the net benefits of tourism to the poor.

Nepal sits at 142 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index, and the World Bank estimates that 31 percent of the population of 29 million live in poverty. The years of the Maoist rebellion battered the tourist industry, with arrival numbers almost halving between 1999 and 2002, but with a new multi-party system in place, tourist confidence is slowly returning.

New Zealand has a chance to build on our country's special relationship with Nepal by finding ways to contribute to the country's development in this current period of stability. For evidence that the link first forged by Hillary between New Zealand and Nepal lives on I do not have to look far. In Development Studies at Massey, two Nepalese have completed postgraduate degrees on scholarships funded by NZAID (one addressed urban waste management, the other sustainable energy supplies in rural areas) and a number of New Zealanders who hold postgraduate Development Studies qualifications from Massey have worked in Nepal in health care, tourism, food technology, and community development.

NZAID, our government bilateral aid agency, already supports several development agencies that work in Nepal, including the Himalayan Trust. In 2003, to mark the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest, NZAID committed \$290,000 annually to support the work of the Trust. In recent years, much of this has gone towards upgrading and operation of schools in the Solu Khumbu district.

Why should we honour Hillary and how are we best to do so? The man himself articulated it better than anyone: "I haven't any doubt that the most worthwhile things I have done have not been climbing mountains or going to the Poles or so on. It has been helping my Sherpa friends, building the schools and medical facilities. I think that is what I would like to be remembered for."

In the rush to be seen to honour Hillary, a range of proposals was floated. Should we rename Mount Cook or Mount Taranaki? Were these proposals serious? We all know that Hillary would never have wanted this.

The best tribute we can pay him is to continue the work he began.

The Himalayan Trust:

www.himalayan-trust.org.np

The Development Studies Programme at Massey: dev.massey.ac.nz

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Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Mag-First_Person; Massey Magazine

Timber workers study links cancer, respiratory disease to occupational PCP exposure

Researchers at Massey's Centre for Public Health Research investigating the health of former timber workers have found levels of dioxin more than twice that of long-term Paritutu residents and significant prevalence of health effects related to PCP exposure.



The findings of the study Health Outcomes in Former New Zealand Timber Workers Exposed to Pentachlorophenol (PCP) were released this afternoon by the Department of Labour. The study was funded by the Health Research Council after continued concern that timber workers exposed to PCP were suffering long-term health problems. The PCP used at the time was contaminated by some types of dioxin during manufacture, with the study confirming that the types of dioxin found in the workers fit the profile of the dioxin found in PCP at that time. Dioxin is known to increase the risk of cancer.

Lead investigator Dr Dave McLean, a research fellow of the centre, says the study was comprehensive. The first phase comprised tracking and analysis of health information and the work practices of almost 4000 randomly-selected timber workers

“The group worked in the industry before the late 1980s, when PCP was used. They were selected using industry records and followed to the present day to assess how many had died and how many had developed cancer,” Dr McLean says.

The second phase of the research comprised a survey including interviews and clinical examinations of 293 surviving workers.

“We went out and held clinics around the country, inviting people to turn up for a blood test, questionnaire-based interview a physical and neurological exam.

“Looking at their lifetime work history, and in particular their history of work in the timber industry, we established that about 10 per cent of the former timber workers had heavy exposure to PCP.

“People with heavy exposure to PCP were three times more likely to have respiratory disease. People with more PCP exposure also had increased prevalence of a number of other health conditions, including eczema, thyroid disorders, unexplained persistent fevers, recurrent nausea and diarrhoea, heart palpitations and low libido. Not all of these increased risks were statistically significant, because the number of workers with heavy exposure was quite small.”

Dr McLean says that as cumulative exposure increased there was also increased prevalence of neuro-psychological symptoms, including memory loss depression and tiredness.

“This is an indicator that there may be some damage to the central nervous system, in this case at a level similar to that of people heavily exposed to solvents. The concern is that we're measuring sub-clinical changes but that in people of this age there may be repercussions because they will have reduced capacity to compensate for the effects of ageing.”

The third phase of the study included blood testing for dioxin levels in 71 of the exposed workers and 23 non-exposed workers. These, when combined with the results of blood tests undertaken on 23 members of the Sawmill Workers Against Poisons (SWAP) group showed that the exposed workers had much higher dioxin levels than those not exposed.

“Comparisons of the intensity and years of exposure also saw a very clear dose-rate relationship – people who mixed the solutions, handled the timber and cleaned the sludge in the dip tank with the highest levels.”

The tests showed that the exposed workers had dioxin levels about the same as those observed in former long-term Paritutu residents while SWAP members had levels around twice that.

The report can be found at: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publication-view.asp?ID=249>

Caption: Dr Dave McLean, Research Fellow at Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Research

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

New artist in residence hopes for prolific term

James Norcliffe hopes a torrent of words will flow onto the page during the next three months as he begins a term as the Palmerston North's Literary Artist in Residence.

The award-winning writer expects to finish a novel and a collection of poems while living in the writer's quarters in Square Edge.

Mr Norcliffe, who has published six collections of poems and five fantasy novels, says he'll be living a monastic life.

"I'm a binge writer and now I'll be able to live my work twenty-four-seven. I'll go to bed thinking about it and expect to get a lot of work done during my time here."

He says the three months away from his position at Lincoln University, where he teaches foundation English, will provide the perfect opportunity to focus on his work.

Mr Norcliffe says he's grateful for the opportunity to work at Massey University's Palmerston North Campus, which he says is a beautiful place.

"I've held similar positions in Australia and the United States and expect the next few months will prove to be just as worthwhile."

As well as writing, Mr Norcliffe will also provide valuable feedback to students enrolled in the university's creative writing programme.

Lecturer Tom Conroy says James Norcliffe was chosen as the first of this year's three visiting artists because he has a broad range of abilities.

"James is an accomplished poet and writer who'll give students valuable feedback on their work. It's important students can seek assistance from someone who won't be grading them."

An event to welcome Mr Norcliffe to the city will be held on Friday evening in the Welcome Lounge of the Palmerston North City Library.

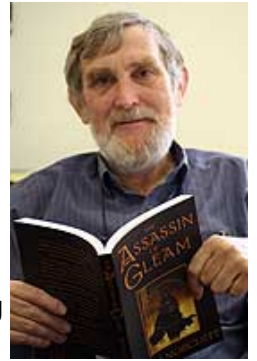
Later that evening he'll also read a selection of his work, as the inaugural reader in this year's "Writers Read" series at the library.

Caption: New Literary Artist in Residence James Norcliffe.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Auckland's potential 'world class'

The Auckland region needs a strategic organisation with the power and resources to tackle the “strategy deficit” the region currently faces, says senior lecturer in public sector management Dr Andy Asquith.

“Auckland has a unique opportunity to strike a balance between strategic governance and a localism that would re-connect citizens with their institutions of governance,” he says.

Dr Asquith says the current organisational fragmentation raises questions about the ability to deliver a Rugby World Cup which matches expectations. Failure to deliver, he says, will almost certainly mean New Zealand will cease to be considered to be a suitable venue for high profile sporting events.

“This is the chance to create lasting, credible institutions capable of meeting the expectations of a complex and varied populace, while at the same time creating a vibrant, economically prosperous, world class city.

“Existing institutions and organisations are seen as parochial and ill-equipped to focus on the bigger picture of an increasingly complex society. This weakness is one which is being levelled at existing governmental administration arrangements in the Auckland region.”

Dr Asquith has worked extensively on local government research projects both in New Zealand and in Europe and says there is a need to raise the level of the debate to “one which has meaning and relevance to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance”.

“There has been an alarming level of comment and debate from so-called experts with little academic credibility or those with vested interests in maintaining at least part of the current local governance structure.

“A patchwork of the eight existing local authorities - the Auckland Regional Council and seven territorial local authorities - is unable, and indeed apparently unwilling to begin to grasp and appreciate the scope and scale of major strategic issues facing the region as a whole,” he says.

“Globally, both city and regional management are recognised as complex activities. Not only do politicians and public sector managers have to deal with local and national pressures, they also have to deal with the implications of globalisation.”

Dr Asquith, who is based at the College of Business on the Auckland campus, has provided the background research for the Employers and Manufacturers Association (Northern) submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. He is also a member of the One Auckland Trust – the organisation that argues for a single voice to provide Auckland with a new strategic direction.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Government Policy commentators

Sheep a major source of leptospirosis infection



The changing profile of victims of leptospirosis and the high number of cases amongst Hawke's Bay meat workers have prompted a co-operative study into the disease between Massey University's EpiCentre and meat company PPCS. The research was carried out in February and March at the PPCS Takapau plant.

Thirteen of 15 patients admitted to the ICU at Hawke's Bay Hospital suffering from leptospirosis from 1999-2005 were employed as meat workers or inspectors.

Blood samples and interviews were conducted with 242 volunteers. Twenty-three, (9.5 percent), tested positive to antibodies for *Leptospira serovars pomona* (13) or *hardjo-bovis* (9) and one tested positive to both.

Dr Jackie Benschop says these workers had occupational exposure to sheep only. "This, in combination with our results, adds weight to the hypothesis that sheep are an important source of leptospiral infections for humans."

The results are preliminary and the EpiCentre leptospirosis team, led by Associate Professor Cord Heuer, still has more work to do on the data collected.

"These results are not adjusted for the fact that these workers may have had exposure to leptospirosis outside of the workplace," says Dr Benschop. "We'll be concentrating on potential lifestyle exposure to leptospirosis in the data over the next few months."

Further data analysis will also help determine the effect of the worker position in the meat plant on exposure to *Leptospira* species, giving clues to transmission pathways.

Dr Benschop says workers reported - and researchers saw - good use of protective gear at the PPCS plant, with staff wearing gloves, glasses and face masks when working in potentially exposed areas, limiting exposure to *Leptospira* bacteria that are shed in the urine of infected animals.

Keith Sandilands, PPCS group health and safety manager, says the company has a rigorous policy around the wearing of personal protective equipment. With support from occupational health nurses and doctors the company runs a leptospirosis education programme, including sound knowledge on early intervention.

"This has eliminated reported cases to a large extent and enables early treatment in the isolated reported cases," says Mr Sandilands. "In the majority of instances this alleviates to a significant level the potential severity of the symptoms that individuals can experience with this condition."

The EpiCentre team intends to build on the study to look at other occupationally-exposed groups including those working with cattle such as farmers, meat workers, technicians and veterinarians. Over the 2001-2003 period most human leptospirosis infections in New Zealand were associated with contact with cattle, either on their own or with other animals.

"Disease control in New Zealand has focused on dairy cattle and pigs, however an estimated 90 percent of beef and 10 percent of dairy herds are still not vaccinated. Exposure from deer and sheep is also high.

"Research to determine a baseline prevalence amongst people who have no occupational exposure is another important area for future work," says Dr Benschop.

Researchers believe there is significant under-estimation of the disease, particularly as it takes seven to 10 days for leptospirosis to be detected by blood tests, leading to under-reporting.

"What we can say is that leptospirosis is a serious disease of unknown magnitude, with leptospirosis incidence in New Zealanders high in comparison with other temperate developed countries."

A rise in public interest and awareness of leptospirosis follows news last year that a meat worker had died from the disease. This prompted the revival of Rural Women New Zealand fundraising for leptospirosis research. Earlier fundraising efforts by the organisation enabled the publication of more than 70 research papers by Massey University scientists in the 1970s and 1980s and the development of vaccines for cattle and pigs.

The exposure of meat workers is one of the areas requiring further research identified in the Department of Labour's report into leptospirosis last August.

"We are especially grateful to PPCS for its assistance and willingness to participate in the study," says Dr Benschop.

On 19 May Rural Women New Zealand will present a cheque for leptospirosis research to Dr Benschop at its national conference in Blenheim, following its year-long leptospirosis fundraising campaign.

Dr Jackie Benschop will present the results of the PPCS study at the New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference to be held in Wellington from 25-28 June.

Leptospirosis Data

- In New Zealand meat workers are one of the occupations most at risk of contracting leptospirosis, comprising 30 percent of notifications in 2006
- Infection can result in severe illness and in some cases death.
- During 2003-2005 leptospirosis resulted in 207 hospitalisations
- The majority of cases of leptospirosis are relatively mild and may be misdiagnosed as influenza.
- The true incidence of leptospirosis is probably many times the reported incidence.
- Leptospira species have many animal hosts including the main livestock species, wildlife and rodents.
- An NZ slaughterhouse survey in lambs found 59 percent of lines had one or more carcasses with antibodies to two of the strains of leptospirosis – hardjo-bovis or pomona.
- Leptospirosis occurs more frequently in humans in NZ than in any other country where it is notifiable.
- Beef herds exposure to hardjo-bovis and pomona is high with prevalence estimates over 50 percent for serovar hardjo-bovis.
- A survey of 110 deer farms found hardjo-bovis was present on 61 percent.
- A slaughter-house survey in lambs found 49 percent of lines had one or more carcasses with titres to either hardjo-bovis, pomona or both
- There is evidence that clinical disease in sheep and deer is emerging with morbidity and mortality in lambs and weaners.

Date: 30/04/2008

Type: Research

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

Lange's 'hold your breath' line theme of speech-writing competition

 [You can download the audio of the Oxford debate here](#)

The University is holding a speech-writing competition commemorating former Prime Minister the late David Lange, which is being supported by his widow and former speech writer, Margaret Pope.

Two prizes of \$1000 are being offered to the writers of the best speeches containing the term "hold your breath" used in Mr Lange's address at the 1985 Oxford Union debate.

Competition organiser Dr Heather Kavan, a lecturer in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, says the title was chosen because it was from the most well-known line delivered during one of Mr Lange's most celebrated speeches. "The phrase also lends itself to a variety of topics and genres, and challenges writers to build suspense," Dr Kavan says.



The televised debate on 2 March 1985 was over New Zealand's controversial decision to ban nuclear-weapons and nuclear-powered warships from its waters, which resulted the previous month in the Labour Government declining a United States request for its guided missile destroyer USS Buchanan to visit.

Mr Lange's opponent was the American evangelist Jerry Falwell, but it was a demand for an answer to a question from a young American man on the opposing panel that prompted Mr Lange to say: "And I'm going to give it to you if you hold your breath just for a moment. I can smell the uranium on it as you lean forward."

Ms Pope, who will be on the judging panel for the competition, recalls that although she wrote the notes for the Oxford address, it was very unusual for Mr Lange to say anything exactly as she wrote it.

"In fact a great deal of the Oxford Union speech I'd never heard before the night it was uttered. I would have been greatly discouraged if he had said it exactly as I wrote it because when he was on his best form he didn't need notes at all."

She is pleased the University is running a competition to encourage public speaking. "It's really been killed off by television; most politicians don't practice it now because there's no need to. In Parliament people are now allowed to read from their notes. On television you don't really need the classic techniques of speech-making because television is small-scale and the large gesture kills television performance, but it still has its place and it is an art and I'm glad the University is encouraging it because in smaller settings, like business and any form of face-to-face communications, it's still a useful tool."

The competition is open to anyone living in New Zealand and there are two categories – under 21 years old and 21 and over. Speeches should be no longer than 2000 words and will be judged purely on the words written. They will not need to be delivered. Entries closes on 7 June. Full details of the conditions of entry are available here:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/?sa6c95413n>

Date: 01/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Government Policy commentators; Video Multimedia

Working makes for a happier retirement

People over 65 but still working feel better than those who have retired, new research shows.

Initial results from the Health, Work and Retirement Longitudinal Study, carried out by researchers at Massey University's School of Psychology, have been released. The study collates information gathered from 6662 people aged between 55 and 70 regarding their transition from work to retirement and how it affects their health.

Researcher Dr Fiona Alpass says data collected from the first questionnaire indicates those still employed past the age of 65 rate their own mental health higher than those who have stopped working.

“But we don't know yet whether retirement leads to poor mental health or whether poor mental health leads to early retirement. I suspect it is a combination of both, but the data from upcoming questionnaires is needed to confirm that.”

Unease about their financial situation once retired was also a concern.

“Almost half of our working respondents thought their living standards would decline in retirement. However, it must be noted that a large percentage thought they would stay the same.”

She says most participants were also concerned about future economic trends and the effect they may have on retirement living standards.

But while the study's participants expressed concerns about retirement, a significant percentage of those still employed had done little in the way of planning for their retirement.

“Planning has mainly consisted of discussing retirement with their spouse or partner.”

Dr Alpass says the research team will carry out two-yearly questionnaires with the participating group and track the changes in their work and retirement situation and the relationship of these changes to health and well-being.

“These first findings have given us a snapshot of the current work and retirement experiences of the group. It will be interesting to see how their views change over the next few years.”

Questionnaires for the second round of data collection will be sent out later this week.

Date: 05/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



New Zealanders mostly active, happy and healthy

New Zealanders are generally happy people but most would like more leisure time and 70 per cent say lack of money prevents them from pursuing preferred activities in leisure time.

These are some of the findings from a survey of sport and leisure in New Zealand, carried out by Massey University researchers as part of the annual International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).

Leading academic institutions in 43 countries contribute to the ISSP and the New Zealand data is provided by Massey. Member countries carry out a 30-minute survey using identical questionnaires and deposit the data in central archives in Europe. From it social scientists examine similarities and differences between countries and monitor changes over time.

Professor of Marketing Phil Gendall from the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, leads the New Zealand survey. Between October and December last year, 2250 people over the age of 18 were surveyed by mail about sport and leisure activities and to gauge their health and happiness.

The survey found 85 per cent New Zealanders are involved in some sort of sport or physical activity.

Walking came out top as the most frequent sporting or physical activity, favoured by 35 per cent, but getting fit, going to the gym, cycling, jogging and playing golf or rugby are popular activities with New Zealanders.

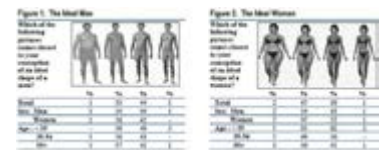
Three quarters of the population regularly play games involving their brains rather than their bodies. The most popular are word or number games like crossword puzzles and Sudoku (both 20 per cent), but video and computer games, card games, board games and gambling games are also played by between 5 and 15 per cent of people. Women, particularly older women, like word games whereas young men are more likely to play video games and computer games.

The survey of leisure and sport activities showed the most popular activities are watching television, listening to music, playing sport, getting together with friends, going shopping, spending time on the internet and reading books. Seventy per cent said they watched television or a DVD on a daily basis and 59 per cent said they listened to music every day whilst 30 per cent read books.

When it comes to body shape, the ideal woman was seen as being slimmer than the ideal man and although men were generally happy with their figures, women – particularly middle aged women – showed up as much more likely to want to lose weight.

The women tended to choose a slimmer body shape than men as ideal, and it is this perception of the ideal female shape that places pressure on them to lose weight, says Professor Gendall. Fifty-four per cent of all participants wanted to lose weight and middle aged women were the group most concerned about it.

“The results are consistent with other findings,” says Professor Gendall. “They also help to explain why dieting is more common among women than men, and why concerns about body shape among young women can lead to eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia.”



[Click her to view full-size graph](#)

Generally New Zealanders were found to be happy and healthy, says Professor Gendall. The survey shows the happiest and healthiest are married men and women; the least happy and healthy are divorced, widowed and separated men.

The full report is available here:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms//Massey%20News/2008/05/docs/sport-and-leisure.pdf>

Date: 08/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Sport and recreation



Capping week celebrations begin

More than 1300 students will graduate in Palmerston North next week during the University's major capping week - 1337 undergraduates and a record 37 PhDs.

Nine ceremonies will be held at the Regent on Broadway Theatre, with the graduation marquee in The Square hosting morning or afternoon tea and entertainment after each graduation procession.

The week starts with two ceremonies for graduates of the College of Sciences, at noon and 3pm on Monday 12 May. Guest speaker for the first ceremony is Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton. The Massey Medal will be awarded at this ceremony to Noel Johnston, a Massey alumnus and farmer who has held roles in the agriculture industry from a director of Tui Milk Products to membership of the Ministry's 2004 Flood Recovery Committee. Speaker for the second ceremony is Howard Moore, Massey alumnus, executive director of BioPacific Ventures and a commercialisation expert. Mr Moore is also guest speaker at the Alumni and Friends graduation cocktail function on Tuesday evening at The Regent.

College of Business graduands cross the stage on the second day of ceremonies, with chief executive of Toyota New Zealand Alistair Davis the speaker for the first ceremony and businesswoman Annah Stretton, recipient of the 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Award, speaker for the second ceremony. Mr Rodney Wong, chairman of Crop & Food Research, will speak at the Business After 5 function co-hosted by Massey and Vision Manawatu in the graduation marquee on Wednesday evening.

Wednesday's ceremonies see College of Education, College of Creative Arts, New Zealand School of Music and the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies graduations. Speaker for the morning ceremony is the new chief executive of Te Manawa, Steven Fox, while speaker for the College of Education ceremony is Emeritus Professor David MacKenzie, an expert in education.

Former MP Judy Keall is the guest speaker for Thursday morning's ceremony, which includes graduands from nursing, midwifery, health science, psychology, Māori visual arts and social work. Mrs Keall chaired the social services and health select committees during her time in Parliament, from 1984 to 1990 and 1993 to 2002. Graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the afternoon ceremony on Thursday 15 may will hear from Colonel Tim Keating, commander of the 2nd Land Force Group at Linton Military Camp. The Extramural Students' Society dinner will be held in the Coachman Hotel on Thursday evening, with Vice-Chancellor Designate Palmerston North MP Steve Maharey speaking, while the University's graduation dinner will take place the same evening in the marquee in The Square.

A ceremony to honour Māori graduates in all disciplines will be held on Friday at The Regent, with 68 graduates and their whanau expected at the ceremony. About half are receiving postgraduate qualifications, with three new PhDs being awarded. Speaker for the Māori ceremony is Māori Land Court Judge Craig Coxhead. Judge Coxhead is a former president of Te Hunga Roia Māori o Aotearoa, the New Zealand Māori Law Society.

Date: 08/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Maori



Why criminals cannot say 'no'

A study integrating theories from criminology and psychology has provided an in-depth explanation for the link between self-control and why people get into crime.

Dr Mei Williams (pictured), who graduated at Massey's Auckland campus recently with a PhD in psychology, says the relationship between self-control and criminal activity has been little understood in psychological terms. Findings from her study suggest possibilities for the treatment and prevention of criminal behaviour.



“While criminologists have found low self-control to be one of the strongest risk factors for crime, its lack of explanatory power has been a major concern,” she says.

In her study, she compared the level of self-control, motivation, and criminal intentions between students and prison inmates. Both groups were asked about their criminal activity over the previous 12 months, the opportunities that would encourage or prevent criminal involvement, attitudes towards crime, the expectations of important others, and the person's confidence and control over their behaviour should they wish to commit a crime.

Low self-control featured more strongly as an explanation for intentions to commit crime for prison inmates than it did for students. While self-control was an important aspect, of even greater significance for both groups was the role of significant others. This was especially related to the expectations of significant others, and the willingness of the individual to comply with those expectations. This factor appeared to be crucial as to whether a person with low self-control got involved in crime or not.

Rehabilitation programmes that help inmates develop better self-control through self-management techniques and by ensuring there are “important others” who are positive role models would have a powerful way of countering not only crime but other detrimental behaviours, such as aggression and general delinquency, she says.

Dr Williams teaches forensic psychology at Massey's School of Psychology in Auckland and has worked with the Corrections Department's psychological services in developing treatment plans for prison inmates. She believes being in prison is often a time when criminals are at a crossroads in their lives and had the opportunity to re-evaluate themselves and their attitudes.

“That's when we need to focus on self-management and finding out what things they value.”

She says inmates are no different to law-abiding citizens in that they shared the same goal of getting money and wanting to look after their family, but they had different values and behavioural patterns when it came to achieving these goals.

“They need to learn pro-social values, such as how to achieve their goals without hurting other people.”

Date: 09/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Alumni Newsletter: Issue 6, 9 May 2008

A bi-monthly newsletter for Alumni and Friends which includes essential information about upcoming Alumni events in New Zealand and around the world.

[Click here to view this issue](#)

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Date: 09/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni



Fulbright outreach tour to visit Massey

Fulbright's educational advising team will be visiting Massey University campuses in May as part of its annual outreach tour to inform students and staff about options for studying, research, and teaching in the United States. Current and comprehensive information on educational opportunities in the US will be available along with an introduction to the Fulbright programme's range of awards.



Tour dates and times are as follows:

Massey University Auckland
10:00-11:30am, Tuesday 20 May
Staff Lounge, Study Centre Building, Gate 1, East Precinct, Albany Expressway

Massey University Wellington
12:00-1:30pm, Monday 26 May
Room 7C15/17, Block 7, Entrance F, Tasman Street

Massey University Palmerston North
1:30-3:00pm, Thursday 29 May
Russell Room, Wharerata, University Avenue, Turitea

Fulbright New Zealand (originally The New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation) was established in 1948 to promote international understanding through educational and cultural exchanges between New Zealand and the United States.

For more information visit: <http://www.fulbright.org.nz>

Date: 10/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any

New doctorates at Palmerston North

Doctors of Philosophy

Maria Alejandra Ayanegui Alcerreca – PhD in Veterinary Clinical Science

Dr Alcerreca's research deals with the epidemiology and control of leptospiral infection in New Zealand farmed deer, prompted by concerns about the prevalence of leptospirosis in the national farmed deer herd. The objective was to provide the deer industry with an enhanced understanding of the epidemiology and distribution of leptospirosis, and the role of a vaccine as a possible control measure to reduce animal and human risk of disease. A survey confirmed 80 per cent of the tested herds across the country were infected.

Samuel Thomas Vaughan Alexander– PhD in Computer Science

Dr Alexander's research focused on the effects of emotion in educational software, with an initial study of interactions between students and human tutors, using facial expressions as a measure. An artificial intelligence method for adapting to student emotions in tutoring systems was developed. The mathematics tutoring system featured an animated tutoring character, "Eve", which can detect expressions of student emotion using a web-cam, and respond with her own expressions. Results showed that enhancing educational software with emotional awareness can increase student motivation and learning.

Ahmed Mohammed Rida Amerah – PhD in Nutritional Science

Dr Amerah studied the effect of feed particle size, whole wheat feeding and exogenous enzyme supplementation on broiler performance and digestive tract development. In New Zealand, medium grind is typically used for grinding grains, with the primary aim of maintaining good feed quality. The findings suggest that energy savings during feed processing could be achieved by coarse grinding of grains with no adverse effect on broiler performance. Further, cereals used in broiler diets can be ground more coarsely than the current practice.

Andre Luis Chautard Barczak– PhD in Computer Science,

Dr Barczak studied rapid object detection in computer vision. His work focused on overcoming some of the limitations of current methods used when objects are subject to geometric transformations. A new feature extraction method was developed which extends the usability of moment invariants. Advantages of the method include rapid computation and invariance to rotation, scaling and lighting conditions. His work can be applied to areas such as video processing, surveillance, optical character recognition, and image-based quality assurance.

Shirley Jean Barnett – PhD in Management

Dr Barnett's research explored guest retention in New Zealand accommodation establishments. Findings confirmed that owners and managers actively worked to retain their guests, and knew the value and importance of retention. However, an in depth case study of three establishments found that few actual retention strategies were implemented and owners and managers focused more on guest satisfaction and building relationships with customers. Dr Barnett proposed an alternative to the 'Service Profit Chain'.

Jan Elizabeth Binnie – PhD in Plant Biology

Dr Binnie investigated the presence and properties of a key enzyme, ACC oxidase, involved in ethylene biosynthesis, studying Royal Gala apple trees. Ethylene is a plant hormone which plays an important role during leaf senescence, fruit ripening and leaf and fruit abscission. Her findings may allow improvement of the quality of apple fruit, if leaf senescence can be delayed by the down-regulation of ACC oxidase in leaf tissue. This could lead to increased photosynthate and carbohydrate storage for fruit growth.

Stewart Roger Collie – PhD in Chemistry

Dr Collie's research addressed the requirement for durable, electrically conductive textile materials in the development of smart textile systems – which will become a key feature of future communication, medical and entertainment systems, if their electrical properties are durable in everyday use. He developed a method that allowed more durable inherently conductive polymers to be deposited. The research also highlighted the critical role of the substrate structure and fibre type in the composite's electrical properties.

Gillian Mary Craven – PhD in Psychology

Due to high rates of depression and anxiety in older adults, Dr Craven researched the connection between vulnerability and protective factors among older adults. Attachment was a unique predictor of decreased family support, increased friend support and increased received family support. Higher independence resulted in increased positive effect, while sensitivity predicted increased negative effect. Findings contribute to cognitive interventions for enhancing older adults' mental well-being.

Ahmed Ali Didi – PhD in Education

Dr Didi explored how an urban primary school in the Maldives dealt with school improvement. Findings suggest that three major dimensions, namely change, leadership and culture, strengthened improvement efforts. These translated into managing change, attending to specific leader actions and influencing the school's culture. This study has contributed to understanding of school improvement efforts. It highlighted aspects of school leadership that contribute more towards improvement and suggests schools should pursue sustainable change to reap long-term benefits.

Venkata Sayoji Rao Dukkipati – PhD in Animal Science

Dr Dukkipati's research focused on identifying genetic markers for immune responses to paratuberculosis vaccination in sheep. The study identified six genotypes and four alleles at six marker loci as either "probable" or "most likely" to be associated with immune responses to vaccination. Based on published data regarding the role of the host's immune responses in protection against paratuberculosis, the identified markers may be useful in selective breeding of resistant sheep. This has the potential to curtail incidence of the disease in breeding as well as commercial flocks.

Andrew Richard East – PhD in Food Technology

Dr East investigated the influence of disruptions to optimal storage conditions during commercial cool chain operations on apple physiology and quality.

To aid future prediction of fruit quality changes in commercial cool chains, mathematical models were formulated to predict ethylene production of apples in variable temperature scenarios. In contrast to breaks in temperature control, short breaks in controlled atmosphere storage while fruit remained refrigerated were found to have no effect on fruit physiology or quality. The results provide indications of the potential influence of commercial cool chain practices on fruit quality and value.

Nawal El-Gack – PhD in Development Studies

Dr El-Gack examined the experiences of participatory development projects in Sudan. Several factors were shown to influence participation: development providers' policies, the credibility and behaviour of staff, the nature and amount of resources, socio-cultural norms, power relations, communities' previous experiences, organisation, and the level of education. The research identifies factors for improving the practice: an in-depth understanding of social, economic, political and physical environments; adopting a moral-obligatory approach; and, providing communities with resources, information and skills.

Jacobus Meindert Evers – PhD in Food Technology

Fat in milk is present as tiny droplets, enveloped in a thin membrane called the milk fat globule membrane. Dr Evers investigated changes in the composition and structure of the membrane after fat globules are excreted by mammary cells. These changes have important implications for processing cow's milk and the quality of manufactured dairy products. His results suggest that the membrane of fat globules in expressed milk of different species differs in structure and composition. Other analytical techniques developed will have potential benefits in a number of fields.

Damien James Fleetwood – PhD in Genetics

Dr Fleetwood characterised genetic determinants for the production of ergot alkaloids by epichloë fungal endophytes of pasture grasses. These alkaloids are thought to deter some insects but are toxic to grazing stock. Research confirmed the role of a gene in ergot alkaloid biochemistry and provided insight into its regulation and the role of ergot alkaloids in deterring insects. This provides a foundation for understanding further biochemical steps in the ergot alkaloid pathway, the ecological role of individual alkaloid compounds, the evolution of genes and their regulation in the host plant.

Koong Hean Foo – PhD in Psychology

Dr Foo's thesis compared the characteristics, self-reported practices and experiential skills of mental health practitioners in New Zealand and Singapore. He found that practitioners in the two countries were trained similarly in Western therapies and interventions and both groups had modified these for their respective populations. Both also made extensive use of cognitive behaviour therapy and both provided valuable experiential skills in the handling of therapist self-disclosure, religious/spiritual issues and the traditional healing systems of clients.

Barrie Arthur Gordon – PhD in Education

Dr Gordon examined implementation of the Responsibility Model, an alternative approach to teaching physical education, in a New Zealand secondary school. The implementation was successful in developing positive, supportive, and well-behaved classes. The majority of students became more personally and socially responsible within the classroom. The addition of learning associated with personal and social responsibility did not disadvantage students in meeting physical education curriculum goals. This has implications for teachers considering introducing the model into their teaching.

Jeness Margaret Guthrie – PhD in Chemistry

Dr Guthrie studied laccases from a native white-rot fungus. The fungus was selected from a group of 261 native fungi based on its ability to break down pentachlorophenol, a timber preservative that has contaminated soil at many former timber-processing sites in New Zealand. Her studies show that the white-rot fungus, and its laccases have potential to be used for the clean up of contaminated sites.

Donald James Houston – PhD in Education

Dr Houston adopted a critical systems approach to exploring quality in a university. He makes a case for local intervention based on an action research/Total Systems Intervention paradigm. It documents a number of cycles of action research within a university unit, comprising data gathering and consulting with participants, analysis and reflection, structural or process intervention and evaluation. The study concludes with a reflection on the fit between the selected approach and the continuing challenge to ensure quality.

Zaker Hussain – PhD in Forestry

Dr Hussain's research focused on the environmental effects of densely planted young willow and poplar trees to reduce soil erosion and nutrient losses from grazed and fertilised pastoral lands. The findings encourage the planting of trees to reduce surface runoff, soil erosion and nutrient losses from farms. The negative effects of trees on pasture growth can be minimised through density management. The timing and intensity of livestock grazing and the use of some fertilisers need managerial skills and scientific knowledge to avoid deleterious effects on New Zealand waters.

Alexander Bryan Wilfried James – PhD in Ecology

Dr James assessed the impact of stream flow reduction on habitat and macroinvertebrate behaviour using experimental manipulations in natural and artificial stream channels. Findings showed that reduced flow altered instream habitat causing some invertebrate species to enter the water column. There was no evidence that animals moved deeper into the substrate in response to severe flow reduction. While some stream macroinvertebrates may detect and respond to reduced flows, overall, New Zealand macroinvertebrates are resilient and resistant to reduced flow conditions.

Jinsoo Jeong – PhD in Information Engineering

Dr Jeong proposed a robust method for improved performance of real-time speech enhancement and noise cancellation in a real reverberant environment. He presented the kepstrum approach, based on a fundamental theory of kepstrum analysis, and its application to a speech enhancement method. The research shows that the front-end application of this method to speech enhancement methods provides an improved performance and noise cancellation with several favourable effects.

Elizabeth Jaya – PhD in Plant Biology

Dr Jaya studied the regulation of the developmental processes of phase change and the floral transition in *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and *Metrosideros excelsa* (pohutukawa). A comparative investigation between the two species was undertaken to understand the transition to flowering and apply the knowledge to accelerate flowering in *Metrosideros excelsa*. The investigation has contributed to a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in phase change and flowering in woody species.

Michael Knapp – PhD in Plant Biology

Dr Knapp used genetic and fossil data to study the history of New Zealand beeches and kauri. He found that beeches, considered as an icon of New Zealand's Gondwanan heritage, did arrive on the archipelago only 20 - 30 million years ago, 50 million years after separation from the ancient super continent. However, kauri was identified as a potential Gondwanan relic, rejecting the hypothesis of a temporary, complete submergence of New Zealand. This increases understanding of the biogeographic history and diversity of New Zealand forests and the effects of Pleistocene climate change on flora.

Henning Koehler – PhD in Information Systems

Dr Koehler studied new methods for designing good databases. This resulted in the characterisation of designs that minimise the amount of space required for storing data, which was strongly related to the elimination of redundancy. Fast algorithms were developed to solve several problems of high computational complexity, arising during the design process. These algorithms can be used in automated design tools to facilitate the development of large database systems.

Janina Kuhn – PhD in Food Technology

Dr Kuhn investigated interactions between milk proteins and flavour compounds, and factors which influence these interactions. She also studied the in-mouth release of a flavour compound from commonly used milk protein products. Her findings contribute to knowledge of the interactions between flavour compounds and proteins. This is required to improve food flavouring and to make protein based foods, such as low-fat dairy products, more sensorily acceptable to consumers. The results also emphasize a careful choice of food

processing conditions.

Yu-hsin Kung – PhD in Veterinary Science

Dr Kung's research focused on the epidemiology of avian influenza viruses in the Hong Kong live poultry marketing system. Results showed that virus transmission dynamics differ in various subtypes of avian influenza viruses in different species of poultry, especially chicken and quail. Ms Kung's research contributed to a sound understanding of the Hong Kong live poultry market dynamics. The findings were also a significant consideration in the implementation of effective control measures by the authorities, thereby minimising the risk of disease spread and human infection.

Hui Ma – PhD in Information Systems

Dr Ma investigated a method for designing distributed databases which guarantee performance gains in executing the most relevant queries. While most existing methods adopt an ad-hoc approach, in which the optimisation of queries is neglected, Dr Ma combined standard distribution techniques with known query optimisation techniques. She showed that the problem can be separated and only very simple queries have to be dealt with. The results are likely to revive research on distributed databases and impact on the practice of future database systems.

Ahmed Ali Maniku – PhD in Education

Dr Maniku's research explored higher education quality assurance policy and practice in the Maldives from a global, national and local perspective. The thesis argues that quality assurance policy in higher education, as promoted by transnational agencies such as the World Bank, is primarily legitimated within a neoliberal discourse. His research shows that global neoliberalism has had partial effects on quality assurance policy, combined with other national and local influences. The thesis argues for a model that acknowledges the need for compliance, and seeks to assure quality of teaching and learning.

Pyseth Meas – PhD in Agricultural Engineering

Dr Meas' research focused on the optimisation of low cost rice sun-drying systems used in rural Cambodia. Experiments were conducted using a range of methods practised by rice farmers. A model of heat and moisture transport within the rice bed was developed to predict the drying time and to identify factors that affected or were correlated with the key rice quality metric. The research allows for the determination of optimum drying conditions for best rice quality, combined with the fastest practical drying rate. Results will inform practical advice to Cambodian rice farmers.

Kassim Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed – PhD in Management

Dr Mohammed examined the way employees perceive risk in a non-governmental organisation, which provides healthcare and support for people with mental, intellectual and physical disabilities. Emerging themes pointed to the interrelated link between perception and risk. The study found risk is culturally-constructed, individualistic, and subjective. For effective risk management, all perspectives should be considered. This requires a participatory system of managing risk, improving people's awareness about risk, and modifying the culture of risk.

Pitsini Mongkhonsiri – PhD in Nursing

Dr Mongkhonsiri explored concepts of self and the impact of Thai culture on the motivation of female tertiary students to engage in health-promoting behaviours. Relationships between sense of coherence, identity status and health-promoting lifestyle behaviours were explored. Further analysis revealed the strong impact of Buddhist-based traditions and common societal values on participants' sense of self and health-related behaviours. Strategies to promote healthy behaviours in Thai tertiary-educated women need to take these cultural influences into account.

Noorzaid Bin Muhamad – PhD in Physiology

Dr Noorzaid investigated the enzymes involved in nitrogen metabolism in abomasal parasites of sheep. Increasing resistance to chemical drenches by parasites has led to the need to identify new targets for worm control. Kinetic properties of key enzymes were studied. The most important findings were the identification of three enzymes in the parasites: creatinase, aspartase and glutamate synthase. These enzymes are not believed to be expressed in the sheep host or other mammals, making them possible candidates for developing novel therapies.

Robert Ian Murray – PhD in Agricultural Engineering

Dr Murray's research focused on variable rate application technology in the New Zealand aerial topdressing industry. A case for technology assisted fertiliser application was developed. This involved investigating the field performance of conventional and enhanced flow control systems and the effect of variable rate application on hill country pasture production. The research showed that automating the fertiliser flow control system can reduce off-target fertiliser application. Increased profitability should result, based on the potential pasture production outputs of the farmland.

Amsha Nahid – PhD in Bioprocess Engineering

Dr Nahid focused on mathematically modelling the freezing and thawing behaviour of butter products. Studies showed that water in butter supercools many degrees below its initial freezing point before freezing. The release of latent heat was observed as a temperature rebound, controlled as much by the rate of crystallisation of water in each droplet as by the rate of heat transfer. Various models were developed and applied successfully. These have been used by the project sponsor (Fonterra) to help assess the impact of production and distribution practises on butter quality.

Simon Joseph Nash – PhD in Social Policy

Dr Nash considered the problem of ensuring that citizens have meaningful opportunities to participate in local government environmental planning and decision-making. The research showed that there is considerable potential to reduce conflicts and to better integrate citizens' agendas when actors deliberate and seek compromises based on common understandings of one another's values and preferences. The thesis argues that councils should foster deliberative perspectives among actors and that this will contribute to more democratically legitimate and durable decision-making.

Ernest Laryea Okorley – PhD in Agricultural and Horticultural Systems and Management

Dr Okorley identified factors critical for improving a decentralised agricultural extension. Using a Ghanaian case study of a government extension organisation, his study emphasised the importance of external and internal factors, including the political will to decentralise, and a clear legal framework. Not previously reported included the need to develop a needs-based programme, expand the extension service focus, and use needs-based groups in service delivery. Findings have implications for theory development to guide decentralised agricultural extension services seeking to improve performance.

Te Hereripine Sarah-Jane Elizabeth Paine – PhD in Public Health

Dr Paine's research focused on whether differences in sleep timing are related to differences in the circadian biological clock or driven by societal demands, such as work patterns and family commitments. It found that morning-type people slept earlier and had an earlier biological clock, compared to evening types. Both groups used the weekend to catch up on their sleep, although this practice was more evident for evening types. Using a kaupapa Māori framework, Dr Paine also investigated Māori hopes and concerns for genetic research in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Kalansooriyage Chandrathilaka Kalyani Perera – PhD in Veterinary Pathology

The bacterium *Salmonella* Brandenburg is a major cause of abortions in South Island sheep. This project aimed to identify immunogenic proteins for their usefulness in diagnostic tests and vaccines. An assay was developed to detect serum antibodies against the phase-1 flagellin gene *FliC* in naturally infected sheep and a further assay targeted four genes, including phase-1 *FliC*, for the identification of *S. Brandenburg* in pure cultures. The assay correctly identified the bacterium, suggesting it may also be a useful tool in the surveillance of this pathogen.

Dipti Wilhelmina Pitta – PhD in Animal Science

Dr Pitta examined the use of willow browse to improve the productive and reproductive performance of ewes under drought conditions. Summer/autumn droughts are a regular feature of East Coast regions, with predicted severity in the future. Ewes mated on willow fodder blocks and ewes grazing low quality drought pasture during mating were compared on reproductive rate. Ewes grazing willow fodder blocks had a consistent increase in reproductive rate and better maintained live weight compared to control ewes grazing low quality pastures.

Raewyn Carol Poulsen – PhD in Biochemistry

Dr Poulsen studied the effects of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFAs) on bone in models of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Inflammation is a major contributor to the development of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Results showed that n-3 LCPUFA docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) significantly protected against bone loss. DHA combined with the oestrogen used in Hormone Replacement Therapy had significantly greater protective effects than either treatment alone. The research findings may have implications for the prevention and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis.

Yvan Richard – PhD in Ecology

Dr Richard proposed an integrated approach for understanding the effects of habitat fragmentation on species distribution and persistence. He applied this approach to robins in forest remnants in the central North Island. Findings showed that habitat quality was not affected by forest fragmentation. However, the distribution of robins was strongly affected by isolation of remnants. This research highlights the need for the consideration of habitat isolation and species dispersal abilities in New Zealand conservation strategies.

Nicholas Roskruge – PhD in Soil Science

Dr Roskruge focused on mātauranga Māori, aligned to horticulture and pedology, as the basis of an assessment model or tool for the future economic development of Māori land resources. The crux of the cultural assessment

tool is its ability to apply a cultural layer drawn from a body of knowledge, not previously included in decision models relative to land utility in New Zealand. The thesis discusses the beneficial use of the model by Māori and how it can be continuously refined to meet the needs of Māori land owners.

Brett Nicholas Ryland – PhD in Mathematical Physics

Multisymplectic integration is a developing field of numerical integration, suited to the simulation of wave-like phenomena occurring in such areas as meteorology and quantum mechanics. Dr Ryland researched the construction of the integrators by applying Gaussian Runge-Kutta or partitioned Runge-Kutta discretisation to a multi-Hamiltonian, partial, differential equation. He showed that application of one of the popular Gaussian Runge-Kutta methods, in general, does not lead to a well-defined integrator. The results have important implications for the numerical simulation of systems exhibiting wave-like phenomena.

Sanjay Saikia – PhD In Biochemistry

Dr Saikia studied the biosynthesis of paxilline, a fungal metabolite that belongs to a family of compounds called indole-diterpenes. This group of compounds is best known for their neurotoxic effects on mammals, causing syndromes such as ryegrass staggers in sheep and cattle. There is considerable interest in their pharmacological potential. For the first time, this research has validated the steps involved in indole-diterpene biosynthesis, which were speculative until now.

Arne Schwelm – PhD in Molecular Bioscience

Dr Schwelm studied the plant-pathogen system of the fungus *Dothistroma septosporum* and pine. The study focused on genes required for synthesis of the mycotoxin dothistromin, produced by the fungus, thought to be a major factor in pine needle blight disease.

While the potential for it to have an essential role in pine needle blight disease was ruled out, the thesis provides new hypotheses about the role of dothistromin in competition between *D. septosporum* and other microorganisms in the forest environment.

Richard Seaton – PhD In Zoology

Dr Seaton's research established that if the management of commercial pine plantations is suitable, this habitat can support relatively high densities of New Zealand falcon. Further, commercial pine plantations have a significant role to play in the New Zealand falcon's conservation. Findings showed that production landscapes in New Zealand should not be ruled out as important habitats for the conservation of threatened species and the enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.

Yongjin Shang – PhD in Plant Biology

Dr Shang studied the molecular mechanism controlling the formation of coloured stripes in snapdragon flowers. These flowers proved a useful model for the broader question of how a gene can be differentially regulated across a population of similar cells. A method was developed to quickly check whether isolated genes could be expressed in the flower petals of tobacco and petunia. Mr Shang also detected a gene that may control the production of yellow pigments in snapdragon flowers.

Gillian Ray Skyrme – PhD in Linguistics and Second Language Teaching

Dr Skyrme investigated the experiences of Chinese undergraduate students studying business and information sciences in a New Zealand university. She found that students' preparations focused on the English language dimension rather than other requirements of the experience. This left them subject to bewilderment and threatened their sense of competence during the early period of their study. She concludes that entry criteria should include specific university preparation, and suggests measures by which the university might improve the experience for such students.

Avril Janis Thesing (nee Winks) – PhD in Education

This research looks at the nature of support for mothers in early childhood centres, at a time when disruption of networks has occurred. The study showed support to be a product of mothers' own activity in building relationships and contributing to their centre community. Informal systems were the most effective. This research will help teachers develop more collaborative systems to facilitate support for mothers and ensure partnerships that make better use of their services to the mutual benefit of early childhood centre communities.

Yvonne Peeyee Ting – PhD in Chemistry

Dr Ting focused on the structuring and functionalisation of titania. The mode of dye binding to titania and the stability of adsorbed dyes was investigated. The research has shown that while dyes are adsorbed and intimately associated with titania, the mode of dye binding is different on a dry electrode than upon dispersed and solvated titania. The knowledge gained on nanostructuring titania and dye binding will speed the development of self-assembled titania arrays formed using small molecular linkers.

Simone Megan Titus – PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology

Dr Titus addressed the need to determine the safety of pork chops produced in New Zealand. She developed a

novel suite of mathematical models that described and evaluated the likelihood that three potentially destructive bacteria were present on chops on sale. She also investigated methods to reduce these pathogen numbers. The models predicted distributions of bacteria concentrations and prevalence, and the process facilitated greater understanding of pathogen dynamics in the pork food chain. These models can be adapted for use by government agencies.

Edmundo de Silva Soares Viegas – PhD in Agricultural Engineering

Dr Viegas examined sustainable crop production technologies in East Timor. Case studies in East Timor and New Zealand, provided a better understanding of tillage and no-tillage effects on soil structure and crop production. This work has particular relevance to East Timor where collaborative efforts, led by the Government, are attempting to develop its subsistence agriculture sector. To be sustainable, a selective agricultural mechanization is proposed, based primarily on local knowledge and a sound use of fragile soil and scarce water resources.

Angela Rosamund Ward – PhD in Education

Dr Ward's research explored the nature of friendships and social relationships of secondary school pupils with physical disabilities. She concluded that there are personal and socio-ecological factors that impact on their social experiences. The findings suggest the need for teachers to examine values, attitudes, knowledge and pedagogy in the context of their schools and to adopt a multi-level approach to address the academic and social needs of all pupils.

Kirsten Leila Wild – PhD in Development Studies

Dr Wild's research explored the long-term impact of development scholarship schemes on women's lives. She examined the experiences of women from developing nations who have completed tertiary training in New Zealand through a scholarship scheme funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development. She found that opportunities provided by this scheme have translated into a number of key benefits for participants, including new opportunities to represent their organisations at home and abroad.

Bronwyn Louise Wildbore – PhD in Decision Science

Dr Wildbore studied the two-stage capacitated plant location problem, which is part of an important class of mixed-integer linear programming models. A new mathematical formulation and approach allowed quality solutions within a relatively short computational time. Dr Wildbore's research has applications for organisations across many business sectors including the dairy industry, appliance manufacturing, forestry and telecommunications.

Susan Lillian Williams – PhD in English

Dr William's thesis focuses on the work of five playwrights: Bruce Mason, James K. Baxter, Mervyn Thompson, Renée and Robert Lord. All set out to identify an authentic New Zealand "voice" and brought about a metamorphosis in the nature of drama in New Zealand, regarded as on 'the margin' in relation to the dominant culture of the coloniser. By setting plays in their birth country, highlighting New Zealand social issues and persuading audiences that plays about this country are worth watching, they have given new life to "the inner margin": the culture of New Zealand.

Doctor of Education

Richard Anthony Dowden

Dr Dowden investigated the origins and development of curriculum integration, predominately in Britain and the United States; to document New Zealand schools' historical adoption and use of curriculum integration and variants; and to examine its suitability as a preferred direction for schooling of early adolescents.

A key conclusion is that the integrative curriculum model developed by James Beane, in the tradition of John Dewey, is best justified educationally, developmentally and ethically. It builds on and extends pioneering curriculum work based principally on Dewey's ideas.

Date: 12/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North



Graduation week kicks off under blue skies in Palmerston North

Close to 1400 students will graduate in a week of ceremonies that started at noon today in fine weather.

Guest speakers including politicians, business leaders and a Māori Land Court judge will address the capping ceremonies, which are the highlight of the academic year.

Among the graduates are a record 37 PhDs who will hold the title doctor and be invited to join the University Chancellor, members of Council, other officers of the University and staff on stage at the Regent on Broadway Theatre after being capped.

Nine ceremonies will be held - two a day until Thursday - with a ceremony to honour Māori graduates on Friday morning. Each will be followed by a procession along Broadway Ave to Massey marquees in The Square.

The first two ceremonies were for graduates of the College of Sciences. Tomorrow, College of Business graduates cross the stage and Wednesday's ceremonies see College of Education, College of Creative Arts, New Zealand School of Music and the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies graduations.

Thursday's ceremonies include nursing, midwifery, health science, psychology, Maori visual arts and social work graduates from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Extramural Students' Society dinner will be held in the Coachman Hotel on Thursday evening, with Vice-Chancellor Designate Palmerston North MP Steve Maharey speaking, while the University's graduation dinner will take place the same evening in the marquee in The Square.

A ceremony to honour Maori graduates in all disciplines will be held on Friday at The Regent, with 68 graduates and their whanau expected at the ceremony. About half are receiving postgraduate qualifications, with three new PhDs being awarded. Speaker for the Maori ceremony is Maori Land Court Judge Craig Coxhead. Judge Coxhead is a former president of Te Hunga Roia Maori o Aotearoa, the New Zealand Maori Law Society.

Date: 12/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

Massey website *NetGuide* finalist

Massey's website www.massey.ac.nz was a finalist in the 2008 People's Choice NetGuide Web Awards, in the education category. The *NetGuide* awards are decided by online voting and this year more than 70,000 votes were cast.

Acting director of marketing Sarah Vining says this is the first time the Massey website has been a finalist in the NetGuide awards, which are highly regarded among the online industry and a strong indicator of how well a website is performing.

"The University's website has undergone a radical redesign over the last two years with a focus on usability and consistency of design and information, which included the migration of much of the site into a content management system.

"It was especially pleasing that these awards are voted for by users of the site, this is recognition that the changes implemented have vastly improved the experience for visitors to our site, certainly we are now headed in the right direction with a number of new enhancements currently under development to be introduced later in the year."

The University's website received approximately 7.5 million visitors and more than 35 million page impressions in the last year.

Date: 12/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any

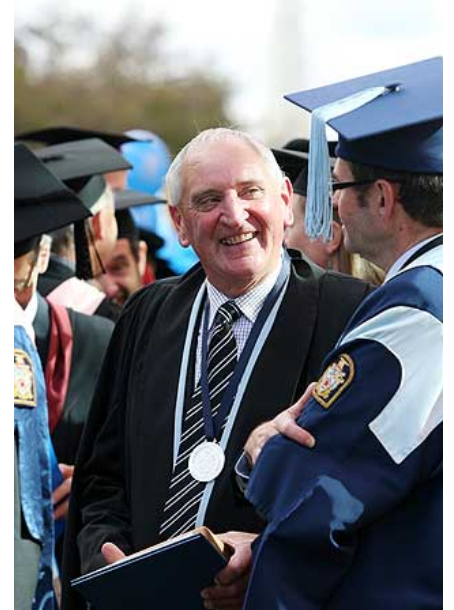


'Gumboot' farmer honoured with Massey Medal

Services to the dairy industry and supporting the training of agricultural and veterinary students have earned Opiki farmer Noel Johnston a Massey University Medal.

Mr Johnston (pictured, right, with Massey University Registrar Stuart Morriss) was presented with the award at the first of this afternoon's graduation ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North.

The ceremony saw graduates in sciences receive their degrees and diplomas, including many agriculture graduates and 72 Bachelors of Veterinary Science. Vet lecturer and large animal vet services manager Jenny Weston read the citation for Mr Johnston.



“Noel is a local lad who obtained his Diploma in Agriculture from Massey University in 1965,” Ms Weston said. He took over his father's dairy farm in Newbury; this had been put together by his father Don through the buying and selling of cull dairy cows. After only nine years in the industry, Noel was elected as a director of Manawatu Milk Producers. This company then merged with Tui Milk Products, then Kiwi Milk Ltd and ultimately Fonterra for which he is a supplier representative. This encompasses 32 years of service and governance of the dairy industry at both a local and a national level.”

Ms Weston said that the Manawatu Milk producers plant, then on Gillespies Line, was one of the first in New Zealand to monitor somatic cell count, an innovative move for the industry at the time and one Mr Johnston had pushed for.

Over the years Mr Johnston's farm grew by acquisition, with Mr Johnston also finding time to instigate the Manawatu dairy beef discussion group. From 1980 to 2002 Mr Johnston was a committee member organising the Massey dairy farmers' Conference, and served as chairman three times.

“One of the keys to its success was the presence of ‘gumboot’ farmers on the conference advisory committee and Noel fulfilled this task admirably,” Ms Weston said. “The Massey Dairy Farmers' Conference and its successor have been critical in expanding Massey's reputation for excellence in agriculture at an applied and practical level.”

Mr Johnston was also involved in the Livestock Improvement Corporation, the regional council, the New Zealand Grasslands Trust and the Ellett Agricultural Research trust.

“The farm at Kopane backs on to the Oroua River and in recent times has flooded, most notably in 2004. Despite his farm being one of those affected, Noel served on the Ministry of Agriculture Flood Recovery Committee. Other services to the community included service on the board of trustees for Palmerston North Boys' High School and a commitment to High School Old Boys Rugby.

The citation also paid tribute to Mr Johnston's support for Massey students and staff.

“Three generations of Johnstons have been clients of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Farm Services Clinic ... Noel has always seen the benefit of animal health in preventing disease, maximising production and improving genetic gain.

“Although much of Noel's farming career has shown him to be innovative and a leader in the industry, when it matters Noel is still ‘old school’. When vets and students arrive to work in a grazing block, Noel will always have a 20-litre drum of water, soap in a dish – usually lavender scented now there is a predominance of female students – a hand-brush and clean towel.”

Mr Johnston was joined at the ceremony by his wife Cec, who, Ms Weston said, had always been an integral part of the farm team. The Massey Medal is an honorary award to acknowledge special service both to the University and the community, with nomination made by the Vice-Chancellor and approved by the Committee for Honorary Awards and the University council.

Guest speaker at the morning ceremony was Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton (pictured, left), Mr Anderton



spoke of innovators including Bill Hamilton and William Goodfellow, and of the opportunity he saw in the New Zealand Fast Forward fund, which would unleash more science and innovation in pastoral and food industries.

“I believe that some of the young scientists graduating here today can go on from here with the ambition of scaling world-class scientific mountains because of that fund,” Mr Anderton said. “It offers our best shot at a step change in the New Zealand economy. From research into better, tastier, cleaner, safer food, to more efficient and sustainable processing and production...this is our competitive advantage, our chance to achieve breakthroughs.

“You are graduating this year at a time of almost unprecedented opportunity for young New Zealanders. If you had graduated in the ‘60s, you would have entered the workforce as it entered decades of long-term relative decline. If you had graduated in the eighties, you would have graduated just as we entered a long stretch of pain in New Zealand.

“Graduating today, you are entering a workforce that has grown by a thousand jobs a week, every week, for eight years, and an economy that has not grown so much and for so long since the second world war. You are graduating at a time when skills and knowledge have never been so heavily in demand,” Mr Anderton said.

“There are exciting and inspiring opportunities ahead.”

The second science ceremony, held this afternoon, saw 288 undergraduates cross the stage, and 19 PhDs. Speaker for this ceremony was Howard Moore, who graduated from Massey University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Food Technology and went on to found several bio-tech companies. Mr Moore is now chairman of ANZODE, a United States-based company formed to commercialise battery technology research initiated at Massey.

Mr Moore told the graduates of science and technology that their fields had played a significant role in sustaining the New Zealand economy.

“Massey University and the Palmerston North science community epitomise that contribution, particularly our pastoral and food industries. But in the 21st century I believe we should look to science and technology for an even greater contribution to our scientific growth.”

Mr Moore said he believed three big ideas – the role of entrepreneurship, the need for patenting to protect intellectual property and the investment that venture capital provides – could all contribute to New Zealand increasing its investment in research and development and achieving much greater economic growth.

“And also, hopefully, making those of you who are prepared to seize the opportunity of becoming entrepreneurs, very wealthy.”

Graduation continues this week with two ceremonies for the College of Business tomorrow, at 9.30am and 2.30pm. An Alumni and Friends cocktail function will take place tomorrow evening from 4.30pm at The Regent. Education and arts graduands will attend ceremonies on Wednesday, with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences graduations taking place on Thursday. On Friday a ceremony will be held at The Regent to honour Maori graduates.

Date: 12/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)

Today's graduates will shape the future 'knowledge society'

More than half of today's business graduates would end up in careers not yet invented and most will have a portfolio of careers, Toyota New Zealand's chief executive Alistair Davis said.

Mr Davis was guest speaker at the first of the two College of Business graduation ceremonies in Palmerston North where more than 300 students graduated this week.

He said the so-called third wave now shaping the future 'knowledge society' is still a work in progress and that many of the graduates would have a significant influence on "how this wave plays out and on the shape of the future knowledge society."

New Zealand can be a global player in shaping the knowledge society, he said, because the business community is already accustomed to operating successfully in the sort of turbulent environment that changing times will bring.

"We have one of the most open, de-regulated business environments in the world. A successful business in New Zealand has to be world class to survive and prosper. A job in New Zealand gives you a breadth of experience better than you will find anywhere in the world.

"I can tell you that Toyota in New Zealand would rather hire people with local experience than international experience – we know the local experience will be grounded in markets, customers, competition and in reality. "

One graduate who has already taken his degree across the Tasman flew in from Sydney with his parents – fresh from celebrating his 21st birthday – to attend the ceremony and catch up with friends. Although Kepa Mewett was born in Queensland and raised in Australia, he was drawn to New Zealand by his Maori heritage.



His father Malcolm is in the mining industry and the family was frequently relocated around Australia. In his teens Kepa decided to continue his education in New Zealand and left home in Australia to board at Longburn College in the Manawatu before embarking on his degree at Massey University.

Kepa graduated with a double major in finance and international business and now has a job in Sydney as an investment consultant with ING Australia. Kepa is short for Te Keepatakaaorangi and his affiliations are Te Aupouri/Ngati Porou. He is pictured with his parents Heather and Malcolm Mewett at the post-graduation celebrations.

Graduation with a Masters of Management (with Distinction in Communication Management), marked the end of five years of weekend study for Cindy Davies who flew up from Dunedin with her mother Glenys Slett and daughter Donica Davies.



Cindy is the general manager of Radio Works in Otago and says she chose to study through Massey because she needed to be an extramural student alongside motherhood and fulltime work .

"Extramural study has been a great experience. The lecturers have been fantastic – always at the end of the phone when I needed help."

Fashion Industry success story Annah Stretton addressed the second of the graduation ceremonies. Although she is best known as the driving force behind one of the country's top fashion labels for women, she says it is her accounting degree that has given her the skills and knowledge that underpin her success.

"Almost daily I am mentoring businesses that have reached a crisis point simply because they have failed to apply or do not have the training to apply a framework of learnt business principles," she said.

Accounting degree notwithstanding, she said real success came to her once she followed her true passion. "I challenge you to align your passion with the application of your skills through dedication and determination."

Date: 13/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; Extramural; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North





Celebrating Māori achievement at Massey

Māori student success, particularly at postgraduate level, has increased significantly in the 20 years that Massey University has been formally celebrating Māori student achievement.

The 20th annual ceremony to honour Māori graduates at the Palmerston North campus will be held in the Regent on Broadway Theatre on Friday 16 May.

“The fact that about half of this year's graduates have achieved postgraduate qualifications, including three graduating with doctorates in arts, business and science, is testament to the long-term investment Massey University has made to support and encourage Māori professionals to continue with their study to a higher level,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Mason Durie (pictured).

Just over 300 Māori students from Massey's three campuses, Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington, will graduate this year. Of those, 68 students will take part in the ceremony at Palmerston North.

“The ceremony gives students the chance to acknowledge the contribution and support they have received from their whānau and friends to complete their degrees,” says Professor Durie, who is also acting Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“Māori representation across all disciplines and at all levels has grown significantly since the first ceremony in 1988, with a growing number of students studying business, sciences, and arts,” says Professor Durie.

“This year graduates have attained a range of qualifications in business, education, humanities, social sciences and sciences. There are also a significant number of graduates from the Māori Visual Arts programme and the Te Rau Puawai, Māori Mental Health Workforce Development programme.”

The make-up of Māori students at Massey is distinctive, with the average age of students 32 years. This year there are about 11 graduates aged over 60.

A graduation ceremony for Māori students at Massey's Wellington campus will be held on 27 May. The ceremony for Māori students at Massey's Auckland campus was held last week.

Selected student profiles:

Royna Fifield (Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Maniapoto) is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English. In the 2007 Pikihiua Awards for Maori Writers she was the winner of the Huia Publishers Short Story Award for best short story in English. This year she is completing postgraduate studies in English.

Tracy Petersen (Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Pikiahu Waewae) is graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours Second Class (Div II) in Engineering and Industrial Management. After working on a project as part of his degree, he achieved a significant consultancy with Contact Energy and has since secured a position at Fielding based company, Fibreglass Development Limited project managing research and development.

Yvette McCausland-Durie (Ngati Awa, Nga Puhi) is graduating with a Master of Education Second Class Honours (Div I). She is head coach of the New Zealand Under 21 netball team and In the 2007 Maori Sports Awards she was the winner of the Maori Sports Coach of the Year. She is also the project manager for Tu Toa, a secondary school educational initiative established in 2005, that seeks to build excellence in sport and education within a Maori context.

Hinurewa Poutu, (Ngati Rangi, Te Ati Haunui a Paparangi, Ngati Maniapoto) is graduating with a Master of Philosophy in Maori Studies. She is a graduate of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Mana Tamariki and signals the continuing academic achievement of Kura Kaupapa graduates at university.

Te Harawira Turoa Haronga (Ngati Kahungunu) at 74 years old is graduating with a Master of Social Work (Applied). He is an example of maintaining a continuing interest in tertiary education. Turoa gained a Certificate in Social and Community Work in 1995 and in 2000 completed a Bachelor of Art in Social Science. This year he is graduating with a Masters degree and is a life member of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Work.

Tania Anne Lewis-Rickard (Ngati Kahungunu, Tuhoe) and Tawhai William Rickard (Ngati Porou) a husband and wife graduating in the Maori Visual Arts programme.

Te Oru Mac O'Shea Mikaere, graduating with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, is the grandson of Te Maharani Jacob one of the first Maori veterinary surgeons.

Date: 13/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Maori; Palmerston North



Young journalism graduates feature in Qantas awards

Massey journalism graduates features among the winners and finalists for junior print journalists at this year's Qantas Media Awards, announced on Friday.

Ian Steward won the junior reporter award, while Jenny Macintyre won the junior newspaper feature-writer award and Kiran Chug was a finalist for the same award.

All three students are graduates of the 2006 Graduate Diploma of Journalism programme. Mr Steward now works at The Press, Ms Macintyre works at the Sunday Star-Times and Ms Chug is at The Nelson Mail.

Massey students were also two of the four finalists for the student print journalism award. Pulp magazine, edited by another 2006 graduate, Josie Steenhardt, was a finalist in the best magazine cover.

Massey Journalism head Dr Grant Hannis says it was thrilling to see relatively new graduates perform so well in the industry. "The Graduate Diploma in Journalism programme is a highly-regarded, vocationally-oriented programme," Dr Hannis says.

"We work closely with industry to ensure our graduates have the skills the publishers and broadcasters require. This philosophy means we attract high-quality students who go on to secure great jobs."

The graduates' Qantas success builds on the achievements they enjoyed for their student work. Last year, Ms Macintyre won the Qantas student print-journalism prize and in 2006 Ms Chug won Fairfax's Alex Veysey Memorial Prize, awarded to the student who best lives up to the late Mr Veysey's classic journalistic values.

Date: 13/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

Top international playwright found close to home

The judge of Massey University's international playwriting competition didn't have to look far to find a winner. David Collins, a graduate of the School of English and Media Studies, works just across campus at the library.

His play *The Thought Experiment* beat out 33 others in the inaugural competition, winning \$1000 and the chance to have the one-act play produced at the Festival of New Arts in October. The theme of the competition was "New World", but Mr Collins says the new world of his play is not a physical destination.

"The play involves a man undergoing counselling and working through his past infidelity. So the new world is not a physical place as such, but rather a psychological place he reaches."

The play has two main actors, but, like Greek tragedy, there's a three-person chorus, which Mr Collins says becomes more involved as the play progresses.

The play is one of the first he's written, having been an actor in local productions over the past five years.

"I wanted a new challenge and thought writing would give me that. Having workshopped other people's work over the years, I'm looking forward to seeing how a director will produce my work, given that the script doesn't have many stage directions."

Mr Collins says his love of theatre began while studying expressive arts at Massey.

"I took a paper or two to begin while studying science and technology. If not for discovering the English and Media Studies expressive arts papers, I doubt I would have ever found a love for acting, theatre and, yes – writing."

Playwright Stuart Hoar judged the competition and says he was struck by the range of subjects and the diversity of the plays that he read.

"David Collins' play is an interesting and evocative drama, well written, and experimental in the sense of being a dramatic thought experiment."

The top six plays in the competition will be staged at the Festival of New Arts in October. Expressive arts lecturer Dr Angie Farrow is the festival's artistic director and says the competition has already raised the stakes in terms of community involvement.

"Students as well as the wider Palmerston North community are getting behind the event. Massey continues to be the main sponsor of the Festival of New Arts and it is fitting that the university should be supporting new creative initiatives and emerging artists in this way."

The competition attracted entries from around the world, including Britain and Australia.

The Festival of New Arts is a showcase for original works in all disciplines and will be staging the competition winners along with other art works. It will be held at various venues throughout the city including the Dark Room at Centrepoint Theatre, The City Library, Square Edge, The Globe Theatre and Massey University.

Date: 13/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Disease resistant sheep the focus of PhD thesis

The ability to breed sheep resistant to paratuberculosis, a chronic disease which leads to production loss, is the goal of PhD student Rao Dukkupati. The disease, while not fatal, makes sheep lose weight and produce less wool.

Studies estimate around 70 per cent of New Zealand's 40 million sheep are infected with the disease, costing the industry about \$10 million a year.

Dr Dukkupati, who graduated yesterday, identified genetic markers for immune responses to paratuberculosis vaccination in 900 merino sheep in Australia.

Six genotypes and four alleles at six marker loci were found to be either "probably" or "most likely" to be associated with immune responses to vaccination, he says.

"The presence of a particular marker genotype or allele may lead to a lower or higher response to the vaccine. It is likely that they will behave similarly to the natural disease."

Identifying the markers could lead to the selective breeding of disease resistant animals.

"These animals would be bred exclusively to improve genetic resistance to paratuberculosis."

Dr Dukkupati came to Massey from India in 2002 and completed his PhD at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biological Sciences last year. His wife, Kavitha Kongara, is also working on her doctoral thesis in clinical veterinary science at Massey.

The couple have become New Zealand citizens and Dr Dukkupati is now employed at the institute as a researcher.

"We were hoping to graduate at the same time, however she will defend her thesis later this month and graduate at the next ceremony," he says.

"I'm working now on a sub-vaccine which will work against paratuberculosis. At the moment there are a number of commercial vaccines, but none protect the animals completely."

Date: 13/05/2008

Type: Research

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





Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business, Professor Larry Rose with Toyota New Zealand chief executive Alistair Davis, Massey's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sandi Shillington and chairman of Crop and Food Research Ltd, Rodney Wong at the Graduation Business Link Function in Palmerston North on Wednesday night.

Toyota wins Business Community Award

Toyota New Zealand is the recipient of this year's Business Community Award, jointly awarded by Massey University and Vision Manawatu.

The Business Community Award was presented to Toyota New Zealand by Massey University's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North), Dr Sandi Shillington. As well as being the second most admired company in the world, Toyota demonstrates a high level of commitment to the local communities in which it operates, Dr Shillington said.

With its head office in Palmerston North, Toyota has a strong presence in the Manawatu region and many connections to the community, to commerce and to the University. For leadership in environmental issues, Toyota was the Gold award winner in the 2007 Corporate Social and Environmental Survey conducted annually by the University's Centre for Business and Sustainable Development.

Since 2001 the company has supported Clean Up New Zealand week by tidying roads around its head office in Palmerston North and by sending staff into the community to assist with neighbourhood clean up initiatives.

The award was presented at the Graduation Business Link function, an event hosted by Massey University, Vision Manawatu and the Manawatu Chamber of Commerce.

Palmerston North's civic and business leaders meet with University staff at the annual event that links town and gown during Massey's major graduation week each May. The event is held in the Graduation Marquee erected in The Square for the celebrations that follow each of the eight ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway Theatre.

Graduation Business Link has grown each year in popularity and profile, attracting more than 150 people from many sectors of the Manawatu.

Past recipients of the Business Community Award include Tim Mordaunt (Property Brokers), Linton Army Camp (for services during the 2004 floods), Pat Higgins (Higgins Group), Richard Garland (New Zealand Pharmaceuticals) and Simon Barnett (OBO sport and hockey gear).



Jane Marquand (left) and Oleene Wells from De Fresno flower shop celebrating their win for best graduation week shop window with the chairman of City Centre Marketing, Bryan Gaskin.

Date: 14/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

PR practical makes the cut for charity

There were a few yelps but no tears as aspiring politicians, students, staff and others allowed themselves to be de-haired for charity on the Palmerston North campus today.

The Labour and National party candidates for the Palmerston North seat about to be vacated by Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey were the first to get the treatment. National's Malcolm Plimmer had his head shaved by Massey Bachelor of Communication students, who organised the fundraiser as part of public relations project for their course.

"Leave a little bit on the side," suggest Karl Perigo from ZM radio station, who acted as compere for the event. "He gets enough on the side as it is," one of the wags in the audience called out.

Afterwards Mr Plimmer reckoned the clean-cut look, combined with his trendy jeans, should help him attract the youth vote in the Palmerston North electorate. "It's all a good cause, good fun," he said.

Labour candidate Iain Lees-Galloway, the Massey University Students Association president in 2005, perhaps did not find it quite so much fun. He grimaced as the students went to work with waxing strips on his lower legs.

Then he was ordered into the ZM "Black Thunder" vehicle to take off his trousers and returned, wrapped in a towel, to have his thighs done as well.

Mr Perigo, who had boldly claimed it got easier "as they go higher", was soon being subjected to the same treatment and took it a little less stoically than Mr Lees-Galloway.

The fundraising, for Arohanui Hospice in Palmerston North, was part of the public relations practice paper run by lecturer Kane Hopkins from the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing in the College of Business.

The second-years students are split into six groups of four who each have to devise, publicise and run an event.

Allyssa Murphy, Kristin Hutchings, Paula Case and Emily Rogers say they were told who they would be working with and did not know each other particularly well beforehand. "We were a bit apprehensive about group work but we've worked together really well," said Ms Murphy.

"We came up with the idea of shaving and waxing and we knew we needed pull to make it work so we approached the two candidates from Labour and National and they were really keen."

Mr Lees-Galloway and Mr Plimmer were happy to pose together for the cameras afterwards. "Steve and I campaigned together last time and there was no animosity," Mr Plimmer said.

Mr Lees-Galloway reckoned the waxing was not as painful as he expected and was worth it for a good cause. He commended the students for their organisation and communications. "They've done a very good job of this project and generating publicity."

Caption: Shaved and waxed – National's Malcolm Plimmer (left) and Labour's Iain Lees-Galloway.

Date: 14/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Election/Politics; Palmerston North





Graduation a family affair

Jacqueline Burne and daughter Stephanie made graduation a family affair this week, both crossing the stage to receive their degrees at the University's capping ceremonies in Palmerston North.

Miss Burne graduated with a BBS double major in finance and business at the first of two College of Business graduations on Tuesday. Mrs Burne graduated with a Master of Education in Adult Education at the first College of Education ceremony on Wednesday. Mrs Burne is a University staff member, working at the Student Learning Centre.

The family had a celebration dinner planned for Wednesday night, with many family members getting together for the occasion.

Date: 14/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Education; Extramural; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Uni News



Bachelors of Education celebrate in the graduation marquee in The Square. From left are Heather Oliver, 'Ana Latu Muli, Barbara Stuckey, Denise Rawlinson and Anne Garvey.

Artists and educators called upon to guide community.

Communities need sustained commitment and innovation to tackle the challenges they face, Te Manawa Museums Trust Chief Executive Steven Fox told this morning's education and creative arts graduates.

"As educators, artists, indeed all qualifications of the academy, you are in a position to teach, to explore and to guide a community's development. You are the essential link for us to really succeed," he said. "Your employer and your community will prosper from your practical wisdom."

More than 200 new graduates from Massey's College of Education crossed the stage at the Regent on Broadway Theatre in Palmerston North today, with four of them receiving PhDs in Education.

As well as many fulltime students, many extramural and international students and families had travelled to celebrate graduation.



Bachelor of Education (Adult Education) graduate Ioana Hunt-Masiasomua celebrates in The Square with her mother Pepe, her daughter Meilani, son Patrick, and her husband Tama.



Darcy Ann Wilson studied in her native Canada before completing a Master of Education at Massey. Her husband Duncan, and parents-in-law John and Nola celebrated graduation with her.

Date: 14/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Education; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

Women want bargains but men prefer brand names

Women are better bargain hunters than men, with male shoppers seeking known brand names when deciding which store to go to, a Massey University study of consumers has found.

The survey of consumer preferences for shopping at factory outlet shops, department stores and retail malls was conducted in Auckland by senior marketing lecturer Dr Gurvinder Shergill and Masters student Yiyin Chen. They questioned more than 200 men and women at three shopping centres.

Consumers, regardless of age and income, believe outlet stores have comparatively lower prices than other shops but the same consumers made differing shopping choices based on gender, levels of education and incomes.

Male customers surveyed made traditional department stores offering well-known branded products their first choice for shopping but women were willing to go to outlet shops seeking branded products that they expected to find there at comparatively lower prices.

The consumer group perceived department stores as offering a wider selection of merchandise, compared with factory outlets and they held the brands they found in department stores in higher regard, the survey found. Those with higher education and incomes put more value on the environment provided by department stores when deciding where to shop.

There are significant implications for all types of stores from the findings, says Dr Shergill.

“Traditional stores should maintain their competitive positions by continuing to offer good physical facilities and environments, satisfactory in-store customer services and famous branded products in order to maintain and attract more customers,” he says.

“This will help to maintain their market share and gain competitive advantage within the intensely competitive market environment created by factory outlet stores.”

He says department stores need to assess their pricing and provide satisfactory value to customers. These stores should identify and divide their current and potential customers into different target segments and set differing pricing strategies for them.

Factory outlets need to learn from the comparative disadvantages of traditional retail stores, he says, and work to enhance further their own currently competitive pricing. The outlet stores also need to improve the image of the brands they stock, he says.

Date: 15/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Arts graduates urged to continue asking questions

Keep asking questions, new graduates were told by former MP for Otaki Judy Keall.

Mrs Keall was the guest speaker at this morning's ceremony for graduates of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. More than 250 graduates, including six PhDs, crossed the stage at two ceremonies today. The day's ceremonies include nursing, midwifery, health science, psychology, Maori visual arts and social work graduates.

Mrs Keall used the traditional story The Emperor's New Clothes to illustrate her point.

"It is often the most junior person – in the case of our story, a young child, or in your case the new graduate – who has the capacity to raise a question or state the obvious. You should never be afraid to ask a question."

Asking the simple questions helped immensely during her time as a Member of Parliament, she said.

"My advice to you today is to ask the questions. Do not be fearful. Have confidence in the training you have completed which has given you the tools to question."

The afternoon ceremony was addressed by Colonel Tim Keating, commander of the 2nd Land Force Group at Linton Army Camp. He urged graduates to use their skills to work towards a more peaceful world.

"Some say the pen is mightier than the sword, however, in many areas of the world where I have served, I would say the pen and the sword must perform in concert, each with distinct parts to play, but in harmony."

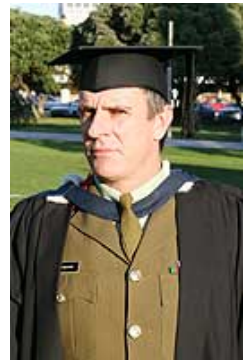
Colonel Keating said the military can only do so much.

"Your New Zealand service people are presently deployed in many places, assisting to hold the peace and security vacuum open long enough for able graduates like yourselves to fill the vacuum in the many failed and failing states with the knowledge and skills to build sustainable political, social and economic solutions."

Date: 15/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North



Right to civil union paramount, despite slow uptake

Slow uptake of civil union is no reflection of how same-sex couples value the right to tie the knot, says a Massey researcher.

Dr Mark Henrickson, a senior lecturer in social work at the Auckland campus, is the author of *Civilised Unions, Civilised Rights: Same-Sex Relationships in Aotearoa New Zealand*. He says the slow uptake among both heterosexual and same-sex couples formalising their relationship since civil unions became legal three years ago is irrelevant.

“It is the right to legal recognition of same-sex relationships, rather than recognition of relationships per se, that forms the foundation of lesbian, bisexual and gay support for government recognition of same-sex relationship.”

The civil union paper is the latest to be published from an ongoing survey into the lives of lesbians, gays and bisexual people, titled *Lavender Islands: Portrait of the Whole Family*, launched in March 2004.

Dr Henrickson found that the majority of the 2269 respondents strongly supported civil union legislation, with 95 per cent of those in relationships and 93 per cent of singles supporting Government recognition of same-sex couples.

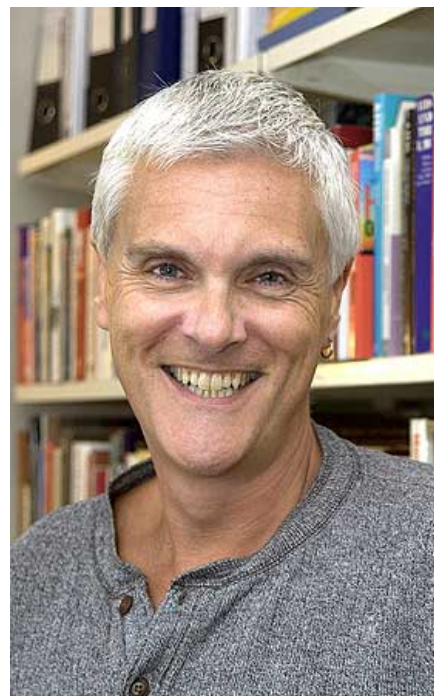
But despite 66 per cent of partnered respondents and 63 per cent of single respondents saying they would undertake legal recognition of a relationship at some point in the future, the actual uptake of civil unions has been somewhat less than survey data would suggest. Statistics New Zealand figures show the number of civil unions for same-sex and opposite-sex couples had dropped from 374 in 2006 to 316 last year.

While more same-sex couples may tie the civil union knot in the future, Dr Henrickson says one implication of his study is that legalisation of same-sex marriage reduced demand.

Date: 15/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Maori in the driver's seat of their own future

▶ VIDEO Watch the [Te Kaea](#) and [Te Karere](#) items (links go to entire news broadcast containing item on Massey Graduation).

Whanau and friends gathered in Palmerston North today to celebrate Maori student achievement at Massey's Palmerston North campus.

It is 20 years since the first ceremony to honour Maori Graduates was held at Massey. Now the ceremonies are an integral and hugely popular part of every graduation at each of the campuses.

In 1988 there were just four Maori seats in Parliament, no Maori Party, and no Maori Television network, let alone a dedicated te reo channel.

"Today," guest speaker Maori Land Court Judge Craig Coxhead told graduates, "it's truly cool to be brown. Days like today fuel my excitement about being Maori. The Maori train has arrived. Maori are no longer just the passengers, but the future drivers."

This year 68 students took part in the special ceremony held at Palmerston North's Regent theatre, 11 of them aged over 60.

Judge Coxhead challenged graduates to consider where they will be in future and the contributions they will make in the their communities.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) Professor Mason Durie says the make-up of Māori students at Massey is distinctive and graduates have attained a range of qualifications in business, education, humanities, social sciences and sciences.

"There are also a significant number of graduates from the Māori Visual Arts programme and the Te Rau Puawai, Māori Mental Health Workforce Development programme," Professor Durie says.

The next ceremony to honour Maori graduates will be at the Wellington campus on 27 May.

Pictured from left: Julia Taiapa, Professor Tairahia Black, guest-speaker Judge Craig Coxhead and Professor Mason Durie.

Date: 16/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Maori

Fog-bound vet takes road trip for graduation

Being fog-bound at Hamilton Airport did not stop Veterinary Science graduate Te Oru Mikaere from attending the University's ceremony to honour Maori graduates, held at the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North this morning. The 22-year-old made a four-hour drive just in time to join friends and family in The Square for the after-function celebration.

Mr Mikaere (Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Pukenga) is the grandson of Te Maharanui Jacob, one of the first Maori vets in New Zealand. Both his grandparents trained as vets in Australia, Mr Mikaere says, with both now retired and living in Levin.

"I have always known I have loved animals and because I had my grandparents who were vets and parents who exposed me to lots of opportunities I decided halfway through high school I was going to be a vet," Mr Mikaere says. "When I decide I'm quite determined so its been in the making for the last eight or nine years."

Mr Mikaere is a former pupil of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Rima and Hamilton's Hillcrest High School. He already has a job, in Te Awamutu, working in vet practice covering farm and companion animals.

"Eventually I'll go overseas, maybe to the UK, but for the first couple of years I'll get some experience."

Mr Mikaere says returning home to his whanau was a major factor in being able to complete the tough BVSc degree.

"It is hard, my parents helped a lot - they didn't put too much pressure on me. There's a lot of pressure on you, it is a little bit competitive and it can get too much at times so I really enjoyed going home, seeing the family, just a bit of peace. Also, I just really wanted to do it.

Mr Mikaere's sister is at medical school, while his mother is a lawyer for Te Wanaga o Raukawa in Otaki. Through his father's work as principal of Manaia School, in the Coromandel, he is aware of how being seen by others can broaden their expectations of education.

"My dad is now exposing lots of others to opportunities - younger cousins see all the options they can consider and we're now seeing a lot of them go to university. As a result of me graduating they now see little Maori country kids can go out and do it."

Mr Mikaere was one of 68 graduates attending the ceremony to honour Maori graduates, while this year's graduations see more than 300 Maori graduate across each of the Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North campuses.

Date: 16/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Maori; Palmerston North





Double celebration for Tauranga family

This morning's ceremony to honour Maori graduates was a double celebration for one Tauranga family.

Tawhai Rickard and his wife Tania Lewis-Rickard both graduated from Massey University's school of Maori Studies with a Postgraduate Diploma in Maori Visual Arts.

The pair met in 1992 while studying Maori art at Waiariki Polytechnic in Rotorua.

Mr Rickard says studying the same programme as his wife again, this time at Massey, had both challenges and rewards.

"It's good to have common goals and be able to exchange notes and have each other there for support. We certainly had a lot to talk about at the end of the day. But we have a family to take care of too, so it was hard at times."

Tania Lewis-Rickard agrees that having both parents studying was tough on the family.

"Having children, it was difficult at times and we were also running an after-school care centre for children in Palmerston North while we were studying. But we were there to support each other and give each other inspiration."

The couple have been involved in a number of exhibitions and have a sculpture that sits on the grounds of Tauranga Boys' College.

Mr Rickard says the couple are looking forward to using the skills they have learned in their community.

"I particularly like working on projects that can be enjoyed by everyone. We're not the sort of people who'll work for galleries, creating works that can only be enjoyed by those who have the money to buy them."

A wide variety of materials are used in their works, which are often brought to life on the kitchen table.

"We use various media to express ourselves: metals, perspex, wood, concrete and paint. Just whatever is appropriate for the project," Mr Rickard says.

Date: 16/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Maori; Palmerston North





Freemasons scholarship winner offers gift in return

Massey Wellington design student Leilani Isara turned the tables on Governor-General Anand Satyanand when she presented him with a Massey Association of Pasifika Students hoodie.

Ms Isara was one of five Massey students Mr Satyanand presented with scholarships from the New Zealand Freemasons at a reception in Wellington this week.

She designed the hoodie for the association while doing her fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Design in visual communication. Mr Satyanand was delighted with the gift. Although he initially wondered whether it would fit him, he later said would be "excellent" attire for walking the grounds of Government House.

Three other Massey undergraduate students also received Freemasons scholarships worth \$6000 each: Courtenay Jacks, who is doing business studies at the Auckland campus, Hilary Corkran who is completing a Bachelor of Science honours at Palmerston North, and Adam O'Connell, who is studying for a Bachelor of Veterinary Science also at Palmerston North.

PhD candidate Kirsty Hammond received one of only seven \$10,000 postgraduate scholarships. She is completing a PhD on the effects of fresh forage diets on methane production at Palmerston North.

The Freemasons awarded \$238,000 worth of scholarships this year to 35 high-achieving students at New Zealand universities. The organisation is one of the largest privately-funded sponsors of students.

Grand Master Barry McLaggan says rewarding excellence in education is an investment in New Zealand's future. The programme was recently revamped to increase the value of the scholarships. "While applicants must be A-grade students completing their degrees, they must also take part in a non-academic community activity," Mr McLagan says.

"Freemasons have helped young New Zealanders towards careers as varied as aerospace design, earthquake-proofing existing structures, assisting adolescent patients with eating disorders, and taxonomy research to improve biosecurity."

"Scholarship recipients are all high-achieving young people who recognise the importance of involvement in community service as well as academic success."

Date: 16/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Scholarships

mccallum-mary-horrocks-ingr.jpg

Author Mary McCallum and Writers Read Wellington organiser Ingrid Horrocks.

Writers Read series launches in Wellington

The voices of writers reading their own words will feature at the University's Wellington campus for the first time this year, in the Writers Read series.

Lecturer at the School of English and Media Studies Ingrid Horrocks developed Writers Read after last year holding a reading for students and realising that very few had ever attended one before. The event is open to the public.

"Wellington people are strong supporters of arts events in the community," Dr Horrocks says, "and I hope Writers Read will be no exception.

"This is an opportunity for the community, the writer, and university to be brought together," she says.

Mary McCallum, with Anna Horsley and Dr Horrocks, makes up a trio of published authors teaching the University's expressive arts courses at the Wellington campus. Ms McCallum will be the first author to read in the series.

Her first novel, *The Blue*, was released last year, and shortlisted for the biennial Prize in Modern Letters, which is designed to acknowledge and advance the work of emerging writers in New Zealand. Ms McCallum will read from that novel, which is set in a whaling community in the Tory Channel, and the new book she is working on, *Precarious*.

She has previously read to community groups, and "loves it".

"I do like public speaking and it is like that but has come from deeper inside you. You're nervous about it, about people's reaction, but to me it's like magic. The book takes on another life when you read from it."

Dr Horrocks says the Wellington series runs in parallel with that in Palmerston North, which has been running three years. The addition of a Wellington series illustrates the value the University places on writers, she says.

The other two writers to read their work will be Sydney-based Martin Edmond, and James George, from Auckland. "This certainly adds another facet to the writer offerings in Wellington," Dr Horrocks says.

There are limited seats at the 22 May reading. To book a place contact Jo Fink at J.W.Fink@massey.ac.nz or phone (04) 801 5799 extn 6696.

Date: 19/05/2008

Type: University News

Automation researcher nets technology funding

A PhD student intent on revolutionising New Zealand's horticulture industry has scooped a top scholarship for his work on robotic systems. Alistair Scarfe is one of three recipients of a Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship in Technology, worth \$20,000 a year for three years. The award was announced today by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC).

Mr Scarfe, who was brought up in Wairarapa and went to Kuranui College, is studying for his PhD in Industrial Automation at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology at the Palmerston North campus. Alistair's thesis investigates automating fruit harvesting by means of robotic arms and carrier systems. A prototype kiwifruit harvester developed as part of the project is now nearing completion.

"I hope that my research will provide the kiwifruit industry with the technology to improve harvesting and post-harvest logistics and reduce losses to the industry by an estimated 20 percent.

"I believe that there is a real need for New Zealand to become more innovative or we face the very real danger of losing our manufacturing capacity and its related technical know-how to Asia. Automation can substantially reduce labour costs to the point where we could out-perform Asian manufacturers, and this is what is driving my research," Mr Scarfe says.

Dick and Mary Earle, who are both Emeritus Professors at Massey University, established the scholarship in 1999 to support and encourage postgraduate research into technology. The scholarship funds an individual to undertake research towards a masters or doctorate at a New Zealand university or other research institution, in one of two fields: innovation and product development, or bioprocess technology.

The scholarship was founded on the Earle's belief that technology is important to the wellbeing and enhancement of the social fabric of the community. Since 1999, 12 scholars have received funding.

The Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship in Technology is one of over 40 scholarships awarded each year by the NZVCC to both graduate and undergraduate students. Public Trust's charitable services manager Lindsay Pope says the trust is very pleased that Mr Scarfe has been awarded this year's Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship in Technology.

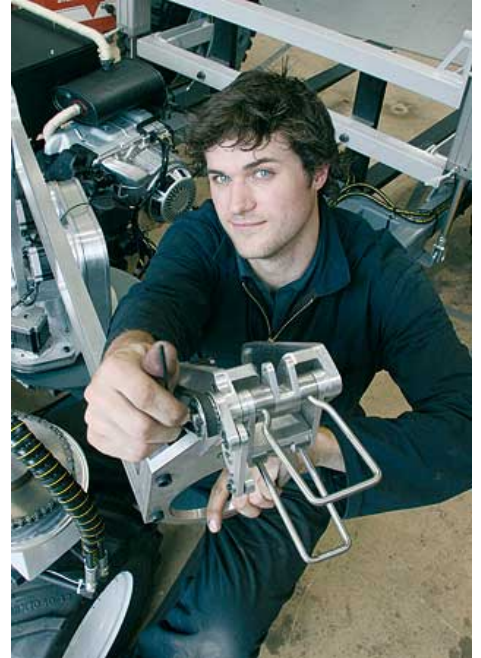
"His study supports the Earles' vision to help improve the wellbeing of our society through technological research."

Caption: Alistair Scarfe at work on the kiwifruit picker.

Date: 19/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Explore - Engineering; Scholarships



Early involvement the key to effective local government consultation

Local government decision-making can be a polarising process according to PhD graduate Simon Nash.

Dr Nash, who graduated last week as a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Policy, says contentious issues such as wastewater planning, windfarms and electricity pylons led him to direct his research at the way in which local government consults with the public.

“People have strong points of view when it comes to certain issues and the process of discussing them usually only puts greater distance between the competing sides, leading people to be more intransigent.”

Simon Nash says environmental issues are often the most hotly debated.

“Windfarms, for example, are one of those things that bring up a wide array of subjective opinions. People who are against them have strong emotional views, Those views are entirely valid, but proponents quite often end up just banging their fist on the table, as they can't always find expert evidence to back up their argument, yet that is what the legal system focuses on.”

He says this win-lose approach leads to those on both sides of the argument moving further apart, rather than reaching a compromise, as the consultation process should seek to achieve.

Dr Nash used Q-methodology, which involves participants ranking a set of cards labelled with various value statements, to explore their views on wastewater planning processes.

He found most attention is focused on technical debates. Yet it is the perspective-based conflicts that are often the main obstacle to the integration of peoples' views into decision making.

“What we need is a situation that doesn't pit people against each other, but rather gets them to listen and understand the range of views that are held on an issue. We need to foster an environment where citizens and councils can understand one another's real concerns.”

But there's no quick fix to the problem.

“It will take money and resources. It could be that consultation should begin earlier in the decision-making process before time runs short and things get heated. The problem is that people are hard to motivate that early in the piece, and they become tired of being consulted, so perhaps incentives to attend discussion forums, such as reimbursement of travel costs, could be one solution.”

Dr Nash says it's obvious that not everyone's point of view can be accommodated in any decision, but better, more inclusive consultation can result in the outcome being more universally accepted as a legitimate decision.

Date: 19/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North





Food-methane relationship study gets backing from scholarship

PhD student Kirsty Hammond is the winner of a \$10,000 Pukehou Pouto scholarship, one of two awarded this year.

The scholarship was established from a bequest from the estate of Edith Fraser, is managed on behalf of the estate by the Public Trust and awarded by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Ms Fraser, who died in 1980, specified that the Pukehou Poutu Scholarship be used to fund postgraduate studies in agricultural or silvicultural sciences.

Ms Hammond's thesis investigates the influence of changes in the chemical composition of fresh forage-based diets on methane production in ruminant animals.

Originally from Whakatane, where she attended Whakatane High School, Ms Hammond (Te Whanau Apanui), completed her BSc, majoring in animal science and physiology, and graduated last week with first-class honours last year.

Based at the Palmerston North campus, she hopes to travel overseas and work in the animal production science field once she completes her PhD, then bring that experience home to the New Zealand agriculture industry.

She says will be working closely with the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences and AgResearch, as she did for her BSc, examining how the methane yield from sheep and cattle varies according to pasture composition and what might be changed to reduce the yield.

She was delighted with the scholarship. "Words can't describe how useful something like this is for a student. It means I can concentrate on my studies and focus on my goals."

Date: 20/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Maori



A red-crowned parakeet (Photo by Luis Ortiz-Catedral)

Kakariki spread wings on new island home

The future is brighter for rare native kakariki after a University-led project to move 31 to a predator-free home on Motuihe Island in the Hauraki Gulf. The historic move of the red-crowned parakeets should encourage the birds to thrive throughout the region, and allow more people to see them as they travel between islands and the mainland.

More than 200 conservationists witnessed the release on Saturday of kakariki (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) on Motuihe, a 179-hectare island where the birds once flourished before the arrival of rats and other introduced species wiped them out.

The birds had been flown in by helicopter on May 17 from Little Barrier Island, then carried in cardboard boxes to a glade of pohutukawa trees where they were ceremoniously released. The bright green parakeets with distinctive red foreheads disappeared in a flash into the forest now being restored with native trees and other native birds.



It was the first of three translocations of wild kakariki organised by Massey conservation doctoral researcher Luis Ortiz-Catedral, in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and volunteers from the Motuihe Trust. More kakariki will be taken from Little Barrier Island – a wildlife reserve in the Hauraki Gulf where there are several thousand kakariki – to neighbouring Rakino Island as well as a mainland site at Tawharanui Regional Park north of Auckland.

More than 100 kakariki will have been dispersed throughout the Hauraki Gulf region by the time the project is completed at the end of next summer. There are now 31 kakariki – 16 males and 15 females - on Motuihe Island, with plans to transfer another 20 later on.

The timing of the translocations is to avoid disrupting the birds during their October to February breeding season, says Mr Ortiz-Catedral. The kakariki were caught in large nets covering forest areas, then put into a special aviary before being transferred by helicopter.

Mr Ortiz-Catedral said getting a wild bird into a box for translocation was just the beginning of the responsibility of conservationists. After that, he and several volunteers will carefully monitor the newcomers to the island to observe their nesting, mating and feeding patterns. Using radio transmitters, they will know where the birds settle, and if they fly to neighbouring islands.

The data gathered is part of Mr Ortiz-Catedral's doctoral thesis comparing translocations of captive and wild kakariki. He is also studying rare, endangered orange-fronted kakariki which were bred in captivity in the South Island and transferred to Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds.

Mr Ortiz-Catedral says the study is significant as he has learned much about the birds' behaviour in the course of

the project – the first translocation of red-crowned kakariki within the Hauraki Gulf in 30 years.

Some of the birds died in captivity, and Mr Ortiz-Catedral says it is hoped the results of post-mortems will reveal the cause, which could have been due to poor health or old age making those particular birds more vulnerable to the stress of the translocation process.

Picture caption: Luis Ortiz-Catedral passes box with kakariki to volunteers on Motuihe Island

Date: 20/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues; School of Veterinary Science

University to share distance education expertise

University staff will share their knowledge on best-practice distance learning as co-hosts of the Distance Education Association of New Zealand (DEANZ) conference, to be held in Wellington in August.

Distance Education Director Associate Professor Mark Brown (pictured) says the conference is an opportunity for staff to meet other distance educators and share work, including Massey's focus on research-led teaching.

"Massey's sponsorship of the DEANZ conference reflects our leadership and commitment to promoting wider access to university-level study through leading-edge distance education," Dr Brown says.

The University has 16,500 extramural students.

Palmerston North-based teaching consultant Anna Weatherstone is a member of the DEANZ organising committee.

"The conference is an opportunity to network and share ideas on online learning and distance learning," she says.

Keynote speakers include Seattle-based Nancy White, an expert in online facilitation. Assistant Professor Michael Barbour of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, will focus on the effectiveness of distance learning using web-based formats.

"It gives people the opportunity to see what's around," Ms Weatherstone says. "It's particularly good for people new into it."

Up to 150 people are expected to attend the conference, which is also sponsored by the Correspondence School and The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

Submission guidelines and more information is available at <http://www.deanz.org.nz/conf2008/>

Caption: Director of distance education Dr Mark Brown.

Date: 21/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Conference/Seminar; Extramural; Wellington



Chinese students rally to help quake victims

A steady stream of Chinese students gathered to make colourful paper peace cranes and collect donations at the University's Auckland campus on Wednesday in support of Chinese earthquake victims.

In the evening they held a candlelit service on the campus to pray, share stories and poems about the disaster, which struck China's south-western Sichuan province killing an estimated 40,000 people.

Massey University Chinese Students' Association (Albany) President Jack Li says he did not know of any students on the campus who had lost family or friends in the earthquake. But he knew of three who had gone to area to help with aid and recovery, including journalist Sky Liu.

Chinese students at the University's Auckland and Palmerston North campuses are working together to collect funds on the behalf of the earthquake victims.

Date: 21/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; International





Dr Nik Kazantzis (left) with therapist Mieke Sachsenweger, study coordinators Nicole Foster and Michael Easden, therapists Sue Page, Jeanne Daniel, Kimberley Good (standing), study coordinator Margo Munro and therapist Jan Prosser.

Study to find out how to beat the blues

A team of specially trained Massey psychologists is offering free therapy to first-time depression sufferers in Auckland as part of a collaborative international study involving Harvard University and the London Institute of Psychiatry.

The University's Centre for Psychology will provide data from therapy sessions with volunteers, so that the team of international researchers can better understand the dynamics of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), how it alleviates depression symptoms and how it equips sufferers to avoid repeat bouts of depression.

Findings from the study could offer hope for depression sufferers, many of whom do not have access to affordable, effective treatment, says Dr Nik Kazantzis, senior lecturer and practitioner who heads the team.

Depression sufferers typically experience low mood, poor appetite, lack of energy, disturbed sleep, feelings of helplessness and guilt. They may find decision-making difficult, feel miserable when they make even the smallest mistake and generally feel life has become overwhelming.

CBT teaches people how to become their own therapists by teaching them skills so they can deal better with difficult situations and the painful emotions they trigger, says Dr Kazantzis. Volunteers are being offered 20 hour-long individual sessions to learn strategies for changing problem thoughts and behaviours.

He says CBT is a widely used, mainstream therapy developed by American-born psychiatrist Dr Aaron Beck in the 1960s. Although it has been endorsed by more than 400 studies internationally as an effective, low-cost treatment for a range of disorders, including depression, little is known about why it works.

Dr Kazantzis, who trained under Dr Beck two years ago, believes the therapy is particularly suited to New Zealanders as it offers immediate, practical help in coping with the present and does not necessarily require clients to embark on in-depth analysis of their pasts to be effective.

People can volunteer for the therapy if they have not been previously diagnosed with depression and are not taking medication that affects the brain.

About 121 million people world wide suffer from depression but fewer than 25 per cent have access to effective treatment, according to the World Health Organisation. Depression is the fourth-highest contributor to the global burden of disease, and is expected to become the second highest by 2020.

For more info about participating in the study call Nicole: 09-414-0800 ext 41252

Date: 21/05/2008

Type: Research

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



Call for controlled crossing after student hit by truck outside Wellington campus

The University is calling for an extremely busy pedestrian crossing in Wallace St, Wellington, to be controlled with traffic lights after student was hit by a truck and seriously injured this morning.

The young woman was struck by a Wellington City Council truck just before 9am and was knocked to the ground, suffering broken teeth, facial injuries and other bruising. She was taken to Wellington Hospital by ambulance, treated for her injuries and for shock and will be kept in hospital overnight.

The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy says the crossing outside the main entrance to the campus is used by Wellington High School pupils as well as Massey students and other members of the public in what is a high-density housing area of Mt Cook adjacent to bus stops and a busy cafe.

University staff and students have reported previous near-misses at the crossing.

"It's not just our University students we are concerned for," Professor McIlroy says. "There are a huge amount of people who use that crossing every day and very high traffic volumes on Wallace St. We would most definitely like to see it become a controlled crossing."

The University will contact the Wellington City Council to request a review of the crossing's current uncontrolled status. In the meantime, she urges students, staff and motorists to take particular care.

Date: 23/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington



Sign language interpreters allow parents to enjoy graduation ceremony

All three official languages of New Zealand - Maori, English and sign - will feature in the University's Wellington campus graduation celebrations this week.

At the Wednesday morning ceremony in the Michael Fowler Centre sign language interpreters will be on stage, patiently signing the names of the more than 300 students crossing the stage. Kaz and Pam Witko, who are both deaf, will be waiting for one name in particular – daughter Tracey Esera, who is graduating with a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology.

"I'm absolutely thrilled there are going to be interpreters there," Ms Esera says. "My parents will be able to understand what's going on, and kind of feel more included. It's just the small things as well, like knowing when my name's being called out. It's more meaningful."

Two sign language interpreters will alternate signing the ceremony, swapping every 20 minutes due to the intensity of the work.

The Wednesday morning ceremony will see students of the New Zealand School of Music, the College of Creative Arts, the College of Education and the College of Sciences capped. In the afternoon, graduates from the College of Business and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences will cross the stage.

In total, 600 students will graduate at the University's Wellington ceremony.

All students will take part in the graduation procession from Parliament to Civic Square at 1pm.

Two honorary doctorates will be awarded to Massey alumni: a Doctor of Science for Grant Davidson in the morning, and a Doctor of Literature to Dame Margaret Bazley during the afternoon ceremony.

Four doctoral scholars will graduate: Sunia Foliaki as a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Stuart McLaren as Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Health, Geoffrey Troughton as a Doctor of Philosophy in History, and Jillian Wilkinson as a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.

A celebration of the achievement of Maori graduates will take place tomorrow.

Date: 26/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington)



Celebrating the collaboration with Singapore Polytechnic are (from left) Professor Ian Warrington, Principal of Singapore Polytechnic Tan Hang Cheong, New Zealand High Commissioner to Singapore Martin Harvey, Senior Minister of State Lui and Dr Thomas Chai. On the table is a drink developed by Singapore Polytechnic and some Zespri gold and green kiwifruit.

Singapore campus a coup for Massey

A unique collaboration between Singapore Polytechnic and Massey University will see the University's first offshore campus developed. The venture, launched in Singapore, allows top polytechnic students to complete the final two years of a Bachelor in Food Technology through Massey papers offered in Singapore.

To have the University's food technology honours degree selected from would-be providers all around the world is a significant achievement, Head of the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health Professor Richard Archer says.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, in Singapore for the launch of the collaboration on Wednesday, says Massey University was justifiably proud of its food technology degree.

"It is but three modules short of an accredited engineering degree yet it is a full science degree and it has very significant business content," Professor Warrington says. "Unlike the more common food chemistry-dominated degrees, we really equip graduates to build an industry – to wear white coats one day, overalls the next and business suits on the third."

Professor Warrington also notes that the venture has potential to engender applied research and development in the food technology area and in other academic areas, where several other long-standing relationships exist.

Singaporean Senior Minister of State and Minister of Education, Rear-Admiral Lui Tuck Yew, speaking at the launch, said the collaboration was a strategic and timely move given the value of the food and beverage industry in Singapore reaching \$SG17.6 billion (NZ16.6 billion).

"Massey University's Food Technology Institute is ranked among the top five in the world," Mr Yew said. "The ministry has done a lot of groundwork and comparative studies before granting this degree tie-up and I am confident the programme will be of very high quality and international standard."

The tie-up is part of the Singaporean Government-backed Polytechnic-Foreign Specialised Institution collaboration framework. Its aim is to allow Singaporean students to undertake "gold-standard" degree programmes of study without leaving Singapore. The venture is hosted and supported by Singapore Polytechnic.

Professor Richard Archer says tuition will be provided by Massey staff visiting the Singapore campus and by teleconference. Funding from the Singapore Government means the University is able to recruit additional staff to support the programme. The first 30 students will start in August, with the possibility of increases to 40 students in each of the next two years. All students will be top achievers who complete the Polytechnic's three-year diploma in food.

The agreement on the collaboration was formally signed in Singapore at 11am on Wednesday 21 May(3pm NZT).

Date: 26/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Wellington

Creative campus celebrates Māori student success

A ceremony to honour Māori graduands at Massey University's Wellington campus will be held tomorrow at 2pm in the Great Hall, Tokomaru, Museum Building, Buckle St.

The 14 graduands participating in the ceremony will be welcomed by local mana whenua representatives supported by pupils from Wellington High School. They will join with whānau, friends and Massey University Council members, to celebrate their academic achievement. Youth Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta will present the guest address.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy says the campus, established in 1999, has built a reputation as the "Creative Campus". Five of the Māori students due to graduate on Wednesday are from the College of Creative Arts.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the contribution these students will make to the creative sector in years to come," Professor McIlroy says.

Senior Manager (Māori), Te Tumatakuru O'Connell says, "It is great to have the diversity of Māori academic success reflected in our ceremony from art and design, to midwifery, and educational psychology. Health and education are two professional areas Massey recognises the need for more Māori practitioners".

The youngest of the group is 20-year old Cornellia Vermunt graduating with a Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology. The oldest is Raewyn Douglas who has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology.

Graduands will be capped on Wednesday at one of two graduation ceremonies at the Michael Fowler Centre.

A list of graduands taking part in tomorrow's ceremony follows:

Kaupapa Whai Pākihi – College of Business

Sharalee Davis (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Porou), Bachelor of Sport and Exercise

Sharalee is currently working at another university gym in Wellington. She grew up in Upper Hutt and attended Upper Hutt College. Her goal is to work with an elite sports team.

Matthew Calman (Ngāti Toa, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Raukawa), Graduate Diploma in Journalism

Matthew worked as a picture framer for eight years before deciding on a career change and successfully applied for an internship with the DomPost newspaper where he now works as a general reporter.

Keri Welham (Te Arawa), Graduate Diploma in Journalism

Keri is an award winning journalist, who would have qualified 14 years ago if she had passed shorthand. She won her first two Qantas Media Awards at 21, New Zealand Feature Writer of the Year and the Junior Section.

Toi Rauwhāangi – College of Creative Arts

Cornellia Vermunt (Rongomaiwahine), Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology

Cornellia (20) grew up in Hawkes Bay, attended Napier Girls High School and has been interested in fashion and jewellery since she was quite young. Her future plans include starting her own jewellery business, working with beads and semi precious stones.

Tessa Bailey-Lont (Te Atiawa), Bachelor of Design, Second Class Honours (Div 1)

Tessa grew up in Waitara and attended Waitara High School and Church College in Hamilton. Her major is in industrial design. It has taken her seven years to complete her degree. She is currently doing some online illustration work for Huia Publishers.

Mira Stanton (Te Aupouri, Ngāti Kahu), Bachelor of Design, Second Class Honours (Div 1)

Mira grew up in North Canterbury and attended Rangiora High School. It has taken her four years to complete her degree majoring in fashion. She is currently working in the workroom of Wellington fashion designer Robyn

Mathieson.

Arawhetu Berdinner (Te Arawa, Ngāti Pīkiao, Ngāti Whakaue), Bachelor of Fine Arts, Second Class Honours (Div 1)

Arawhetu attended Thorndon Primary School and Wellington East Girls College. As part of her degree she also completed the Toi Ātea Contemporary Māori Art programme run by Ross Hemera.

Adrian McClelland (Tainui), Graduate Diploma of Fine Arts

Adrian also completed the Toi Ātea – Māori Contemporary Art programme as part of his studies and while he is in Canada for the next four years will continue his study of fine arts and his own practice as well as take up the opportunity of getting a first nation perspective.

Te Kupenga o Te Mātauranga – College of Education

Karen Ngatai (Ngāti Porou, Tuhoē), Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary

Karen graduated with her first degree, a Bachelor of Arts last year, this week she graduates with a Bachelor of Education (Teaching) with a major in special education.

Raewyn Douglas (Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Pīkiao)

Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology

Raewyn (54) lives in Carterton and works in Masterton for the Ministry of Education's Special Education Services Behaviour Team. After being a secondary teacher for many years, in 2000 she decided to enrol in the education psychology programme which meant she had to travel to the Auckland campus for courses.

Te Kura Pūkenga Tangata – College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Anastasia Burnard (Ngāti Whakaue), Bachelor of Arts

Anastasia grew up in Rotorua and attended St Joseph's Māori Girls College. She came to Wellington 10 years ago and began her studies. At that time she had three preschool children, the youngest is now 11.

Leith Porter-Samuels (Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Raukawa), Bachelor of Midwifery

Leith turns 50 this year and has lived in Wainuiomata for over 20 years. Before taking up her studies she had no medical or science knowledge. She had been going to births helping whānau and friends for some time leading up to her decision to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Midwifery. She is currently working for the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

Maria Haenga-Collins (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Ngāi Tahu), Bachelor of Social Work, First Class Honours

Maria grew up in Strathmore and attended St Catherine's Girl's College and Wellington High School. She chose a Bachelor of Social Work as it is quite broad, and opens up a range of possibilities of working in health, education and justice. She is currently working for Capital Coast Early Intervention Services and is continuing on at Massey studying towards a Master of Philosophy.

Patsy Moeahu (Ngāti Porou, Manuhiakai), Bachelor of Social Work

Patsy grew up in Stokes Valley and attended Taita College. She is currently working for an Alcohol and Other Drug service. She is passionate about working with youth and aims to work with youth in the future.

Date: 26/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Maori; Wellington

Massey's Pasifika Director says report fails to recognise wider contribution of Pacific people

▶ VIDEO [Watch the Media 7 item.](#)

Concern at the negative impact on the Pacific Island community following publication of a Massey research paper on immigration has prompted Massey's Acting Director Pasifika Sione Tu'itahi to highlight the University's efforts to advance Pasifika education.

Mr Tu'itahi says Dr Greg Clydesdale's report on Pacific migrants to New Zealand, made public last week, has failed to recognise the wider contribution of Pacific people.

The discussion paper by Dr Clydesdale, an economist in the University's College of Business, sparked a furore for referring to a "Pacific underclass", which was reported to be a "drain" on the economy.

"While the report reflects the view of an individual researcher, the Pasifika@Massey Strategy reflects the official position of Massey University and its commitment to the socio-economic wellbeing of Pasifika peoples," Mr Tu'itahi says.

He wanted to draw attention to Massey's Pasifika Strategy – a first for any New Zealand tertiary institution – and official policy of the University, unlike Dr Clydesdale's report.

Since it was launched last year, many of the Pasifika@Massey initiatives have been implemented, says Mr Tu'itahi.

As well as a boom in research under the Pasifika directorate, the University now has Pasifika learning spaces on all three campuses, and an increase in Pasifika support staff to respond to student needs.

Pasifika students from the Auckland campus provide learning support for Pasifika secondary school students in the region to encourage them to do tertiary study, and staff are collaborating with government agencies as well as Pacific Island communities both in New Zealand and in island nations.

At this year's graduation ceremony in Auckland, three PhDs were awarded to Pasifika students – a record for the campus and one it aims to quickly surpass.

"Pasifika@Massey aims to build on strengths, achievements, potentials and aspirations of Pasifika peoples," says Mr Tu'itahi. "It focuses on working with Pasifika peoples to find solutions rather than accentuating problems and approaches that are based on deficit models."

He says Pasifika people have contributed hugely to New Zealand's sporting and arts successes both regionally and internationally.

By measuring people as economic units, Dr Clydesdale has presented a limited view of the positive role and contribution of Pacific Islanders to New Zealand society.

While he respects academic freedom, Mr Tu'itahi says the report "reflects just one way, an economic analysis and interpretation of multiple facts, largely systemic, that contribute to the socio-economic status of Pasifika peoples".

"Massey's Pasifika Strategy, on the other hand, is about working with fellow human beings to realise their full potential. It is about being more, rather than having more."

Massey University has welcomed the announcement by Race Relations Conciliator Joris de Bres that he will investigate Dr Clydesdale's report. It is expected that several Massey academics and other staff will be pleased to participate in any review.

The report was released independently by Dr Clydesdale.



 [To view the report of the Race Relations Commissioner](#)
 [Click here to view the Pasifika@Massey Strategy document in PDF](#)

Date: 27/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Pasifika; Video Multimedia

Apology to Vietnam veterans a step in the right direction

The crown will apologise to veterans of the Vietnam war in parliament this week, but more needs to be done to assist them, according to the director of Massey University's Centre for Defence Studies.

The apology is part of Tribute 08, which recognises the veterans of the war and their families.

Associate Professor Glyn Harper says the apology is a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done.

“Vietnam veterans received no counselling, no thank you and no homecoming parade. It was a very unpopular war and the soldiers were an embarrassment for elected governments and the public.”

Dr Harper says the compensation package for veterans exposed to agent orange two years ago is not enough.

“The money paid out for healthcare isn't enough and while the government has promised to review services for children and grandchildren, it is still incredibly vague.”

More than 3500 New Zealanders served in the Vietnam war, with 37 killed and 200 wounded.

Date: 27/05/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Niki Michael, Steve Maharey, Hannah McKnight, Shelley Hopper and Rachael Kight at the event at Wharerata.

Media secrets revealed to Communications students

Vice-Chancellor designate Steve Maharey has told students in the Bachelor of Communications programme they are poised to join an industry rapidly growing in size and influence.

Mr Maharey, MP for Palmerston North, was the speaker at an event yesterday organised by four students as part of their public relations studies.

He told them the communications industry had evolved greatly in his time in Parliament.

“When I first became an MP in the early 1990s we wrote our own press releases, but now every MP has at least one media adviser, whose role it is to shape that MP's image.”

Mr Maharey said the role of communications adviser was becoming more important as media organisations cut back on staff.

“Many journalists are overworked and inexperienced, so there's an opportunity there for communications staff to really shape how a story is told in the media.”

He said electronic media and the internet is playing an integral role as consumers move away from traditional forms such as newspapers and radio.

The event was organised by Hannah McKnight, Rachael Kight, Shelley Hopper and Niki Michael as part of their public relations studies.

Ms McKnight says they wanted to come up with an event that created a social environment for students.

It was sponsored by Student City, with spot prizes awarded prior to Mr Maharey's address.

Date: 27/05/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Vice-Chancellor



Wellington Massey University Maori graduates celebrate their achievement, from left: Raewyn Douglas, Anastasia Burnard, Maria Haenga-Collins, Karen Ngatai, Sharalee Davis, Cornellia Vermunt, Patsy Moeahu, Mira Stanton, Tessa Bailey-Lont, Arawhetu Berdinner, Leith Porter-Samuels, Keri Welham, Matthew Calman and Adrian McClelland.

‘Never too late’ to start education

Youth Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta told Māori students graduating from Massey University in Wellington that it is never too late for more education.

“I’ve been through tertiary education and the trials and tribulations of asking for extensions and dealing with and meeting expectations, it’s all part of the learning curve,” Ms Mahuta said at a ceremony to honour Māori graduates yesterday afternoon.

The 14 Māori graduates at the ceremony were among more than 600 who graduated from the campus at two capping ceremonies in the Michael Fowler Centre today.

“Retention of Māori students so they get out the other end and make a contribution back to their communities is no small feat,” Ms Mahuta said. “Be an inspiration to your whānau; your achievements will inspire future generations. An insatiable thirst for knowledge is in our whakapapa, history and childhood stories.”

Relationships, the theme of Youth Week being celebrated this week was a major contributor to the graduates’ achievements who said that whānau support was key to their success. Other factors included hard work, commitment, perseverance and good study skills.

Professor Chris Cunningham, from the University’s Research Centre for Māori Health and Development, acknowledged that 12 of the 14 Māori graduates were women and half of the group were parents. “Graduates have seen the importance of tertiary education for themselves, their whanau and their children.”

The graduates are from across four of the University’s five colleges – Business (3), Creative Arts (5), Education (2), and Humanities and Social Sciences (4).

Professor Cunningham said Massey makes an investment in quality academic outcomes for Māori. He congratulated the graduates for completing their qualifications. “Now with this task completed it is time to encourage others in your whānau to take the journey.”

Date: 28/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Maori; Wellington





Murray and Aaron Stewart will play in their band Juzt Jazz at their own graduation.

Father-son jazz duo entertain at own graduation

It will be a case of putting down their instruments and crossing the stage for father and son Bachelor of Music graduates at one of Massey's Wellington campus graduation ceremonies today.

Jazz pianist Murray Stewart and son Aaron, who plays the double bass, have been invited to provide the entertainment for the two capping ceremonies at the Michael Fowler Centre.

They attended the New Zealand School of Music, and graduated with a Bachelor of Music, in Jazz – Aaron has his awarded jointly with Victoria University.

They have taken different classes along the way – barely crossing paths except in one paper last year, but they make up for that by playing together regularly in their band, Juzt Jazz.

"I didn't treat him like my dad," Aaron, 23, says. "He was just another one of the class. A lot of people didn't even know he was my father. They just thought we were friends who drove in together."

Aaron's interest in jazz came from his father's music and involvement in the Kapiti College jazz band he established.

Murray, 53, appreciated having his son on hand for three of the five years he took to complete his degree. "We're both quite independent but were able to discuss things. Only from time to time has it been 'shut up and play, dad'.

"It was good being around musicians and learning something you have a passion for."

Date: 28/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington

Students score sporting scholarships

Massey sportspeople have scooped 67 of this year's 320 Prime Minister's athlete scholarships. The Government-backed scheme enables emerging and talented New Zealanders to pursue both tertiary study and elite sports development, by paying tertiary fees and providing a living allowance.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says the success of Massey students in being awarded the prestigious scholarships is outstanding.

"We are really very proud of our athletes and their achievements, and of course happy that our own commitment to sport has been recognised through awarding these scholarships to our students."

As well as assisting athletes to seek external scholarships, Massey has developed an Academy of Sport.

Palmerston North sport development officer Kelly Rofe says the academy offers a holistic range of services for athletes, both related to their individual sport, their life after sport and their ongoing academic commitments.

"Recent achievement from our students includes the selection of cyclists Emma Petersen to represent New Zealand at the World Junior Championships in South Africa in July and Jessica Jolly to ride for the New Zealand junior team in the Kowalski Tour in Canberra in July.

"Khord Kopu has been selected to represent New Zealand at the world inline hockey championships in Slovakia in June. Shooter Robert Eastham, an Olympic hopeful, is at the German and Italian world cups, and Mike Dawson recently won the New Zealand freestyle canoe slalom nationals and is focused on heading to the world champs in July."

Other recent successes include Ms Petersen's win in the women's under-19 junior tour in Rotorua, and the strong showings made by motor sport driver Anthony Pedersen in the inaugural Hamilton V8 street race and the National GT3 Porsche champs. Kelly O'Donnell and Ryan Groen both finished second in their respective senior divisions at the national barefoot waterskiing championships, with ex-Massey student Stephanie Hamblyn finishing first in the women's division.

The Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarship programme is a government initiative managed by SPARC and administered by the NZ Academy of Sport North and South Island operations. The scholarship allows athletes to have their academic fees paid (at domestic student rates) to a maximum of \$10,000 per annum, and receive a living allowance of up to \$6000 per annum. The awards were made at a function in Wellington on Tuesday.

Date: 29/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Auckland; Palmerston North; Scholarships; Sport and recreation; Wellington



Ahmed Sofe with his mother Amina and the head of the Department of Management, Professor Claire Massey graduation day.

A family's dreams taking shape

Graduation day in Wellington was a scene a million miles away from the refugee camp the Sofe family came from just a decade ago - a place where survival, rather than success, occupied their minds.

Ahmed Sofe, the oldest of five sons, graduated yesterday with a Bachelor of Business degree majoring in accountancy. His high marks also saw him nominated for the College of Business elite Dean's List of top-performing students.

Mr Sofe fled war-torn Somalia with his mother and brothers as a child and the family lived for the next 10 years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. They arrived in Wellington in 1999 where the then 14-year old Ahmed, who had never been to school, started at Wellington High School.

The family settled in the suburb of Strathmore and has stayed together in the city Mr Sofe describes as "a very beautiful place". Wellington, he says, has been good to them. His second brother is studying law and accountancy, another is a builder and he says the younger two are doing well.

Mr Sofe's mother Amina Fahiye is tremendously proud of her sons and what they have achieved. Her eldest sons play a big role in taking care of their brothers and their mother, who came to New Zealand with a bullet wound in the leg that has left her partly disabled.

Mr Sofe starts work at Ernst & Young in February and is now working part-time for the University as a marker.

Date: 29/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington



Wendy Saunders with her PhD supervisor David Johnston after accepting her award at Government House.

Massey PhD student wins building research award

Research into keeping people safe from flooding and tsunamis has earned PhD scholar Wendy Saunders the prestigious Zonta Building Research Award. It was presented to her by the Governor General Anand Satyanand at Government House earlier this week.

The award, which is presented biennially, is given to a woman scientist whose studies are applicable to the building and construction industry.

Ms Saunders currently works as a natural hazard planner at GNS Science in Lower Hutt. She is also working on her PhD at the School of People, Environment and Planning. The work is focused on innovative land use, linking it to natural hazard risk reduction.

Ms Saunders says the award, worth \$75,000, will help immensely.

“There aren't many scholarships open to part-time students. I'm working on my PhD while also working at GNS Science and the award will help me devote more time to study.”

Her thesis, which she hopes to complete in three years, looks at making new residential developments more resistant to flooding and tsunami.

“As more marginal land is being zoned for development because of its economic potential and the country's continuing growth, we need to be smarter in the way we build, in terms of layout, density of housing and incorporating other mitigating measures.”

Award convenor Sue Hope says she was looking for an exceptional woman who not only contributes to science but also helps others in the wider community.

“Wendy is a worthy recipient who more than fills the award criteria.”

Dr John Duncan, the levy investment manager at Building Research says Ms Saunders' area of study is an important one.

“We expect that Wendy's work will allow better use of building control regimes to address the problems from flooding and the potential effects of tsunamis.”

Date: 29/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North



From Left: Tim Simpson, Betty Sew Hoy, Connor Simpson and Trevor Sew Hoy.

Son crosses stage to collect late mother's scroll

Crossing the stage to receive his late mother's degree was quite an honour – and one Connor Simpson took seriously.

The 16-year-old collected the scroll at the second of two graduation ceremonies held in Wellington yesterday. The pink hood draped on his arm would have been worn by his mother Nicola Simpson, who died after a brain haemorrhage in November, soon after completing her Bachelor of Arts.

About 30 of Mrs Simpson's family and friends gathered for the graduation, and though it was a challenging day emotionally for some, all wanted to celebrate the life of the vibrant 35-year-old.

Mrs Simpson's widower Tim Simpson says his wife had been a very spirited woman, and “entirely her own person”.

The Manawatu branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women has gifted the family the pink Bachelor of Arts hood.

Mr Simpson says the gesture equated to “an awesome gift”, especially for his son.

He and his late wife met and married young, he says. She was very determined and passionate about life, loving music and film-making. After her first brain haemorrhage in 2003, Mrs Simpson seemed even more determined to live life to the fullest, he says.

“After that first bleed she decided she would just really get on and do things. She was always like that but the haemorrhage accelerated it. Getting her degree was one thing she wanted.”

While he still misses his wife – “I still automatically make two cups of tea actually” – Mr Simpson was keen to see the day as a celebration.

Mrs Simpson's father, the University's director of finance operations Trevor Sew Hoy, says his daughter returned to her study later in life, and felt the University's extramural options allowed for this.

His Dunedin-born eldest child enjoyed piano and singing, and was regularly able to stay with her family in Palmerston North on trips to the campus for contact courses. Family and friends also gathered after the ceremony, Mr Sew Hoy says, “to reflect on Nicola's wonderful life”.

Caption: Connor Simpson after accepting his mother's BA scroll from University Chancellor Nigel Gould.



Date: 29/05/2008

Type: Graduation



Dean's List scholar Mark Brewer (left) and Colin Edie flew in from their Air Force base in Woodburn to celebrate their selection. They're pictured with the college Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lawrence Rose.

Top business students named in 'Dean's List'

The inaugural Dean's List established recently by the College of Business now has a roll of 220 students who have been honoured at ceremonies at each campus. The Deans List, a registry of top performing students is an initiative which Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose says will bring a number of benefits to both students and the University.

"In New Zealand Universities we tend not to give enough recognition to our top students and the college has established the Dean's List to celebrate excellence. This gives us an opportunity to identify and support our best performers, it sets a target for students to aim for and it enables employers to identify our best future graduates," says Professor Rose.

The list includes four students who have achieved consistent A plus grades and have been identified as Dean's List Scholars. These exceptional students are Valeria Kern, Colin Edie, Mark Brewer (Auckland) and Alana Moriarty (Palmerston North).

Apart from giving the most competitive students something to strive for, the establishment of a Dean's List, which is more common practice in American business schools, helps to keep standards high because students who make it to the list have to perform well each year to stay on the elite roll.

The Dean's List was launched by Professor Rose in Palmerston North this week at a celebration attended by students, families and College of Business staff. The inaugural Dean's list will consist of 220 students (out of 11,500 who are enrolled in the College of Business as undergraduates) who have achieved an average grade of A- in their first, second or third year of study.

The Dean's List will also be formally launched in at the Wellington and Auckland campuses over the next month. On the first Dean's List there are 69 students from Palmerston North campus, 69 from Auckland, 21 from Wellington and 62 extramural students.

It is also intended to identify student's who average A plus grades and to name them as Dean's scholars.



Dean's List scholar Valeria Kern pictured at Auckland campus with her partner, Peter Maw.



Pro Vice-Chancellor of Business, Professor Lawrence Rose with Joan Hasse, one of the students celebrating her placement on the inaugural Dean's List, launched at Wharerata, Palmerston North campus.

Date: 29/05/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Palmerston North; Wellington



University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy (left) with Dame Margaret Bazley.

Graduation celebration for honorary doctorates

Two Massey alumni with diverse life paths received honorary doctorates at the University's Wellington campus graduation on Wednesday. Grant Davidson was made a Doctor of Science at the morning ceremony, while Dame Margaret Bazley received a Doctor of Literature during the afternoon ceremony.

Dame Margaret has had a distinguished career in health and public service. She graduated from Massey in 1983 with a Diploma in Health Administration. Academic staff on stage gave her a standing ovation as she rose to speak.

Dame Margaret admitted she was “overwhelmed” by the honorary doctorate, and urged graduates to take up all opportunities life had to offer.

“I wish I had learnt a lot earlier to live every day as though it was my last. Give it your best shot and push the boundaries as far as you can.”

In the citation, University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington) Professor Andrea McIlroy said Dame Margaret had held senior leadership positions for more than 40 years.

“For the public, she has come to represent the epitome of public service,” Professor McIlroy said.

Dr Davidson is a graduate of the former Wellington Polytechnic industrial design programme. While studying, he applied for a summer placement at Philips Design in the Netherlands. On completion of his studies he took up a fulltime position with Philips, rising through the ranks to now hold the position of Vice-President at Philips Design.

Professor Tony Parker, Head of the Institute of Design for Industry and Environment, gave the citation.

He said while Dr Davidson was a typical Massey student in some ways, he went on to become an exceptional alumnus in others.

Professor Parker spoke of Dr Davidson's active pursuit of a policy of multicultural recruitment when he was senior design account manager in the Philips Domestic Appliances and Personal Care division, resulting in 16 different nationalities working across the four locations.

He also highlighted Dr Davidson's leadership of a joint venture design strategy with Alessi, the celebrated Italian manufacturer of iconic designer kitchen and tableware in the early 1990s.

Dr Davidson spoke about the challenge of keeping “beauty and bounty” – artistic ideals and the financial imperative – balanced. He emphasised the role design had played in the humanisation of technology, and said the honorary doctorate was very meaningful to him as he has continued his strong links with the University.



Rain forced the cancellation of the traditional parade from Parliament to Civic Square, but 600 students and their families celebrated graduation. A ceremony to honour Maori graduates was held on Tuesday.

[Dr Davidson's speech can be viewed here](#)

Date: 30/05/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington

Queen's Birthday Honours recognise services to agriculture, disability and biotechnology

Two Massey staff and a former student have received Queen's Birthday Honours.

Director of Massey Agriculture Professor Jacqueline Rowarth is appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, while lecturer in the School of Health and Social Services Dr Martin Sullivan is appointed to the Queen's Service Order.

Distinguished alumnus Professor Ross Clark is appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Professor Rowarth says the honour came as a complete surprise. "I read the letter several times before I believed the words. Agricultural science is my life; to be rewarded for something one loves doing is remarkable."

Professor Rowarth is a trustee of Agmardt and on the board of Crop & Food Research. She is a member of the National Executive for Grasslands Association, and of the Primary Resources Advisory Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Professor Rowarth is a previous recipient of the Zonta Science Award and a New Zealand Science and Technology medal. In 2001 she was made a companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand and in 2003 was elected as a fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science for contribution to agricultural research.

Dr Martin Sullivan, a senior lecturer in Social Policy and Disability Studies, has been awarded the Queen's Service Order. Dr Sullivan has been an advocate for the disabled community for more than 20 years, campaigning for better treatment, disability support services, and conducting educational research. He joined the School in 1993 and co-ordinates much of the school's disability studies programme.

Dr Sullivan has also been an executive of the Disabled Persons' Assembly and was a ministerial appointee to the Ministry of Health's national ethics advisory committee. He has recently been appointed to the board of the New Zealand Guidelines Group.

Professor Ross Clark graduated from Massey in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science and completed a PhD in veterinary physiology at the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences in Palmerston North. He receives his award for services to biotechnology, having contributed to the biotech industry both in New Zealand and overseas for more than 20 years. Professor Clark was a founder of ViaLactia Biosciences, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fonterra, and a founding member of California-based biopharmaceutical company Tercica.

Professor Clark has published more than 1000 research papers, including innovative contributions in the field of endocrine research into growth-promoting and metabolic hormones, and he holds a significant patent portfolio. He now lives on Auckland's North Shore.

Massey alumnus and member of the Massey University Foundation board Phil Lough was also appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to business. Mr Lough graduated with a BTEch (Food technology) in 1971 and has been involved in food technology for many years. He has served as a director of Meridian Energy Ltd, Port Nelson Ltd, the Tātua Dairy Co-operative, Livestock Improvement Corporation and Crop & Food Research. He is now chairman of the New Zealand Trade & Enterprise Board.

Caption: Professor Jacqueline Rowarth at Massey University's Number One dairy farm.

Date: 02/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Palmerston North



Former student convicted, fined for using fake Massey degree to get job

Massey will continue to take a firm line against anyone attempting to use fake qualifications or falsely claiming to have qualifications from the University, says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long.

Name suppression was today lifted in relation to a former Massey student convicted last month for using a fake degree scroll to get a job. Hayden Mark Coulton pleaded guilty in the Palmerston North District Court on 6 May to using a document to gain a pecuniary advantage. He had previously denied the charge.

Police told the court Mr Coulton, 29, obtained a job as regional manager of Western Netball in Palmerston North in April last year after providing as part of his curriculum vitae a copy of what was purported to be a Bachelor of Sports Studies from the University.

But after a news report about his appointment included information about his alleged qualifications, the University began an investigation and found he did not have the qualifications claimed or any degree from Massey. A complaint was lodged with police.

Mr Coulton was fined \$750 and ordered to pay \$130 costs. His application for permanent name suppression was denied but an interim suppression order was granted to enable him to lodge an appeal against the ruling by the district court judge.

The appeal was dismissed by the High Court today after being abandoned late last week by Mr Coulton and the interim name suppression order lapsed.

"Massey University takes very seriously any kind of misrepresentation of its qualifications and fraudulent use of its scrolls," Professor Long says. "Such actions strike at the integrity of the academic system and the University has no tolerance for any behaviour involving alteration or forgery of a qualification or other official university document with intent to mislead or misrepresent."

Conferring of degrees and other qualifications is a matter of public record and any prospective employer wishing to obtain verification that a Massey University qualification presented to them is genuine should contact the University.

Date: 03/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Wellington



Mr Kolb diving for leeches in the Arctic Ocean

Marine leeches provide clues on climate change

Elusive marine leeches in Antarctica are the focus of study on how climate change is affecting vulnerable fish species.

German-born doctoral researcher Juergen Kolb says it is proven that leeches transmit viruses and bacteria into host bodies, and that new strains are currently arriving in Antarctica.

“The situation is potentially quite dangerous. If conditions become warmer, we’ll get new types of pathogens being transmitted into fish. Not only can this cause harm or death of individual fish but lead to the collapse of entire fish populations,” says Mr Kolb. “Eventually this could threaten commercial fishing industries and the food sources that humans depend on.”

Based at Massey’s Institute of Natural Resources in Auckland, he is one of a handful of biologists world wide studying marine leeches.

The bloodsuckers have generally been ignored by scientists because they are so hard to find and collect, he says. But gaining a better understanding of their biology and ecological importance could provide vital clues about the impact of climate change on fragile ecological systems and the survival of less adaptive animal species.

Although little is known about marine leeches in extreme environments such as Antarctica, their physiology is thought to be similar to fresh water and terrestrial leeches in warmer habitats.

Based on his earlier research on Arctic marine leeches, Mr Kolb says it is highly likely leeches will survive any rise in water temperature from global warming that would threaten other extreme cold water-adapted species more sensitive to change.

Mr Kolb began his studies at the University of Freiburg. In 2006 he sailed on a Norwegian scientific research vessel to Svalbard Archipelago – halfway between Norway and the North Pole – where he dived up to 35 metres deep in freezing waters. But difficult conditions meant he was able to collect only seven leeches, which were attached to seaweed, algae, fish and crabs. He then decided to continue his research from New Zealand because of its accessibility to Antarctica. He hopes to gather a much greater quantity of leeches, this time by an easier method of catching leech-covered fish off the Antarctic coast. He will carry out genetic analysis on the leeches to determine how closely they are related to other leech species.



Leeches, or Hirudinea, are a class of Phylum Annelida or segmented worms - most widely represented by the common earthworm. Leeches are divided into sections like an earthworm but with suckers at both ends. A leech is a thin tube of muscles around a cavity containing a gut and reproductive systems. It can flatten its body to avoid being removed from a host and, if necessary, swim in an undulating movement for kilometres.

"I've always been fascinated by parasites," says Mr Kolb. "They are extreme in terms of their physiology and adaptation to their parasitic lifestyle. They are, by nature, ultimate survivors – if you are a fish you have a hard time killing a leech."

Captions:

(top right) A 4cm-long arctic leech caught and photographed by Juergen Kolb.

(middle right) Mr Kolb overlooking the Arctic Ocean where he went diving for elusive marine leeches.

Date: 03/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues



Joan Norrie, Pauline Andrews and Fathimath Rifshana at the Massey University Concussion Clinic.

The hidden impact of concussion

A knock to the head can lead to a headache, but staff at Massey University's Concussion Clinic say people who suffer a head injury often need more than just paracetamol.

Concussion is the focus of this year's Brain Injury Awareness week, which begins today.

The University's School of Psychology has run the ACC sponsored Concussion Clinic, one of 10 in the country, for seven years.

Joan Norrie, a clinical psychologist at the clinic who specialises in neuropsychology, says education about the symptoms and ways to manage them is the key to recovery from a mild traumatic brain injury.

Most people who suffer a simple concussion recover within 7-10 days, but for some the effects can last a lot longer. Common symptoms can include headaches, dizziness, fatigue, mood swings, irritability and memory and concentration problems.

“Normalising those symptoms for sufferers is an important step in recovery, as is putting in place treatment that will help manage the symptoms.”

Ms Norrie says it's also important people understand that once they've had a concussion, they are more likely to suffer another from any subsequent knock to the head.

Pauline Andrews, an occupational therapist and consultant to the clinic, says patients are referred from hospitals and GPs.

“Motor vehicle accidents, sports injuries and assaults are the most common causes of concussion. However, the very young and the very old are often concussed after a fall. It is often called the silent epidemic because many people do not seek medical care and are not diagnosed.”

Ms Andrews' role is to help patients in their recovery, which involves managing fatigue, scheduling sleep and working with employers and teachers to ease people back to work or school at an appropriate pace.

As well as clinical work, the Concussion Clinic undertakes research into the effects of brain injury.

Fathimath Rifshana says the work at the Concussion Clinic will be evaluated as part of her Masters thesis.

“I'll be evaluating patients before and after they use the clinic to gauge its effectiveness in treating them.”

Dr James McGarvey, a specialist in sports medicine who has been working at the clinic, says people playing contact sport, especially young people, need to be very careful.

“The effects of concussion can be worse for children, as they are less able to withstand trauma. But anyone who

suffers a concussion should get it assessed immediately.”

Central Districts co-ordinator for the Brain Injury Association, Jo Chapman, says the week is an opportunity to raise awareness of concussion in the community.

“This year's campaign, headed by rugby league player Ruben Wiki, is targeted at sportspeople. It's important anyone who suffers a concussion stops playing for three weeks, and gets medical clearance to resume their sport.”

Collectors will be out in the Manawatu district this week collecting for the Brain Injury Association, which offers information, support and advocacy to people who have suffered a brain injury and their families.

Date: 03/06/2008

Type: Research

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



Artist's concept illustration of the new planetary system by Kevin Lane and Randy Jackson of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California.

Researcher on planet discovery team

Software developed by Massey astronomer Dr Ian Bond is again at the centre of a planetary discovery. The latest planet found by Dr Bond and an international team of astronomers may be a link in the scientific search for signs of life on this type of planets, orbiting stars in the vicinity of the sun.

The new planet is two to three times the size of the earth and is orbiting a tiny star estimated to be about six per cent of the mass of the sun. Already it has become known in the astronomy world as MOA-2007-BLG-192Lb. It establishes a record for the lowest mass planet to orbit a normal star.

Dr Bond says the discovery is significant because it indicates that even the lowest mass stars can host planets. The finding suggests there could be low-mass stars found near the sun with planets of a similar mass as Earth. Dr Bond says in the near future it may be possible to see signs of life on planets like this,, when NASA launches a more powerful successor to the orbiting Hubble space telescope.

The discovery is led by the Japan-New Zealand Microlensing Observation in Astrophysics (MOA) collaboration, which includes scientists at more than a dozen universities and observatories around the world. Dr Bond, at the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences in Auckland, is part of the MOA team. The aim is to discover distant solar systems using a technique known as gravitational microlensing. This effect enables a star and any orbiting planets to act like a giant magnifying glass.

The observations were made with the world's largest telescope devoted to microlensing telescope supplied by Japan to the Mt John Observatory in New Zealand. The software system for the analysis of this data is the work of Dr Bond.

From the giant New Zealand telescope millions of stars can be monitored every night. In one night as much as 100GB of data is collected - enough to fill 200 CDs.

The MOA group is made up of astronomers from Nagoya University, Konan University, Nagano National College of Technology, and Tokyo Metropolitan College of Aeronautics in Japan, as well as Massey University, The University of Auckland, Mt John Observatory, the University of Canterbury, Victoria University in New Zealand, as well as Dr David Bennett of Notre Dame University. Additional astronomers include staff from the Warsaw University Observatory in Poland, the Universidad de Concepción in Chile, the University of Cambridge, the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, the Observatoire Midi-Pyr´en´ees, the Observatoire de Paris, the European Southern Observatory in Chile, and Heidelberg University.

Date: 03/06/2008

Type: Research



Dr Attilio Pigneri and Andy Duncan from the Massey University Centre for Energy Research, Jeanette Fitzsimons and centre director Professor Ralph Sims.

Energy efficiency spokesperson's call to action

Action on energy efficiency and the environment is needed now, Government spokesperson on energy efficiency Jeanette Fitzsimons says.

Ms Fitzsimons was the keynote speaker at the Massey University Centre for Energy Research (MUCER) Energy Postgraduate conference in Wellington.

"It's never too late," she says. "It just gets a whole lot harder, and a lot more people suffer the longer we leave it. That's why it's important to start now."

Ms Fitzsimons stresses she is not interested in targets for the long-term future, but for the next two to three years.

"We have nearly all the pieces of the jigsaw... The problem is we've lost the lid of the box. We don't have any idea of what the picture is we're working towards," she says.

While energy efficiency messages are reaching some people, they need to consider their shopping habits overall.

"It's what you don't consume, not what you do," she says. However she warns there is a fine balance between "motivating people to change and switching them off".

"We're at a point of sharp transition and how we handle it is very important."

The MUCER conference is organised in conjunction with the 2008 United Nations Environment Programme World Environment Day celebrations in Wellington tomorrow. It is a chance for higher degree research students in the broader energy-environment area to present their work to peers and staff.

MUCER director Professor Ralph Sims will speak on energy solutions to halt global warming at Te Papa's monthly Science Express Forum at 6.30pm tomorrow. Entry is free.

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Date: 04/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Enviromental issues; Wellington



Promising results in Europe for shooter

Olympic hopeful Rob Eastham has produced strong showings at two European world cup shooting events.

The second year Bachelor of Science student, also in his second year in the Massey Academy of Sport programme, has recently returned from Europe.

Competing in the 50m prone event, Mr Eastham placed 49th out of 158 competitors at the Munich World Cup.

He shot a score of 591 in the first eliminator round and improved that to 592 in the second round the next day.

Mr Eastham then flew on to Milan for another world cup event, where he carried the New Zealand flag at the opening ceremony.

There he shot a score of 592 in the eliminator round and was placed 12th out of 46 competitors. In the next round he shot a score of 590.

Mr Eastham says he owes a lot of his success to the Manawatu community.

“It has provided funding assistance to help me attend all three world cups this year and without that support I would not have been able to go.”

He says he thoroughly enjoyed his time in Europe and met a lot of people while competing in the two World Cup events.

Mr Eastham is awaiting the decision of the New Zealand Olympic Committee and the New Zealand Shooting Federation on whether he will be a part of this year's Olympic team.

Date: 04/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Italy trip likely for duathlete

Eighth placing in the New Zealand National Duathlon Championships should see second-year Bachelor of Business student Struan Webb selected for the world duathlon team.

Mr Webb, who competed against 24 others in the under-19 section of the event in Auckland on Sunday, says he is very happy with the result.

“This was the selection race for the New Zealand team to compete at the upcoming World Duathlon championships in Italy in September, so since I made the top ten I should be selected,” he says.

Originally from Feilding, Mr Webb won the Manawatu triathlon championships in 2008 and the under-19 section of the New Zealand national standard distance triathlon championships in March.

The former Fielding High School student is in his second year as a member of the University's Academy of Sport, which provides a holistic range of services enabling students to study, compete at the elite level and prepare for a future career outside sport.

Date: 04/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; College of Business; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Engineering an art form

Engineering as art was the focus for the Structural Sculptures event at the University's Wellington campus last week.

Second year Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronics) and Bachelor of Engineering Technology students worked individually or in groups, with a budget of \$100 each to produce a sculpture showing a mechanical or structural engineering principle.

Engineering lecturer Dr Paul Smith says the twelve-week project was a good challenge.

"The further they go through their degree, the more they're constrained by the principles of engineering," he says. "This gives them something a bit more open, as well as something that tests them."

Visitors were invited to view the four sculptures, before deciding on their favourite and voting.

"They have to think about every aspect of the design and really question what they're doing and why," Dr Smith says. "They take a lot of pride in their sculptures."

Student Wendy Xue says the project was time-consuming but enjoyable.

"Coming up with the ideas was the coolest part. The one thing that's really great is we don't actually know if it's going to work at the start."

The joint winners after 70 votes were counted were The Time Machine and The Wooden Walker. Ms Xue's Chaotic Man was also popular, Dr Smith says. The first-placed team received \$400, and the second \$200.

Mechatronics is the combination of precision mechanical engineering, electronic control, computer technology and a systems approach in the design of products and processes.

Date: 04/06/2008

Type: University News

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



Wendy Xue with Chaotic Man.



Brendon Clarke, Callum Murton, and Daniel Reddington with The Time Machine.



Leap waking from anaesthetic following surgery

Leap a lucky kiwi

A team of top vet hospital staff has saved a tiny North Island brown kiwi by performing world-first surgery on the 600g chick.

Leap – a North Island brown kiwi hatched on February 29 at Kiwi Encounter, Rainbow Springs in Rotorua – arrived at the University's wildlife ward with a luxated Achilles tendon, wildlife vet Kerri Morgan says.

“The group of tendons which make up the Achilles had slipped off the side of the hock. This twisted the foot and, because it had been like this for a few days, it had shortened the tendons.”

Because the op hadn't been tried before at Massey University “and there are no books showing you where tendons run on kiwi”, Ms Morgan called in orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Worth. The pair were able to assess the tendons on a dead kiwi which had been sent to the wildlife health centre for post mortem examination, allowing them to see where the delicate tendons lay. “Which was good because they are quite structurally different,” Ms Morgan says.

Although more used to working with companion animals including dogs and cats, Mr Worth decided to try to save Leap.

After the veterinary teaching hospital's anaesthetics team was called in, surgery then took place last Tuesday (27 May) and went well, with Leap monitored in the ward's intensive care unit for several days. By Friday when it was clear Leap was recovering well, postgraduate wildlife veterinary resident Vonni Linley started physiotherapy three times daily to restore Leap's range of movement.

Less than a week later, Leap is now on his way back to Rainbow Springs. “Usually we would have kept him for a bit longer,” Ms Morgan says, “But he comes from a place where they hatch a hundred kiwi chicks each year so their care is fantastic. Their animal husbandry is really good so it is a good idea to get him home.”

Leap flew back this morning, leaving Palmerston North at 9am and arriving in Rotorua via Auckland. Had surgery not been



Wildlife vet Kerri Morgan holds Leap as he recovers from surgery.



Orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Worth at work repairing the tendon, which is now held in place by a piece of nylon.



Leap under anaesthetic.

undertaken, the injury would have affected his mobility, making it more difficult for him to find food and ultimately making him easy prey for a stoat.

Leap was taken to Rainbow Springs as part of Operation Nest Egg, from his home near Cape Kidnappers. Operation Nest Egg takes wild kiwi eggs and chicks to be raised in secure crèches, until they are about 1.2kg and better able to survive in the wild.



Vonni Linley checks Leap prior to his release from the ward.



Vets check Leap's range of motion prior to his release from the ward.



Orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Worth at work repairing the tendon, which is now held in place by a piece of nylon.

Date: 05/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science; Wildlife Ward

Women sought for study on iron levels and diet

Massey researchers are seeking 100 women to take part in a study on the impact of diet on iron levels. Participants will be supplied with breakfast for four months, a special cereal and either kiwifruit or a banana, with researchers aiming to find out which combination has the most effect on improving iron levels.

Researchers in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health at the University's Auckland campus are running the study, which will use a breakfast cereal fortified with iron.

Iron deficiency is relatively common among young women and is known to cause fatigue and reduce work capacity and cognitive functioning. Dietary intervention is recommended as the first treatment for iron deficiency.

The research is being conducted by Dr Cath Conlon, a lecturer in human nutrition, and Kathryn Beck, a dietitian and PhD student. They anticipate they will need to screen up to 500 women in order to find 100 women with low iron levels. They are looking for women aged between 18 and 44.

Anyone interested in participating will be screened and given a blood test to establish iron levels. Those with mild iron deficiency will be invited to take part and supplied with the breakfast cereal and the selected fruit for the 16-week study.

For further information about this study contact Kathryn Beck on 09 443 9649 or Dr Cath Conlon on 09 443 9748.

This research is funded by Zespri International.

Date: 05/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Historian wins Hawaiian award for Pacific migration book

Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe has won two literary awards in Hawaii for *Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors*, which he edited and contributed to.

Vaka Moana won the non-fiction writing and text and reference book sections of the Hawaii Book Publishers' awards last month. It was one of three finalists for the Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau Award, named after the prominent 19th century Hawaiian scholar and historian.

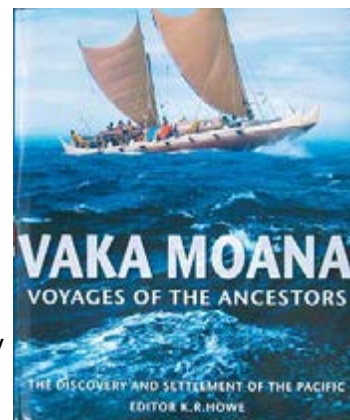
The 368-page book, illustrated with 400 photographs, drawings and maps, also won the history category of the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. It represents the most comprehensive survey to date of knowledge on Oceanic voyaging and early migration of Pacific peoples.

Produced to accompany the *Vaka Moana* exhibition at Auckland Museum last year, the book has contributions from top international scholars of Pacific history.

Date: 05/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Researchers to tackle key health issues

University researchers will address the key public health issues affecting New Zealanders, with projects ranging from alcohol-related harm and cancers to occupational health. Six projects are to receive funding totalling \$7.2 million from the Health Research Council's annual funding round.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long says the funding is an exceptional show of confidence in the ability of the University's public health researchers.

“With the Centre for Public Health Research, the Sleep/Wake Research Centre and the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development in Wellington and the Centre for Social Health Outcomes Research Evaluation in Auckland, we now have a very significant cluster providing the answers to some of the most serious public health questions.

“New research ranges from that addressing the harms from alcohol to analysing the determinants of inequalities in breast cancer survival rates. The importance of strong public health research is twofold: it enables governments to better plan future health services and practitioners to better understand and treat existing issues.

“We are extremely proud of the contribution these researchers will make, improving the health and lives of New Zealanders.”

The University's Centre for Public Health Research has been awarded \$2.5 million for a three-year study of occupational health in New Zealand.

Professor Neil Pearce said the funding represented the first large grant for a full programme of research into occupational health.

“It is an area that has been neglected in the past in New Zealand,” he says. “These grants give a boost to us and our capacity to do world class occupational health research.”

The funding would give him the chance to train new researchers at the centre and to focus on areas of occupational health which had not previously been comprehensively studied in New Zealand.

Dr Lis Ellison-Loschmann, a member of Professor Pearce's team, has also been awarded \$2 million for two other projects focused on Māori health.

Dr Ellison-Loschmann has worked with the centre since 2000. She recently returned to New Zealand after spending two years with a world-class cancer research group in Barcelona, Spain as part of her post-doctoral study.

The grant, \$1 million over three years, for research into breast cancer in Māori and Pacific Island women will allow an in-depth look into why these groups have lower survival rates than European women. A five-year grant of \$1 million will allow Dr Ellison-Loschmann to look at stomach cancer in Māori, with the aim of finding out why Māori are five times more likely to get stomach-cancer than non-Māori.

Louise Ihimaera (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Whakatōhea) who is based at the University's Research Centre for Māori Health and Development has received a grant of \$114,497 to look at Māori whānau participation in mental health service delivery.

Ms Ihimaera says whānau have an important role to play in improving mental health service delivery, development and evaluation. She hopes that this PhD study will contribute significantly to recognition of the value of whānau participation in compulsory treatment and care situations that can lead to positive health outcomes.

She says the funding will provide an opportunity for whānau to share their stories and reinforce the importance of whānau or others closest to them as part of an individual's recovery journey. “Although some whānau lifestyles may have negative influence or impact on a whānau member experiencing serious mental health issues, many whānau are a positive influence and are often the unsung heroes of voluntary care.”



Professor Neil Pearce.



Dr Lis Ellison-Loschmann.

Other projects to receive funding are:

- The Centre for Social Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation receives \$853,355 to study the range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others.
- The Department of Psychology receives \$1,107,000 for work on popular understandings of medications and their use in everyday life.

Date: 05/06/2008

Type: Research

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

New books reveal bold approach to writing life

A former police officer's sorrows about dealing with the deaths of children on the job is one of the most striking contributions in the latest anthology of student creative writing from Massey's School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland.

Titled *Home and Away*, to reflect the inclusion of work from students of travel writing and life writing papers, the book was one of two launched this week by special guest and two-time Katherine Mansfield Short Story Prize-winning author Tracey Slaughter.

Poems, essays and memoir showcase the diverse voices and subject matter from students' writing assignments, with travel diary impressions of Costa Rica and Taiwan alongside reflections on childhood, the perils of family life, fraught love and a tale of a search for the extinct native bird, the huia. In a story titled "*Beautiful Little Dolls,*" *the Policeman said...*, former police officer Bruce Craig writes of attending the death of a baby, and discusses his own misgivings about the workings of police culture from an insider's viewpoint.

Contributor and co-editor Kathryn Lee says the publication is a testament to the courage of students who overcame fear and the inclination to procrastinate when faced with the blank page.

"The lesson that I learned from this class [life writing] was a very simple one but one that needed to be learned. Stop worrying and start writing," Ms Lee says in her preface.

Home and Away co-editor, writer and English lecturer Dr Jack Ross says the diverse backgrounds of the contributors produced a huge variety of "amazing" stories.

"Showcasing and polishing these pieces for others to read and learn from has been a great pleasure for me."

Writers of Passage, by social anthropology and English literature postgraduate Rowan McCormick, is the second title just launched, and the ninth in the school's monograph series.

In it, he takes the roles of ethnographer, philosopher, interviewer, writer and editor to explore the complexities of authorship and identity, and the meanings and interpretations ascribed to both. His essay is, he says, an endorsement of the heroic quality needed to pursue the writing life.

Senior English lecturer Dr Mary Paul, in her preface, describes *Writers of Passage* as "fascinating." She says Mr McCormick "simultaneously synthesises a wide range of ideas about writing, the phenomenology and hermeneutics of reading, testimony and therapy and enacts (or performs) a heroic journey of discovery; and has 'a really good time' doing both".

The books are available for \$10 each at Massey's campus bookstores.

Date: 06/06/2008

Type: Research

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



Rowan McCormick holding his book – the ninth in the School of Social and Cultural Studies' monograph series.



Dr Jack Ross and Kathryn Lee with the third anthology of life writing from the school.

New Zealander to head Australasian distance and e-Learning council

Gordon Suddaby, from Massey University in Palmerston North, is the new President of the Australasian Council on Open, Distance and e-Learning. He is first New Zealander to hold the post in the 15-year history of the organisation.

Mr Suddaby, Massey's Academic Development and eLearning Director, succeeds Professor Alan Smith, Executive Director, Division of Academic Information Services from the University of Southern Queensland.

The council's mission is to enhance policy and practice in open, distance, flexible and e-learning in tertiary education.

It has 43 institutional members including most Australian and New Zealand universities as well as the University of the South Pacific. In recent years it has extended its working relationships with other organisations including Council of Australian Librarians, Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology, Universities Australia, the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Commission, the Australian Department of Education, the Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Ako Aotearoa, and The Australian Learning and Teaching Council (formerly known as the Carrick Institute).

Mr Suddaby has been on the council executive since 2004. His role as president will be supported by a newly-established secretariat hosted by the University of Canberra.

More information is available on the website <http://www.acode.edu.au>

Date: 06/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural; Palmerston North; Uni News





Professor Durie (left) presented with the Mark Sheldon Prize by Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists president by Professor Ken Kirkby.

Professor Mason Durie recognised for long-term commitment to mental health

Professor Mason Durie's long commitment to psychiatry and mental health was acknowledged by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in Melbourne last week.

He is the first New Zealander to be awarded the college's Mark Sheldon Prize for meritorious work in service provision and research to advance knowledge and understanding of indigenous mental health.

Professor Durie is Massey's Professor of Māori Research and Development, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) and Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr Julian Freidin, chair of the psychiatrists' college awards committee said Professor Durie had transformed mental health services in New Zealand over the past 30 years. "He introduced Māori health perspectives into treatment and care at a time when culture was considered irrelevant to clinical progress, and provided both vision and guidance in the development of models of care relevant to Māori," Dr Freidin said.

"More recently Professor Durie has led three national Māori mental health workforce programmes and has been engaged in wide-ranging research relating to improved mental health services. In addition to his interests in health he has lectured and written extensively on broader issues of indigenous advancement and especially contemporary Māori development."

The prize honours the life of Dr Sheldon, whose abiding professional interest was indigenous mental health.

Professor Durie was invited to deliver a keynote address to the college congress and took the opportunity to discuss Māori workforce development as a key driver for increasing Māori health gains.

Date: 06/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

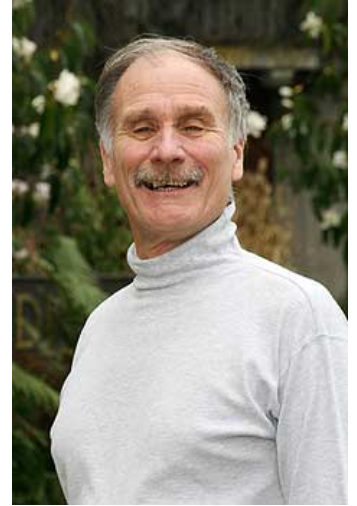
Inaugural distinguished fellow award for education professor

Professor Roger Openshaw from Massey's School of Educational Studies is the recipient of an inaugural Distinguished Fellow Award initiated by the School of Critical Studies in Education from the University of Auckland.

The award is for scholars whose "research and leadership contributes to the advancement of critical studies in education" and was presented to Professor Openshaw at a special ceremony and dinner held in Auckland last month.

Massey College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says the award is "a tremendous recognition of Professor Openshaw's work, and helps to maintain the Massey Education critic and conscience function".

While in Auckland, Professor Openshaw delivered a 50-minute public lecture entitled The power of history to inform, provoke, and extend our understanding of education. He also gave a three-hour presentation on his research on the Government's Te Kotahitanga project to a masters' class on Monday evening.



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

Date: 09/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education



Massey's new Human Resources Director, Alan Davis, on his Harley Davidson at Plimmerton Beach, Porirua.

New HR Director a self-confessed 'petrol head'

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Human Resources General Manager, the widely-experienced Alan Davis, is to join Massey as its new Director of Human Resources.

Mr Davis, 51, has a law degree from the University of Canterbury, a Masters in Business Administration from Victoria University of Wellington and has held key management roles with a variety of large public and private sector organisations, including Telecom, Westpac and the Department of Corrections.

He is excited by the challenge of working in the tertiary education environment and describes Massey as "an iconic New Zealand organisation that is making a significant contribution to New Zealand's 'brand' internationally".

His philosophy about people management is that "managers are entrusted with the people in their team and play a pivotal role in setting the environment that enables them to contribute their talents and capabilities.

"It's about clearly defining the capabilities needed to achieve organisational outcomes and then getting the barriers out of the way to enable people to contribute those capabilities. A supportive environment is about giving people the right tools and resources, it's about the style, it's about the culture and the whole tone of the place that people get to work in, so that people are able to give their best. It's about adding value to the work of your people."

Raised in Christchurch, Mr Davis graduated in 1979 and worked for the Canterbury Employers' Association as a legal officer and industrial advocate for eight years, then as a consultant with international accountancy and financial service firm Deloitte before joining Telecom South in 1990 as employee relations manager.

He moved to Wellington in 1993 as Telecom's national employee relations manager, worked for Westpac Bank in a variety of management roles, and was involved in establishing a Wellington branch of a national human resources consultancy. He completed his MBA in 1999 and undertook consulting and contracting work for a range of organisations and industries including a significant period as human resources manager for the Corrections Department. He has been with MAF for the past four years.

Mr Davis is married with three adult children and will be based in Palmerston North. In his spare time he enjoys motorcycling in Manawatu and Wairarapa and is a self-confessed "petrol-head", indulging his motoring interests with a small collection of classic British motorcycles, a 1966 Mustang and, his personal favourite, a 1550cc Harley-Davidson Fatboy.

He is due to start on 4 August and replaces June Dallinger, who finished in February.

The University's Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, who chaired the appointment panel, says: "We look forward to Alan's contribution to the Massey leadership team and the wider Massey community."

Date: 09/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Internal Communications; Palmerston North; Wellington



Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor James Chapman, Alison Halkyard, Sue Milne of Smart Kids, Head of Auckland's School of Education Professor Michael Townsend, and Professor of Literacy Education Tom Nicholson.

Literacy award a boost for teachers who help struggling readers

Dedication to helping struggling readers has resulted in Whangaparaoa College literacy teacher Alison Halkyard becoming the first winner of Massey's Smart Kids Graduate Literacy Scholarship.

Mrs Halkyard has taken a year off from teaching to do the one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Literacy Education at the College of Education's School of Education in Auckland. She says the programme has been highly worthwhile in helping her understand how children learn to read, and how best to help them when they have difficulties.

The \$1000 scholarship – to be awarded annually – is financed by Smart Kids, a leading international educational publisher of hands-on teaching materials, including an innovative phonics-based reading programme that is now widely used in the United Kingdom.

The goal of the scholarship is to improve literacy instruction in schools by producing specialist literacy teachers who can help students' struggling to learn how to read and write.

Mrs Halkyard had taught at primary and intermediate schools for many years. Two-and-a-half years ago she became a literacy teacher for below-average readers at secondary school. She is passionate about helping children to read because "those who struggle get demoralised about learning and lose their confidence. This can lead to behavioural problems," she says.

Date: 09/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Education; Scholarships

First novel shortlisted for top book award

An early morning phone call from a friend alerted University creative writing tutor Mary McCallum that her first novel had been shortlisted for the Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

Ms McCallum was today named a finalist in the prestigious fiction category with her first book about life in an isolated whaling community, *The Blue*. She is also eligible for the fiction prize in the New Zealand Society of Authors First Book Awards.

"It's overwhelming to be honest. I really hoped for it to be in the first book section but this is really thrilling," she says.

"This means they thought *The Blue* was of a quality that could go into the main fiction pool, and that's really, really exciting for the book."

Ms McCallum says a congratulatory phone call came from a friend who had read of her success in the newspaper.

"I'm still trying to come to terms with it, actually, but it's very cool to have that vote of confidence."

Ms McCallum hopes the novel will gain a fresh profile after being shortlisted.

"After an initial period a book starts to lose its shine and hopefully this will reinvigorate interest in it."

She is up against three other female authors in the category: Laurence Fearnley for *Edwin & Matilda*, Alice Tawhai for *Luminous*, and Charlotte Grimshaw for *Opportunity*.

Ms McCallum was the first of three published authors to read in the University's Writers Read programme at a session last month. As well as excerpts from *The Blue*, she read from her next novel, a work in progress titled *Precarious*.

There are 25 finalists in eight categories in the book awards, with the winner of each category receiving \$5000. The Montana medal for poetry or fiction is worth an additional \$10,000. The results will be announced on 21 July,

For more information on *The Blue*: www.mary-mccallum.blogspot.com

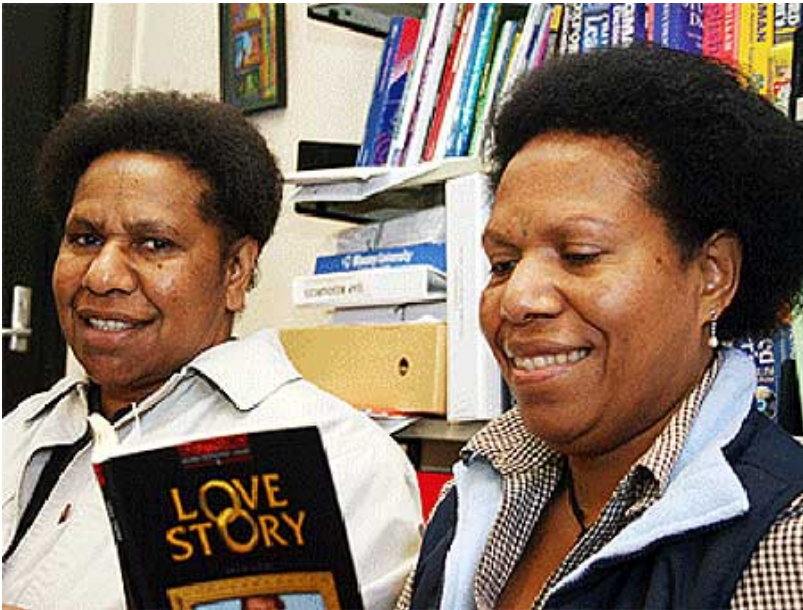
Caption: Author Mary McCallum.

Date: 10/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Matella Urakowi and Margaret Gari read from a graded version of Love Story.

Recreational reading helps students prepare for study

A romance novel is not the usual reading material of an agriculture student, but for Margaret Gari it has been study time well spent. When she picked up a copy of *Love Story*, she found she couldn't put it down, and read it into the early hours of the morning.

The book, a graded reader written with a limited vocabulary especially for second language learners, was recommended to her by Massey University lecturer Averil Coxhead.

Ms Coxhead says the extensive reading programme is useful to all second language learners as they prepare for academic study.

"It's about getting students to simply read for pleasure. Academic texts are often difficult so tackling a novel that has been written to their level is an important step."

Ms Gari, from Papua New Guinea, is studying English for Academic Purposes at the School of Language Studies to prepare for the agriculture programme she begins next semester.

"These books help me understand English better, they're fun to read and piecing together the plot helps me learn the language," she says.

Another of Ms Coxhead's students, Matella Urakowi, is planning to study Health Science next semester. She says the graded readers have been an immense help as she prepares.

"I cried after reading one book and read it for so long I worried I might be neglecting my academic studies. But the books have improved my vocabulary and broadened my understanding of the language."

Ms Coxhead is a member of the Extensive Reading Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation involved in promoting the use of extensive reading. The foundation is running this year's Language Learner Literature Awards.

"The awards are there to reward writers of graded readers and encourage more of them to be written. There are three books nominated in four categories that will be judged by students and teachers of English from around the world," Ms Coxhead says.

The books that have been shortlisted for the awards are on display at the Palmerston North City Library, with the winners announced next month.

Date: 11/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; International



Gelato geniuses (from left) Al Chen, Jane Wilson, Anthony Light, Bon Jin Koo, Anthony Derrick and Ray Li.

Gelato geniuses scoop ice-cream awards

A dream assignment for the sweet-toothed has seen a group of Massey Auckland food technology students sweep the Open Creative category of the 2008 New Zealand Ice-cream Awards.

It is the first time students from the university's food and technology programme have entered the event, with all four entries winning gold or silver awards for near-perfect gelatos.

Food technology lecturer Kay McMath says the students' success was “a real coup” as they were up against ice-cream industry professionals from companies such as Tip Top, as well as professional chefs and caterers.

All entries begin with a perfect score of 100 points, and marks are deducted for defects across 39 criteria, such as uneven ripples, air spaces in the container and flavour mishaps. Gold award certificates go to entries with 98 to 100 points, and silver to entries with 96 to 97.9 points.

Jane Wilson and Al Chen won gold for their Pink Lady gelato flavoured with cherry, coconut and stracchiarella (vanilla and chocolate flakes) and Anthony Light also won gold for his combination of cappuccino, stracchiarella with ganache rib ripple. Ray Li and Anthony Derrick won silver for Black Night – a rich unison of chocolate and cherry, while Bon Jin Koo won silver for a traditional Italian tiramisu gelato.

The six fourth-year students at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health created the gelato range as part of a product development project requiring them to come up with an indulgently healthy snack for either children or adults.

They carried out focus group research to identify flavours consumers preferred then developed prototypes for entry in the awards, organised by the New Zealand Ice-cream Manufacturers' Association.

Clinton Fewtrell, a former chef and now business manager for dairy and meat ingredient supplier company Prolux NZ, supplied the students with an Italian gelato machine as well as imported Italian ingredients and flavourings and technical expertise on how to make gelato.

Gelato is the Italian word for ice-cream, but it is made with lower-fat milk than standard New Zealand ice-cream, Mr Fewtrell says.

The essence of gelato is to use good quality ingredients and not to over-churn the mixture before freezing it, he says.

Mrs McMath, who is chief judge of the ice-cream awards, says the international judging criteria is very strict and is completed anonymously.

As a regular judge of the awards, which were introduced in 1997 and presented at the annual conference held in Christchurch this year, Mrs McMath and three other judges sampled more than 200 ice-creams, gelatos and sorbets. Frozen fare ranged from the divine to the disgusting – with chilli and corn being one of the stranger flavour combinations for ice-cream, and blue cheese and pear ice-cream one of the more original entries, Waxy textures and rancid nuts made the judging task less than mouth-watering at times, she says.

The Open Creative category is the only one open to entries that are not commercially available. Mrs McMath says the students' success was applauded by the industry and will be a great stepping stone into their future careers in the food industry.

Date: 12/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences

Technology on show while Massey alumni network at Fieldays

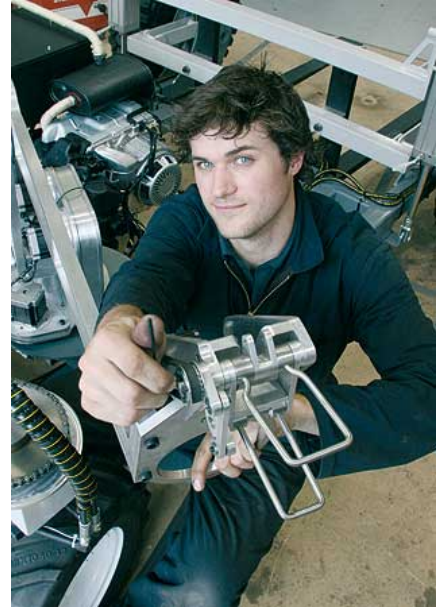
Two projects from the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology are being showcased at National Fieldays at Mystery Creek, Hamilton, this week.

A kiwifruit picking robot developed by Dr Rory Flemmer and a team led by PhD scholar Alistair Scarfe is on site, along with an audio-visual production showcasing the Totara Hylink remote rural energy project.

The kiwifruit picker project was born after business development manager Garth Atkinson heard a report on the kiwifruit industry's perennial crisis: not enough pickers. He and Dr Flemmer, an industrial automation specialist, worked out a way to automate picking, something that had not previously been possible mechanically because the fruit were too easily damaged.

The key to their design is an artificial vision system that enables the robot to select and pick 14,000 kiwifruit an hour. It is scheduled to begin working in orchards this year.

The Totara Hylink project, a collaboration between the University's Centre for Energy Research and state-owned Industrial Research Ltd, harnesses hydro, solar and wind energy to power a remote rural farming community at Kumeroa, near Woodville.



Massey marketing director Sarah Vining says the kiwifruit picker has the potential to revolutionise the entire horticulture industry, while the Totara Hylink project is especially significant for rural communities facing supply issues.

Ms Vining says this year's Fieldays theme – the science of farming – is "a natural fit" for Massey.

"These examples of University-led innovation are indicative of the work being done all over our campuses. We have a world-renowned history of innovation in agriculture and agricultural science that defines what New Zealand is about. It's great that we are able to show examples of work that is capable of taking New Zealand forward."

Alumni services manager Leanne Fecser is hosting the annual Fieldays function for former Massey students and staff at the Mystery Creek pavilion tonight and, as in previous years, is expecting a large turnout.

Caption: PhD scholar Alistair Scarfe with the kiwifruit picking robot.

Date: 12/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Explore - Engineering; Palmerston North; Wellington

Writings of literary great published for the first time

Three previously unpublished works are included in a new book of writing by the Scottish novelist, poet and travel-writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

Sophia Scarlet and Other Pacific Writings, edited by Associate Professor Robert Hoskins of the New Zealand School of Music, focuses on the work Stevenson wrote while living in Samoa.

Dr Hoskins, a lecturer in music, found and edited the works in his spare time.

He says his love of Stevenson's work dates back to his childhood when he bought comics of Stevenson's most famous works such as *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

"But the idea behind making this collection of new works is to allow the reader to appreciate for the first time the extent of his longing for a restored Pacific society, one that transcends the racial divide."

Stevenson lived in Samoa for the final four years of his life and is buried there. He was made a chief by the Samoan people and given the title *Tusitala*, which means writer of tales.

Dr Hoskins says much of Stevenson's Pacific writings have been ignored in previous anthologies because the themes are not relevant to European readers.

"But the works have themes similar to those in his celebrated novels, of having to accept one's own sins before reconciliation can be obtained."

Many of the stories, which urged Samoans to be wary of imperialists hoping to colonise the islands at the end of the 19th century, were unpopular.

"At the time Stevenson thought he could well have been charged with sedition. He understood the island culture and appreciated it, telling Samoans to keep their land," Dr Hoskins says.

Three of the ten works in the collection have never previously been published and others have not been published in volume form.

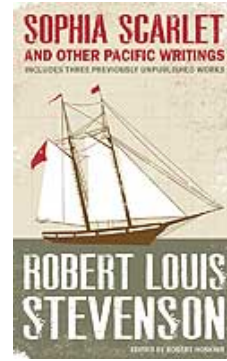
The title work of the collection, *Sophia Scarlet*, is the outline of a novel about a woman alienated from her family and her surroundings.

"Readers of Stevenson's more famous works will recognise this work's potential as a study of the differences between and within people, of loneliness and the craving for love, and man's earthly anguish and longing for redemption."

Date: 12/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Creative Arts



Sophia Scarlet and Other Pacific Writings



Robert Hoskins

Driving while phoning danger as bad as drink-driving

Motorists who use cellphones while driving make as many, if not more, driving errors as clinically drunk drivers, according to educational psychologist Professor Michael Townsend.

He says the proposed ban on hand-held cellphone use by drivers is long overdue.

In an observational study he published two years ago, Professor Townsend found that 4 per cent of the 8700 central Auckland motorists sighted were using cellphones while driving.

He believes the percentage will have risen in line with the increase in cellphone connections.

International research has shown that using a cellphone when driving results in "cognitive overload," causing the same or higher rates of driver error as a drunk driver, he says.

The risk of collision is four times greater when driving while using a cell phone, while the risk of a collision resulting in death is nine times higher.

"While 4 per cent might not sound sufficient to justify a ban, people can better comprehend the level of danger by imagining – as they drive home on a busy motorway – that one in every 25 cars coming towards them is being driven by a clinically drunk driver."

Concentrating on a conversation, not simply the physical act of holding a cell phone, is what distracts the driver. "The nature of the conversation matters too, with deep and meaningful dialogues creating a greater distraction and added risk than small talk."

Professor Townsend admits to having been won over by cellphones having ardently refused to carry one until three months ago.

He says he can now understand the compulsion to answer a cell phone call when driving because he has done so himself. He even admits to having sent a text message while in a line of slow-moving traffic.

"A ban would act as a deterrent for many people whose inclination to use a cell phone while driving prevails over common sense and self-preservation."

Between 2002 and last year there were 411 injury crashes and 26 fatal crashes in which the use of cell phones were implicated.

Caption: Professor Michael Townsend sends a text before getting into his car.

Date: 12/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education





Darlene and Jamie McCaskil running away from the crime scene.

More film success for Massey graduate

Bonnie Slater hopes winning the top prize for the third successive year in the Wellington 48HOURS film competition will lead to a feature film in the near future.

Ms Slater, a graduate of Massey's School of English and Media Studies, produced the film *Darlene* which won best film at the sold out awards ceremony in Wellington's Embassy Theatre.

The film also won best script, best cinematography, best use of a prop and most perfect moment awards.



The 48HOURS filmmaking competition gives 600 teams across New Zealand just 48 hours to make a film from idea to completion. Each team is randomly allocated a genre and must include a given character, line of dialogue and prop in the film.

Ms Slater's team was given the juvenile delinquent genre to work with. She says they drew on films from the early 1960s as inspiration.

"The films of James Dean are the first that come to mind when you think of this genre, but we didn't want to limit ourselves to adolescent characters. *Darlene* tells the story of a young thief who becomes infatuated with an older man she has robbed in the past, it's a coming of age story."

Ms Slater says her team, Smashing Pants, is hoping to win the national final where more than \$60,000 in prizes is up for grabs.



Darlene Mohekey (playing title Character)

"We're currently developing a feature that will definitely make people sit up and notice. Winning the nationals would be a genuine leg-up to getting our film made."

The team's success in the competition over the past three years has industry people keen to help.

“If this is what we can do in 48 hours with limited equipment and no budget, imagine what we could do with more time and a budget,” she says.

Ms Slater works as a freelance television producer and has worked on shows such as Sensing Murder, Mitre 10 Dream Home and Location, Location, Location.

She says completing a BA in Media Studies at Massey University gave her skills a theoretical base.

“I then went on to the New Zealand Film and Television School and learned the practical side of the industry.”

The national final of the 48HOURS film competition is being screened on C4 on 3 July.

Date: 13/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Alumni; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Associate Professor Christine Thomson and Professor Hugh Blair, both of IVABS, try some of the new CCC equipment with Gareth Pryme, sales manager for equipment supplier bio-strategy.

Vet research training gets shot in the arm

A new cell culture lab is the first of a series of initiatives undertaken by Massey to boost veterinary and animal science research.

The \$250,000 funding of Cell Culture Central (CCC) is part of the multimillion dollar Building Research Capability in Strategically Relevant Areas initiative, supported by the Tertiary Education Commission. It targets subjects where the performance-based research fund results revealed gaps in areas of strategic relevance to New Zealand's development.

Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Professor Grant Guilford says that the overall initiative is to help overcome three key strategic constraints to veterinary and animal science research: under-investment; the need for the veterinary school at Massey University to employ a predominance of clinically-orientated teaching faculty who have only limited time available for research; and the inadequate research training of many younger veterinary academics.

“The project has established a series of funds to promote collaborative research in selected animal science and animal health research areas to link new researchers, especially clinicians, with experienced science teams. A training fund has been created to assist academic staff complete their PhD studies. Cell Culture Central has been established to enhance access to fundamental research techniques by applied veterinary and animal scientists. Specifically, Cell Culture Central will provide enhanced access to modern cell biology research techniques, training in cell culture research technique, core research facilities and the technical support necessary for these staff to become research active at the international level. “

The new lab provides facilities and expertise in mammalian cell culture, to assist in research projects within its host institution, IVABS, and the University and wider science community.

CCC director, Associate Professor Christine Thomson says cell culture is one of the fundamental techniques underpinning biological sciences. Cell culture techniques aim to grow and differentiate cells *in vitro*, that is in a Petri dish, or a culture flask in an incubator.

“These cultures can then be used to study basic cellular appearance, the cell's physiology and function, the effects of drugs and mechanisms of disease,” Dr Thomson says.

“In general, cell culture techniques can be used to see how cells interact with each other and with infectious organisms, such as viruses or bacteria.”

The CCC lab is a clean facility that does not undertake study on infectious organisms.

The NeuroCentral Research Laboratory, which is incorporated into CCC, revolves around the mammalian central nervous system. Research projects are aimed at investigating factors influencing the formation of the insulating myelin sheath, that surrounds nerve fibres. This research is relevant to basic neurobiology and to diseases involving myelin, such as multiple sclerosis. Developing a functional interface between the nervous system and

conducting polymers is a new collaborative project being established in conjunction with Dr Craig Johnson of IVABS and Associate Professor Ashton Partridge from the Nanomaterials Research Centre. Additionally, cell culture studies are being carried out by Sarah Taylor and Professor Elwyn Firth, aiming to improve tendon healing in racehorses.

Professor High Blair formally opened CCC this morning, with staff from across the University attending to view the new facility. More than 50 students have already undertaken training.

Date: 16/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science

Low-status jobs for mothers returning to work

When New Zealand mothers return to the workforce, they typically take lower status jobs and a lower pay rate than before they had children, an in-depth study of 'returners' has shown.

A researcher in the University's Department of Management, Dr Ee Kheng Ang, interviewed 26 women – 22 of them with tertiary qualifications – for her doctoral thesis *Career break or broken career? Mothers' experiences of returning to paid work*.

She also interviewed employers, held focus groups, mailed out a national questionnaire and explored government assistance aimed at helping mothers integrate work and family.

Mothers who interrupt their careers by taking a break to raise children generally face downward occupational mobility and loss of lifetime incomes, says Dr Ang. They can then find it very difficult to transition upward, particularly from casual or part-time work.

She says there is a widely-held assumption that mothers coming back to work have outdated skills and qualifications and that their performance will be constrained by motherhood.

"The returners are often highly-skilled and qualified individuals but employers appear to treat them as relatively unskilled labour, suitable for casual employment."

The sample group of mothers she interviewed had left well-paid professional roles to have children.

They included a veterinarian, town planners, school principals, consultants and health specialists. The women were all very proactive in their efforts to regain some of the power and control they had once had when they were working. Their comments, she says, reflected the complexity of returning to paid work.

Through the experiences of her sample group she sought to identify the various factors that contribute to what she calls the "queuing process" whereby returners are assigned the lowest occupational position at the back of the job queue.

Social factors, including the need to work close to home and the careers of their partners, had significant bearing.

For example, because husbands and partners had now pulled ahead of the women in terms of earnings and bargaining power, returning mothers were obliged to put their partners' jobs ahead of their own in any considerations related to returning to work themselves.

"Further, when planning to go back to work, mothers need help from their partners, not just with childcare but also in making the transition back to paid work easier. In most cases, the partners appeared to expect that the mothers combine paid work and home responsibilities in such a way that the home environment remained as unchanged as possible.

"The participants in my study claimed their partners expected them to organise and pay for childcare."

Dr Ang found the lack of support from extended families in modern life had an impact on when women chose to return to work and the sort of jobs they took. Labour market conditions also affect mothers going back to work because they are reliant on a booming economy to get back into employment. Outside the larger centres, some of the former professionals said it was difficult to find even casual cleaning jobs.

For women who break their careers to have children, the break often leads to the loss of work-related networks, says Dr Ang. The women who had work-related contacts were more likely to be offered jobs than those without those networks.

The group also found there was little recognition by employers of the unpaid but work-related skills they may have acquired through voluntary work in the community.

Many had experience in leadership positions such as treasurer or chairperson of school boards of trustees, convenors for conferences or supervisors of play-centres. One had been in sole charge of a large building project.

"On the whole I found employers are generally satisfied with the work of returners and appreciate their skills and attributes. However by not compensating them adequately the employers are contributing to the relegation of



returners to the back of the career queue.”

She found that only three of the 26 women interviewed were in successful second careers and had been promoted. Those women were single mothers and had qualified for assistance in training and childcare. Dr Ang believes such assistance should be available to assist women wanting to return to work who are not on a benefit.

“Further assistance could be in a lump sum payment to assist with job search costs. The creation of more good part-time jobs where the potential for promotions is real and achievable and where there is a clear pathway for part-timers to achieve full-time positions and progress in their chosen line of work would ensure that returners are not stuck in dead-end jobs.”

Date: 16/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Not enough done to bridge New Zealand's reading gap

The head of Massey University's College of Education has called for more effort to bridge the widening gap between good and poor readers and halt the downward trend of New Zealand children's reading abilities compared with those of other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Professor James Chapman says Dyslexia Awareness Week puts the spotlight on the 70,000 children in New Zealand who are affected by the learning disability and the need for effective delivery of research-based teaching to meet these children's needs, as well as a more robust policy to identify them.

According to international surveys, reading abilities of New Zealand children are falling in comparison to their OECD counterparts.

"New Zealand teachers have not been prepared to meet the special needs of students with dyslexia. Reading researchers at Massey, however, are very familiar with the latest research on the causes, characteristics, and remedial approaches relating to dyslexia," Professor Chapman says.

"New Zealanders generally do not have as good an understanding of dyslexia as in other countries where the disability has been recognised for decades.

Professor Bill Tunmer from Massey's School of Educational Studies says the Ministry of Education's reading recovery programme simply isn't working. He says some students are not suited to the programme - particularly those with the highest risk of not being able to read - and that many teachers are not equipped to cope with the challenges.

"The teaching of literacy skills is different to other areas of education," Professor Tunmer says.

The first of a new annual literacy scholarship has been awarded to Whangaparaoa College literacy teacher Alison Halkyard. The award recognises teachers helping struggling readers in their classrooms.

Ms Halkyard says Massey's Postgraduate Diploma in Literacy Education has helped her understand how children learn to read, and how best to help them when they have difficulties.

The University also offers the only Master of Literacy Education programme in New Zealand. The programme includes course work that directly addresses topics relating to persistent literacy learning difficulties – dyslexia – and is taught by leading international authorities in dyslexia research.

The College of Education will host a conference at Massey's Wellington campus next January to present the latest research and practice on dyslexia to teachers, parents and policymakers.

More information on the conference can be found at: <http://www.eenz.com/dyslexiaconf09/>

Date: 16/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Awards and appointments; College of Education; Scholarships



Professor James Chapman



Professor Bill Tunmer



Annemarie Gillies (Massey), Dr Greg Lambert (AgResearch), Associate Professor Huia Jahnke (Massey), Dr Liz Wedderburn (AgResearch); Garth Harmsworth (Landcare Research), Dr Oliver Chikumbo (Scion), Dr Chris Dake (AgResearch) and Dr Tanira Kingi (Massey).

Under-utilised Māori land targeted for improvement

A combination of whakapapa, land-use modelling and customary knowledge is seen as the key to improving the utilisation and sustainable development of Māori land with multiple owners.

Four organisations representing owners of more than 28,000ha of Māori land are working with a team led by Dr Tanira Kingi of Massey University to develop a new framework to help other landowners decide how best to use their resources.

The three-year programme, called Integrated Māori Land and Resource Development: A Decision-Support Framework ("Iwi Futures"), is a collaboration between Massey and Landcare Research (Manaaki Whenua), AgResearch, Scion and Te Arawa Lakes Trust. The programme has received significant backing from Te Puni Kōkiri and support from the Māori Land Court, the Office of the Māori Trustee and the Federation of Māori Authorities.

In February it received \$2.4 million funding from the Foundation for Research Science and Technology.

Dr Kingi says the programme is going well. "We have completed the initial stage of building relationships, developing working agreements and establishing expectations with each of the case study organisations and collaborators," he says. Detailed fieldwork is now underway.

"Our main aim is to provide a generic, easily accessible framework that is relevant to Māori land owners throughout the country. The framework is a unique attempt to integrate socio-cultural imperatives with comprehensive land-resource assessments and complex simulation modelling.

"The programme is also built on a whakapapa [genealogy] and tikanga [customary practice] approach to research. One of our underpinning principles is to make sure we have team members that have a tribal affiliation to each of the case study groups to ensure meaningful outcomes and an awareness of local iwi and hapu dynamics.

"We also want to build continuity beyond the programme and so we've provided funding to each of the case study groups for one of their landowners to work within our team and be trained as a researcher."

The four case study organisations and their tribal linkages are: Ngāti Hine Health Trust Incorporated (Ngāti Hine); Paehinahina Mourea Trust (Te Arawa); Waimarama Incorporation (Ngāti Kahungunu) and Aohanga Incorporation (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rangitāne).

They were chosen because they were representative of the many issues facing Māori landowners, Dr Kingi says.

"These include high numbers of owners registered against land titles, large numbers of titles without management or administrative structures and land that faces heavy regulatory constraints because of its proximity to fragile environments like coastlines, rivers or lakes."

The first phase of the fieldwork involves qualitative data collection to identify owners' development priorities and understand their decision-making processes.

“We will also work closely with key members in the case study organisations to assist in the identification of cultural landscape information such as waahi tapu [places of importance] and to develop a system where that information can be recorded and stored in a database such as a Geographic Information System.

“Quite often waahi tapu like urupa [cemeteries] are not included in farm management plans and are therefore open to damage. By setting up a system to capture and store this information owners can more effectively attend to their role as kaitiaki [guardians] and make sure that this information is included in management plans.”

The second phase of the project includes collecting publicly-available data from Māori land courts and other government bodies and local and regional councils.

“This work provides a solid base for detailed land assessments at the paddock or block level. These assessments will be carried out for specific areas on each of the case study properties.”

The third phase will involve analysis of the information gathered using computer software tools developed to aid pastoral and horticultural farming, forestry, and aquaculture ventures as well as geothermal and rural tourism businesses.

The fourth phase will build visualisation and decision-making tools.

“We have modelling specialists in our team that are able to simulate landscape changes alongside social and cultural indicators so that changes can be seen graphically by landowners for 20, 50 or 100 years in the future. This is an exciting tool to build awareness of issues and develop capability for improved decision-making.”

Dr Kingi says the findings from the programme will be disseminated through reports, published papers and at local and national hui. An interactive website, due to be launched at the end of August, will include examples of how to use and apply the framework.

The Massey team members are: Dr Kingi (Ngāti Whakaue, Te Arawa), Associate Professor Huia Jahnke (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tahu), and Dr Annemarie Gillies (Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Arawa).

From AgResearch: Dr Greg Lambert, Dr Liz Wedderburn, Dr Chris Dake and Dr Alec Mackay.

From Landcare Research: Garth Harmsworth (Te Arawa, Ngāti Raukawa) and Oscar de Oca Munguia.

From Scion: Dr Oliver Chikumbo.

From Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Dr Tepora Emery (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Whakaue, Te Arawa).

Case study key contacts are: Rob Cooper and Percy Tipene from Ngāti Hine Health Trust, Barnett Vercoe from Paehinahina Mourea Trust, Robert MacDonald from Waimarama Incorporation and Mavis Mullins from Aohanga Incorporation.

Date: 16/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Maori

Home affordability continues to improve slowly

There has been a very small improvement in home affordability in the last quarter of just 0.6 per cent, says the latest report from the Massey University Real Estate Analysis Unit.

The home affordability formula used by the real estate analysis unit is driven by three variables – one is house prices and the other two are mortgage interest rates and wage rates, says the director of the unit, Professor Bob Hargreaves.

The movement in these figures over the quarter ending 31 May resulted in the small shift in affordability of 0.6 per cent, says Professor Hargreaves.

Four of the 12 regions tracked by the unit showed improvements in affordability: Central Otago Lakes 10.9 per cent, Canterbury/Westland 6.4 per cent, Waikato/Bay of Plenty 6.2 per cent, and Nelson/Marlborough 5.4 per cent. The regions showing a decline in affordability were Northland 21 per cent, Auckland 4.9 per cent, Southland 4.3 per cent, Manawatu/Wanganui 3.6 per cent, Taranaki 2.8 per cent, Hawke's Bay 1.5 per cent, Otago 0.7 per cent, and Wellington 0.2 per cent.

Viewed on an annual basis however, the figures still point to a decline in affordability of 1.5 per cent, says Professor Hargreaves. Although Southland is still the most affordable place to buy a house, it had a 32.9 per cent decline in affordability over the past year. This decline was followed by Central Otago Lakes 15.3 per cent, Northland 9.5 per cent, Manawatu/Wanganui 9.4 per cent, Otago 6.4 per cent, Nelson/Marlborough 5.2 per cent, Hawke's Bay 4.5 per cent, Taranaki 3.1 per cent, Waikato/Bay of Plenty 2.8 per cent, Wellington 2.8 per cent and Auckland 1.8 per cent.

For more details: <http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 17/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Holding the DVD is one of the children featured in it, Lakai Taunoa with, from left: Researcher Pani Kenrick, parent Jackie Prichard, head teacher of Wycliffe Ngā Tamariki Kindergarten Heather Simmons, parent Theresa Brewster, project leader Dr Penny Haworth, and teacher Liz Schimanski.

DVD shows peer relationships aid children's learning

College of Education researchers working with the Napier Free Kindergarten Association have launched an educational DVD highlighting the benefits of peer relationships in children.

Tuakana-Teina: Keeping Everyone on the Waka records and explores tuakana-teina (older sibling - younger sibling) relationships in the kindergarten setting, and shows the ways in which older children nurture and support the learning of younger children.

College of Education researcher Dr Penny Haworth led the project, which was funded by the Ministry of Education.

“The idea for making a DVD to be used for teacher development arose towards the end of the centre of innovation research project in which Professor Joy Cullen and I worked as research associates,” Dr Haworth says.

“The DVD reflects an effective nexus between teaching and research.”

Dr Haworth put together a script, and led a project team to develop the findings into a DVD. The teachers at Wycliffe Ngā Tamariki Kindergarten collected and videotaped data with support from families.

Researcher Pani Kenrick, from the School of Māori and Multicultural Education, helped analyse the data and serves as key narrator on the DVD's introduction.

The DVD was launched at the end of last month in Taradale and is presented in four parts: An introduction to the nature of tuakana-teina relationships, background to the Wycliffe Ngā Tamariki Kindergarten setting, case studies illustrating tuakana-teina relationships in action, and practical implications for teachers, communities and children's education.

Funding from the University's fund for innovation and excellence in teaching and a small amount of additional funding from the School of Educational Studies enabled follow-up to findings the early childhood centre of innovation project.

Date: 17/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

First professor of public relations appointed

The University has appointed Dr Krishnamurthy Sriramesh as its first Professor of Public Relations. Based in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing at the Wellington campus, Professor Sriramesh is recognised as a world authority on the internationalisation of public relations.

In his 17 years as a university educator, Professor Sriramesh has been a visiting professor in the United States, Europe and Asia and he currently serves on the editorial boards of a number of public relations and communications journals.

The Head of the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, Associate Professor Frank Sligo says Professor Sriramesh's leadership will take Massey's strong public relations research programme to the next level of international excellence.

"We are delighted to welcome Professor Sriramesh to Massey University. It is an honour to be joined by an international scholar of such high calibre and to work with an educator and researcher of public relations who is held in such enormous worldwide esteem," says Dr Sligo.

Professor Sriramesh holds a Chair in Public Relations and has won a number of awards for teaching and research. In 2004 he was the recipient of the prestigious Pathfinder Award from the Institute for Public Relations (USA) for original scholarly research contributing to the public relations body of knowledge.

Before coming to Massey University he was Associate Professor at the School of Communication and Information at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Date: 18/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Uni News; Wellington





Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington with Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey.

Head office established for the University

The University will establish its head office in the International Study Centre at the Palmerston North campus when Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey takes over as vice-chancellor later this year.

The move will see the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long, University Registrar Stuart Morriss, General Manager Strategy and Finance John Griffiths, and their support staff, move out of the Registry building. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Mason Durie and his staff will also relocate.

Mr Maharey says the relocation will allow him to bring together the leadership group with national responsibilities and distinguish them from staff with responsibility specifically – or primarily – for operations on the Palmerston North campus.

It will also provide a working space for the pro vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors from the Auckland and Wellington campuses when they are in Palmerston North. Minor low-cost alterations will be required to the building's entrance only.

"On one hand it more clearly delineates the fact those management roles cover the whole University, not just Palmerston North, by providing a front door to the University that is distinct from the front door to the campus," Mr Maharey says.

"It's good for the Manawatu that Massey has a multi-campus university with its head office in Palmerston North and it sends a message to the community of long-term commitment to the region."

In the same way Auckland and Wellington campuses have registries or Contact Centres, the Registry building will become the new base for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington and the Regional Registrar: Student Life Palmerston North and Extramural, Dr Sandi Shillington, along with their staff. It will remain the base for the University Council meetings.

Mr Maharey has not settled on a name for the building. University House is a possibility.

Other key staff to be located there will be the new Director of Human Resources, Alan Davis, and the new Director of External Relations, yet to be appointed. Both will report to the vice-chancellor.

The International Office will relocate to the nearby Courtyard Complex. The Association of University Staff office will move to the Tree House building, near the Human Resources Section.

Date: 18/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington

Maharey to speak at Pukeiti Gardens mid-winter lunch

Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey will be the guest speaker at Taranaki's Pukeiti Gardens mid-winter lunch this Saturday.

Mr Maharey, the MP for Palmerston North and former cabinet minister, will leave politics to become the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University later this year. In a wide-ranging talk, he will reflect on his 18 years in Parliament, explore career changes and ponder the future of universities in a fast-changing world.

Mr Maharey, Massey and Pukeiti share several links including two current research projects. One is a forest project headed by Dr Marion Mackay, a senior lecturer in landscape management at the Institute of Natural Resources in the College of Sciences at the Palmerston North campus.

Pukeiti, at the base of Mt Taranaki, is internationally recognised for its collection of rhododendrons, which includes about 700 of the 1200 known species of the genus in its 26ha of cultivated gardens.

It also has about 340ha of regenerating native forest and Dr Mackay is responsible for a project that monitors and oversees the success of that regeneration. She has been involved in Pukeiti for the past five years and is an elected member of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, which owns the gardens. She says the forest project, which she started in December 2006, has identified about 230 species of flora, photographs of which will be included in a book she is working on called Plants of the Pukeiti Forest.

Another connection is that Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust chief executive, Josh Cleaver, is Mr Maharey's step-son. Mr Cleaver says the annual lunch is held for members of the trust, of whom there are currently 1360, but this year has been opened to the public to attend at \$40 a ticket, most of which have been sold.

"Steve's been a good draw-card. He's well known nationally and his decision to move from the top level of New Zealand politics to the tertiary education sector and Massey has obviously captured the imagination of many of those who know how diligent he has been in public service and how engaging he is as a speaker."

Mr Cleaver says Pukeiti has attracted researchers and educational visits from schools for many years and he is keen to have those kinds of relationships expand in future. "The fact that we have these projects underway shows that we have the resource to further enhance our efforts with conservation and the goal of Pukeiti to encourage other researchers to think of using it as a facility enabling the advancement of conservation nationally and internationally."

For further information: www.pukeiti.org.nz

Date: 19/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Vice-Chancellor



Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey



Dr Marion Mackay

Top Fulbright award for Massey alumna

Massey alumna Fiona Miller has been awarded one of three prestigious Fulbright scholarships for PhD or MBA study. The Platinum Triangle Award, worth \$100,000, is for a promising New Zealand graduate student to complete a Masters degree at a United States university.



Fiona Miller

Ms Miller gained a Bachelor of Applied Science (with Honours) at Massey in 1998 and will use the scholarship to complete a Master of Business Administration at the University of California, Berkeley.

She is one of 10 Massey students, staff and alumni among the 66 Fulbright scholarships awarded today.

Luke Di Somma, who holds a Bachelor of Music (with Honours) from the New Zealand School of Music, has been awarded a General Graduate Award. He will complete a Master of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre Writing, specialising in composition of musical theatre and opera, at New York University.



Luke Di Somma

Amanda McRaven from Free Union, Virginia is currently using her US Graduate Award to complete a Master of Philosophy degree in Community Theatre at Massey. She is specialising in the portrayal of myths in a multicultural theatre performance.



Amanda McRaven

A senior lecturer in Sport Management and Coaching at Massey University, Sarah Leberman, has used her Senior Scholar Award to research the roles of women in sports leadership at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in Minneapolis.



Sarah Leberman

Brian McDonnell, a senior lecturer in Media Studies, has been awarded a Visiting Lectureship in New Zealand studies. He will teach a course in New Zealand film and literature at Georgetown this year.



Brian McDonnell

Five Massey University lecturers have been awarded Fulbright Travel Awards, given to academics, artists or professionals to visit the United States so they may present papers, give lectures or collaborate with colleagues. Isabel Castro and Susan Cunningham from the Ecology Group will present a series of seminars on kiwi and conservation in New Zealand in San Diego, California.

Huia Tomlins-Jahnke, an Associate Professor of Maori Education and Graeme Wake, an Adjunct Professor of Industrial mathematics have used their awards to give lectures in the United States. John Psathas, a composer at the New Zealand School of Music, undertook a three-week professional and academic tour of the United States.

The Fulbright programme offers New Zealand students, scholars, artists and professionals the opportunity to study, teach and research in the United States. Scholarships are also given to their American counterparts to study here.

Date: 19/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Maori; Palmerston North; Wellington



Isabel Castro



Susan Cunningham

Hunting out a good design solution

Emerging from the bush with a heavy trophy on his shoulders used to mean hours of uncomfortable toil for Iain Tolladay.

The 23-year-old industrial design graduate has combined his training with his passion for hunting to invent a backpack-style harness capable of carrying wild game weighing up to 100kg. The harness redistributes the load from the back and shoulders to the hips, in the same way a hiking pack does.

The design has put Mr Tolladay into the finals of next week's Dyson Product Design Awards, where the other three finalists are also past or present Massey students.

Mr Tolladay says his inspiration came from personal experience. "I remember the first time I thought of it, I was carrying out a really heavy pig. It took me and my brother four to five hours to get it out of the dense bush. I thought 'there has to be an easier way'."



Iain Tolladay uses his backpack-style product to transport a pig.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Design from the Wellington campus last month and is now working as a builder in Kaitaia, enabling him to spend plenty of time hunting. His last year of study was spent working on the design project.

"It's not only more comfortable, it is also safer than conventional methods. It has safety clips which allow a hunter to quickly release its load."

Before he had a real pig to test his backpack on, Mr Tolladay practiced on classmates. "I had a 110kg dude on my back at one stage."

Mr Tolladay says other hunters have provided good feedback and he hopes to manufacture the product commercially.

The other three award finalists are also Massey students and alumni: Kent Hodgson, who invented a drink cooling system; Alexander Wastney who came up with a sports therapy table for professional sports teams which packs down into a suitcase; and Matt McKinley, who designed a mobile sheep testing station for farmers to test pregnant ewes.

The winner will be announced in Auckland on June 26. The design award is open to final-year students studying in the areas of design, technology or engineering and to graduates in their first five years in the workforce.

Date: 19/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Huia Tomlins-Jahnke



Graeme Wake



John Psathas



Te Piringa members warm up at Massey Wellington's Te Kuratini Marae before attending a prizegiving in Wellington last night, where they were named winners of the national secondary school kapa haka competition.

Marae welcome for national haka champions

Massey University's Te Kupenga o Te Mātauranga Marae at Hokowhitu will be the scene of an emotional welcome for this year's national secondary schools kapa haka competition winners this afternoon.

Te Piringa was named as the competition winner at a prizegiving ceremony in Wellington last night. The group, with members drawn from four Manawatu schools, returned to Palmerston North today to share their success with whānau and friends. At the last nationals, in 2006, Te Piringa placed third and took what they learnt then, into their approach for this year.



Massey alumnus Leon Blake is one of the group's seven tutors and says it may have been the group's simplicity that won on the day. "We have always tried to keep it simple; simple is our point of difference," he says.

Mr Blake says the group was formed 10 years ago and is relatively new. All students from Palmerston North Girls', Palmerston North Boys', Freyberg High School and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Mana Tamariki are invited to join the team. Mr Blake says while three of the four schools have more than 1000 students enrolled, it is still a challenge to fill the 40 places on the team. "We fielded 18 boys this year, the highest number of boys so far. We also had many first timers join, so we concentrated on keeping things simple and elegant."

Te Piringa has had a close association with Massey University and used Te Kupenga o Te Mātauranga Marae as its training base. While in Wellington, the group rehearsed and stayed at the University's Te Kuratini Marae.

Date: 20/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Maori

College to strengthen PE pathways

Pathways into secondary teaching of physical education will be strengthened as the University's College of Education reviews its programmes. The move means discontinuing the Bachelor of Education Teaching (Secondary) programme, while strengthening the Graduate Diploma in Teaching.

Director of Teacher Education Dr Sally Hansen says students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education Teaching (Secondary) will continue until they finish in two and a half years' time. Staff will be able to devote more time and energy to the physical education major in the Graduate Diploma programme, she says.

"The Bachelor of Education Teaching (Secondary) is a specialist degree that was created as a physical education pathway into teaching. At the time this recognised it was a targeted area for development by the Ministry of Education.

"However, it's no longer a targeted area, and student enrolments in the programme have dropped due to a number of factors outside of Massey, including the withdrawal of TeachNZ scholarships allocated for physical education."

Dr Hansen says students wishing to become secondary physical education teachers can complete a Bachelor of Sport Exercise (which includes some optional education papers) at Massey, and undertake a one-year Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching through the College of Education.

"Massey is absolutely committed to secondary teaching," Dr Hansen says. "This was not a decision made lightly, but one that does allow us to build on the strengths of current graduate and undergraduate programmes for the benefit of everybody."

Date: 20/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education

Slight dip in rent levels

The national median rent level has dipped by five dollars a week to \$295 according to the latest quarterly report on the residential rental market by the University's Real Estate Analysis Unit.

The record high reached for rents at the start of the year was \$300 a week. Director of the real estate analysis unit Professor Bob Hargreaves says the slight drop in the median rent level is somewhat unexpected because rents had been rising steadily last year and during the first months of this year.

The dip in rents represents a 1.6 per cent fall for the quarter, the rental market survey reports. On an annual basis the national median is still well up at 5.36 per cent more than in May 2007.

Professor Hargreaves says commentators on the property market have noted that a significant number of would-be vendors have taken their houses off the market and chosen to rent them out instead.

"The drop off in the volume of house sales of around 50 per cent compared to sales for 2007 appears to reinforce renting as the better option," says Professor Hargreaves.

"As house prices decline, renting may be a more attractive option for some households than buying. However, in the medium term, history shows buying is normally the most attractive option, particularly when the period of ownership is over five years," he says.

A comparison between rents for apartments in Wellington and Auckland shows that the capital city market is more robust, he says, possibly due to an oversupply in some sections of the Auckland apartment market. The median weekly rent for three-bedroomed apartments in Wellington is \$600 compared with \$435 in Auckland, for two bedrooms in Wellington the median is \$522 compared with \$360 in Auckland and for one-bedroom apartments the median rent is now \$288 and \$280 for Wellington and Auckland respectively.

For more information see <http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 23/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



The Massey University project team, from left: Pia Pechtel, Dr Shane Harvey, Brent Gardiner, Dr Jo Taylor, Professor Ian Evans, Cheryl Woolley, Jhanitra Gavala, Jan Dickson and Dr Ruth Mortimer.

Guidelines for sex abuse counsellors released

New guidelines for the treatment of survivors of sexual abuse, developed by Massey University psychologists, have been released today.

Sexual Abuse and Mental Injury: Practice Guidelines for Aotearoa New Zealand was commissioned by the Accident Compensation Corporation. The corporation provides counselling and sometimes compensation to people who have been sexually abused.

Co-ordinator of Clinical Psychology Training at the Palmerston North campus, Cheryl Woolley, says the guidelines will be a practical reference tool based on best practice principles.

“The guidelines are important because practitioners from a number of disciplines counsel survivors of sexual abuse,” Mrs Woolley says.

“Counsellors, psychotherapists, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists are all involved. It's not an academic tome, but rather a product designed to help practitioners make decisions in the context of daily practice.”

The guidelines include sections on working with victims of all ages and cultures.

Mrs Woolley says the guidelines went through a rigorous peer review process by international and national experts.

Mrs Woolley and her team, along with representatives from ACC, are embarking this week on a national road show to introduce and discuss the guidelines with counsellors. They will visit Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch during the week.

Date: 23/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



At the Wings ceremony (from left): School of Aviation general manager Captain Ashok Poduval, professional programmes manager Frank Sharp, Nigel Goh, Weiyang Samuel Cheong, Aaron McAuliffe, Sarah Collinson, Clinton Eiland, Adam Gibb, Slimson Lingi, Patterson Tariwisi, Dallas Patten, Grey Buckleton, Director of Civil Aviation Steve Douglas, flight instructor Craig Whyte.

New Zealand pilots fly high

Combining practical flying skills with academic study makes for an unusually good qualification, Director of Civil Aviation Steve Douglas told graduating aviation students at their Wings Ceremony in Palmerston North today.

The qualification offered by the School of Aviation is an unusual one, he told the newly qualified pilots, because it is a degree programme that offers a different approach to the overall training of pilots and incorporates the discipline of study.

“As entrants to the civil aviation system, the culture and attitudes that you bring and that you develop, will be vitally important to the health of the aviation system in the future,” he said.

Fourteen Bachelor of Aviation students received their Wings insignia from the Palmerston North based school, marking the completion of the two years of flight training that is part of their four-year degree programme. All are now qualified as both private and commercial pilots.



Adam Gibb received two out of three of the special awards, the Fieldair Systems Award and the Air BP Academic Award.

On the completion of flying training the students must take a number of academic papers to gain their degree. Some will study extramurally and are already seeking work with airlines. Some have entered the instructor training programme at the School of Aviation.

Advances in aviation have been rapid and spectacular, Mr Douglas told the group.

“Public interest in aviation is high and this is matched by the public's expectation of high performance and safety in aviation. You have chosen a brilliant career. Aviation is a broad, modern and exciting area of endeavour.

“There is a high international demand for pilots. Pilots trained in New Zealand make excellent employees because they have a can-do and practical approach and they are used to carrying out many tasks.”

Family and friends travelled from around the country to celebrate with the students at the presentation, held at Wharerata.

Date: 24/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation; Palmerston North



Vet resident Lisa Argilla releases the kaka.

Kaka home safely after surgery

A lengthy spell in New Zealand's wildlife health centre ended for one lucky kaka when his surgeon returned him to his Kapiti Island home.

Vet Lisa Argilla made the boat trip to return the little kaka after following his progress for several months.

“He arrived from Kapiti on 9 April with a suspected broken leg. X-rays confirmed he had a closed, displaced, transverse mid-shaft fracture of the tibia tarsus - the nearest human equivalent would be his shin. The fracture was straight through the middle of the bone and the two ends were displaced, overlapping and making the leg shorter.

Miss Argilla became involved in the case as one of four postgraduate students specialising in wildlife, zoo animal and avian health.

“I did the surgery on 11 April and placed a steel intra-medullary pin into his leg as well as an external skeletal fixator to repair the bone. The surgery was challenging because the bones were so overlapped I had to very gently stretch them and the muscles apart to realign the leg.”

The pin remained in place for six weeks, Ms Argilla says, enough time for the bone to stabilise and a callous to form over the fracture site. The pin and external support were then removed, with the bird spending a few more days in the ward to ensure his recovery was complete.

“The rest is history - successful repair, and a happy free bird.”

The adult kaka was released on Kapiti, the only large island sanctuary for birds between the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand's southern outlying islands, with Department of Conservation ranger Dave Wrightson. On release, the bird flew straight into bush, showing no sign of his injuries, watched from amid the trees for a few moments and disappeared back into the 1965 hectares of native bush.

Date: 24/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Lisa Argilla disembarking at Kapiti Island.



Postgraduate student Aimee Cornish watches Allan Wain undergo testing at the end of a 12-week high intensity exercise programme.

High-intensity training helps heart patients

Cardiac patients from the community are benefiting from new exercise rehabilitation research at the University's Exercise and Sport Science Division.

Aimee Cornish, a postgraduate health science scholar, is writing her honours thesis on high-intensity interval training in cardiac patients. She says volunteers from a phase two moderate intensity programme stepped up to the challenge for more rigorous stage three high intensity interval training.

The volunteers exercise three times a week at the Wellington campus fitness centre, where they also had their heart rate, blood pressure, and resting measurements taken.

"People had been doing moderate intensity – some for quite a long time," Ms Cornish says. "They were seeing some plateaus. We were hoping to break the plateaus to see greater gains."

Ms Cornish says shorter bursts of high intensity activity mirror real life more accurately than prolonged periods of low intensity physical activity.

Allan Wain has been taking part in exercise rehabilitation projects since his heart attack in 2005.

Research director Dr Sue Broadbent says Mr Wain, one of 26 people to take part in the latest project, now has the health status of a well man his age.

"He's gone from someone who had typical measurements for a man in a chronic disease group to someone with rates consistent of a normal male in his 50s."

Testing has shown cholesterol and blood pressure are down significantly across the group, Dr Broadbent says. Some participants have also lost weight, and their body mass index decreased.

"We are seeing significant differences between the start and end points."

Dr Broadbent says with very little research going on into exercise rehabilitation in cardiac patients, the programme and its results were pioneering.

"The high intensity exercise mimics daily life or getting back into sport – which is something people often want to do but are nervous about after a cardiac event."

The 12-week programme is one of the first of its kind in New Zealand, with all participants referred by their doctors.

Mr Wain says the programme, run at the University cardiac clinic, benefits clients as well as students.

“This is about behaviour change,” he says, as he unwinds after a series of tests on his health and fitness at the programme's end.

“Stepping up another level was just about the challenge for me. And it shows the benefits of exercise as opposed to drugs in rehabilitation.”

The Massey University alumnus says the rehabilitation programme has helped him enormously.

“I used to take the records from Massey to my doctor to put some pressure on to come off the drugs. And when I did, it was like someone cutting the bungy cord behind me,” he says.

Mr Wain says he will definitely continue with his high intensity interval training now the project is finished. The keen skier says he is looking forward to testing his extra fitness on the slopes soon.

“There's no substitute for extra time on the mountain.”

Allan Wain's data: over 12 weeks his blood pressure decreased from 120/76 to 115/70; resting heart rate decreased from 64 beats per minute to 60; weight decreased from 89 kg to 87 kg; BMI decreased from 27 to 26.5; hand grip strength increased from 47 kg to 51 kg; aerobic capacity (measured in ml of oxygen per kg body weight per minute of exercise) increased from 24.5 ml to 30.0.

Date: 24/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Wellington



Finished fabric by Marta Buda.

Wall-to-wall student creativity

Digital wallpaper designs and hand screen-printed fabrics inspired by Wellington locations will be on show at an exhibition of student work next month.

Full Drop at the Thistle Hall Gallery, from 15 to 20 July, will showcase a semester's work for 15 third-year students completing a Bachelor of Design in textile design.

Tutor Nicola Jackson says the first brief for the work was to find a city location that would hold students' interest for four weeks of research. Locations chosen included inner city Cuba St, the Botanic Garden's monument commemorating the WWII bombing of Hiroshima, and the workman's portacabin at Wellington Hospital.

A requirement of the course is for the fabric to be screen-printed and the texture, colour, pattern and imagery inspired by the chosen location.

"The featured projects showcase the student's skill and understanding of complex systems within textile design including colour, form, and repeat patterns," Mrs Jackson says.

"They have all put so much effort into it. Visitors can expect to see creative and dynamic work from a new generation of New Zealand textile designers."

The same students designed a wallpaper for the contemporary market, with a complementary collection of modern designs.

The textile design course is based at Massey's Wellington campus, part of a suite of specialist qualifications including fashion and product design provided by the College of Creative Arts.

Full Drop is a term used to describe one of the repeat processes used by students. The exhibition runs from 10am to 6pm at the gallery in Cuba St. Admission is free.



Prints by Amy Gough and Miranda Hurley.

Date: 24/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show



Student Andrej Morgan (right) explains the blood donation process to Wellington student Deepti Parmar, as the Blood Buddy looks on.

Students reach out to community - for a cause

Raising funds and awareness for causes including the environment, hospice care, and blood donation was all part of the learning experience for the University's second year public relations students.

Students on the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses worked on behalf of a wide range of community groups, including the New Zealand Blood Service, Youthline, Arohanui Hospice, and for World Environment Day as part of service learning projects last semester.

Service learning originated in the United States, and involves students working with community groups to conduct hands-on projects as part of their curriculum.

Events included politicians and lecturers agreeing to have their head shaved, or leg waxed to raise funds for Palmerston North's Arohanui Hospice, a blood donor drive which recruited 41 new youth donors, and collecting personal pledges to reduce carbon emissions.



Malcom Plimmer and Iain Lees-Galloway agreed to a shaved head and leg wax to raise money for Palmerston North's Arohanui Hospice.

Communication lecturer Dr Elspeth Tilley says the students were required to plan every element of their events, which were an important complement to in-class learning.

“Research shows this kind of service learning increases student motivation, improves long-term retention of course material, and leads to a greater sense of personal accomplishment,” she says.

During one event, students elicited a pledge from Green MP Nandor Tanczos pledged to reduce his carbon emissions. At another Malcolm Plimmer and Iain Lees-Galloway, the National and Labour Party candidates hoping to replace Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey as the MP for Palmerston North, agreed to lose a little hair to raise money for Arohanui Hospice.

Dr Tilley says comments from students on completing the paper indicate the service learning assignment was one of the most challenging, yet most rewarding, experiences.

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North; Wellington

Sea water solution nets global prize

A design for saltwater farming technology to grow sea asparagus has won a team of teenage entrepreneurs global honours in an international business competition.

The team of Year 12 and 13 students came first in the Global Enterprise Challenge competition against teams from 20 countries by designing the best water-saving scheme.

The team was one of ten which spent the weekend at Massey University Auckland preparing business plans and presentations to determine the national winner.

Students worldwide simultaneously applied their business acumen to this year's challenge: Water is Planet Earth's most precious resource that is becoming scarcer by the day. Your challenge is to: produce a working model of an innovative product, process, service or plan that will reduce the impact of growing demand on the world's dwindling water resources.

The winning team, which represented New Zealand in the global final, was chosen on Monday. The team then posted a three-minute video-streamed presentation judged overnight by an international panel, which included NASA chief scientist Dr Neil Pellis.

The team – which included four students from Auckland's North Shore, two from Christchurch and one student each from Nelson, Invercargill and Rotorua – say they had never heard of Salicornia (a plant grown in salt water, also known as sea asparagus and considered a delicacy in top international restaurants) until they researched water issues when the global challenge was issued at lunchtime on Sunday.

For the next 24 hours they brainstormed, devised business, finance and marketing plans and created a business model. Their product, LillyPod, is a stand-alone saltwater farm for growing Salicornia using water-tight cells that connect together to form a unique eco-system.

“We're really passionate about our product, we really believe in it,” says Kristina Clarke, a Year 12 student from Long Bay College on the North Shore.

The 24-hour challenge is organised by Enterprise New Zealand Trust in partnership with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, with Massey University Auckland as host and principal sponsor for the event.

Enterprise New Zealand Trust chief executive Donna Dentice says she is “over the moon” with the performance of the new Zealand teams.

“I'm really delighted. All of the teams were excellent but the winners stood out because they came up with a big idea to solve the problem.”

She said the win was confirmation of this country's ingenuity and its prowess as a nation of innovators and lateral thinkers.

It is the third time in past six years a New Zealand team has won the international award.

Every participant was given a scholarship valued at \$1000 from Massey's College of Business, and the winning team members received scholarships worth \$2000 each.



With a mock-up of a sea asparagus cell and diagram (front) Adam Botterill - Westlake Boys' High School and Matthew Holt - Long Bay College), (back) Kristina Clarke - Long Bay College and Stacey Kenzelmann - Orewa College. Other teams members not pictured are Ben McNab - Rangiora High School, Louis O'Brien - St Thomas of Canterbury College, Melissa Eadie - James Hargest College, Michelle Panzer - Garin College and Brigid McLeod - John Paul College.

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Conference/Seminar



Te Aute College Marae

Snapshot of 150 years of contribution to Māori advancement

A snapshot of Te Aute College's contribution to Māori advancement for more than 150 years will be presented at a lecture at Massey University's Palmerston North campus tonight.

College of Education lecturer James Graham (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Te Whatuiāpiti) received a University award last year to enable him to take time away from teaching to do the research. He will present a sample of his findings at the Hokowhitu site as part of the Te Mata o Te Tau - Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship lecture series.

Mr Graham is based at the College of Education's Ruawharo Centre in Napier, and his research is part of the PhD he is completing in Māori education.

His lecture centres on the lineage and traditions over the College's 154-year history and looks at the experiences and contributions of multiple generations of students, and the precedent each generation set for the next to follow. "There have been layers of distinctness between generations of students for more than 150 years. However, Te Aute College has been the common denominator," says Mr Graham.

"Late 19th century scholars paved the pathway for subsequent generations and laid the foundations for Māori contribution. In particular, the establishment of the Te Aute Student Association, which later became the Young Māori Party, was a significant period and included the likes of the young Apirana Ngata, Maui Pomare and Te Rangihiroa (Peter Buck) who all went on to receive knighthoods.

"They set a benchmark for subsequent students of Te Aute and Māoridom in general. Te Aute scholars are connected by whakapapa (lineage) and connected by the kinship of attending as a student and joining the community of Te Aute."

Mr Graham is definite that Te Aute has made a significant contribution to Māori advancement and New Zealand society as a whole. He says the contribution is distinctive and widespread, in politics, health education, religion, armed services, rugby, and farming. As well as fostering a sense of tribal identity and Māori identity amongst its student body.

During his research he employed a whakapapa approach looking at ancestral precepts - the traditions values, experiences, narratives and teachings passed down from generation to generation, and applied those precepts to his research.

"Initially when I started my PhD research I was advised to pick a topic I was passionate about. I have a personal connection through whakapapa to Te Aute."

Mr Graham is a college old boy and is a descendant of Ngāi Te Whatuiāpiti, the hapū that donated more than 1600ha of land for the school.

"While my research is about Te Aute, it is reflective of Māori boarding schools. All have a whakapapa in terms



James Graham

their contribution to Māori advancement.”

He hopes to complete and submit his research this year after which he will present it to the wider Te Aute College whānau.

Date: 25/06/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Exhibition/Show; Maori

Action ahead for Ag Partnerships for Excellence

Momentum is building around the Agriculture and Life Sciences Partnership for Excellence, and staff can expect to see progress on several projects this year.

The partnership brings together tertiary institutions, industry and business to build human capacity and capability to take New Zealand agriculture forward. It was awarded \$8.95 million from the Government, with a further \$9.2 million committed by industry. The Government funding received was capital in the form of a suspensory loan. Only the interest generated by the investment can be used to fund projects. The Massey-Lincoln and Agricultural Industry Trust was formed in December 2006 to oversee project funding. When the fund had generated sufficient interest the Trust Board approved five initial projects for funding in September last year. A second round of funding applications took place earlier this year and a further six projects have now received funding support.

University Registrar Stuart Morriss says that the partnership objectives are visionary.

"Capability building has long-term benefits. However, even in the short-term there will be plenty to be gained from the projects that have now been approved and in fact several projects have been completed.

"One of the first initiatives supported by the trust enabled a group of students from both universities to participate in the Summit 2020 Conference late last year. This was the start of a high performance academy being built through the partnership. It was a fantastic opportunity for our future industry leaders to rub shoulders with those of today, and one that would simply not have occurred were it not for the partnership project.

"The trust has funded projects that have initiated collaborative research, joint teaching, and collaborative professional development programmes. We have also completed an environmental scan of issues that will affect the industry within 10 to 15 years. The next step is to use this information to collaboratively plan a strategy with our industry partners to grow the human capability at Massey and Lincoln in line with the requirements and looming opportunities as seen by the industry," says Mr Morriss.

"What is really critical is that we are sitting at the same table, discussing and agreeing priorities for strategic directions, and talking to each other from a pan-sector perspective. That sort of collaboration is a significant advance on where we have been before.

"We have been totally open and honest about ensuring the universities are aware of what industry wants – we want to know what the issues and opportunities are. The only frustration is that we all want to make more progress more quickly. Keeping up with the pace of expectation our industry partners have for transformational change will be our challenge. But with the Fast Forward initiative just around the corner, this challenge is one we have to be up for. The desire to real make progress is shared by all of us as partners, and we are all working on making that happen."

Mr Morriss, who is leading Massey's involvement alongside Director of Massey Agriculture Professor Jacqueline Rowarth and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson, says the partnership is to act as a catalyst to enhance innovation and encourage industry-education collaboration.

"The trust is not a substitute for other funding sources," Mr Morriss says. "Its contribution is to enable new capability-building initiatives to get started – initiatives that might otherwise struggle to get off the ground.

"We're talking about building capability over 20 years. Our students of today are going to be our industry leaders in 10 to 20 years. So this is not just about short term funding opportunities. It's all about building the capability to ensure we have the right people in the right place at the right time into the future."

One project that will progress this year is the further exploration of a national vehicle to deliver research-led university level education in agriculture and life sciences. "We anticipate having a pathway forward by the end of this year. The partnership has shown that getting a collaborative model to work is a complex business but, given the pre-eminent position New Zealand has in agriculture, this project has potential to develop a new approach that will make a real difference to the way we deliver university-level education in agriculture in this country and internationally."

Date: 26/06/2008

Type: Research

Origin of the meaning of Matariki shared

The origin of the name of the Māori new year, Matariki, will be discussed in a lecture by University researcher Dr Rangi Mataamua at the Wellington campus tomorrow morning.

Dr Mataamua has a PhD in Māori Studies and combines an interest in astronomy and traditional Māori star lore with interactive technology.

“The story goes that when Ranginui and Papatūānuku separated, Tāwhirimātea, the god of the wind, warred with his brothers and plucked out his own eyes and threw them at Ranginui”, Dr Mataamua says. “His eyes stuck to the chest of Ranginui and those are said to be the eyes [mata] of the god [ariki] Tāwhirimātea.

“Trees, oceans and kumara all move and grow in a certain way, but the wind never blows from the same direction, this is because Tāwhirimātea is said to be blind and has to feel his way around.”

Dr Mataamua has had a lifelong interest in the stars. “My grandfather on my pākehā side is an astronomer, he had star maps, and telescopes and talked to me about Greek mythology. My Māori grandfather talked about Matariki and other stars.”

His presentation is aimed at a general audience and is essentially an introduction to Māori astronomy, with a focus on Matariki. “For me Matariki is about practicing what our ancestors did, reviewing the past, assessing the current situation and planning for the future.”

Dr Mataamua grew up in Levin but his Tuhoe roots are in Ruatāhuna and Waikaremoana, and those connections helped with his research. “Thanks to [19th and 20th century ethnographer and historian] Elsdon Best, Tuhoe has one of the most comprehensive recorded histories. Astronomy is a field that not many Māori people know a lot about; I’m actually considering doing another PhD in this field.”

The Matariki lecture is open to students and staff and the public but space is limited. Please contact Tracy Mihaere ext 62199. It starts at 10am, Friday 27 June, at Te Kuratini Marae, Massey University, Wellington.

Date: 26/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Exhibition/Show; Explore - HEALTH; Wellington



Dr Rangi Mataamua pictured at last year's Matariki lecture in Palmerston North.



Aikido "professor" Toshiharu Sawada.

Getting a black belt in creativity

At first glance, the thought processes involved in design and the martial art of aikido appear to have little in common. But University senior lecturer in graphic design and PhD candidate Mark Bradford begs to differ.

Mr Bradford's doctoral research explores the possibilities for design leadership through the practice and philosophy of aikido - focusing on how we think, not what we think.

He says he has immersed himself in his own aikido training regime, and is taking what he has learnt and putting it into a design context.

"You imagine having a brainstorm with all the idea flying out from one central point," he says. "That is the same as an aikido situation - jiyuwaza - which features an individual defending themselves against multiple attackers. It's really trying to take the principals of aikido and applying them to the creative flow."

He plans to film and photograph a training session involving master instructor Toshiharu Sawada Shihan, from Japan, who is in Wellington next month. Mr Bradford will analyse the footage and use it to illustrate the thoughts he experiences while he practices aikido. He hopes this will enable him to share with others the relationship he perceives between aikido and the design process. The next step will be to formulate questions for designers and aikido practitioners for his PhD research.

He will use his data and recorded footage when he presents a paper at the Fourth Arts of Management and Organisation Conference in Banff, Canada, in September.

Mr Bradford is a senior lecturer at the Institute of Communication Design in the College of Creative Arts at the University's Wellington campus.

The Sawada seminars are open to the public and are being held at the Tea Gardens, Old Museum Building, Block 10, Level C, Massey University on 1 July 7-9pm, 2 July 7-8.15am and 7-9pm, and 3 July 7-8.15am and 7-9pm. For more information contact M.J.Bradford@massey.ac.nz

Date: 27/06/2008

Type: Research



Alexander Wastney with a half-size prototype of his winning sports table design.

Therapy table wins design

▶ VIDEO Watch the [3 News](#) item.

Industrial design graduate Alexander Wastney has won the eighth annual Dyson Product Design Award, edging out three of his Massey University peers.

Mr Wastney – who was both outright winner and scooped the People's Choice award – designed a sports therapy table able to be packed down into a durable suitcase on wheels.

While studying at the University's Wellington campus over three years, Mr Wastney played for the Wellington Saints basketball team. His inspiration came from feedback from the team's physiotherapist who complained about existing table designs being heavy, cumbersome, and uncomfortable to sit and lie on.

Mr Wastney, 22, describes being named the winner as “very significant”.

“It's recognition of the hard work I've done on this major project during a pretty stressful year. That final year project was our dream project. To have it pay off and be acknowledged is brilliant,” he says.

Mr Wastney is working as an industrial designer at New Plymouth company Howard Wright Limited, and now plays for the Taranaki Dynamos.

The other finalists are also Massey students or former students: Auckland-based Kent Hodgson, who invented a drink cooling system; Wellington's Matt McKinley, who designed a mobile sheep testing station for farmers to test pregnant ewes; and Kaitaia builder Iain Tolladay, who invented a backpack-style harness capable of carrying wild game weighing up to 100kg.

Mr Tolladay was named runner-up in the award, and will be sponsored by the British Council New Zealand and travel to Hong Kong in August to compete in the global 48-hour design challenge.

Lyn Garrett, undergraduate programme leader in industrial design



The sports table opened for use...



...and folded for portability.



Matt McKinley's mobile sheep testing station

at the Institute of Design for Industry and the Environment, says Mr Wastney's design explores unknown territory.

"Industrial design hasn't been there before and there's a very real need," Mr Garrett says. "All the finalists were hard workers, and all are achievers." He regards the Dyson Product Design Award highly due to the very thorough judging process.

The industrial design course is offered at Massey's Wellington and Auckland Schools of Design, and is part of a suite of specialist qualifications provided by the College of Creative Arts.

The Dyson Product Design Award is open to final-year students studying in the areas of design, technology or engineering and to graduates in their first five years in the workforce. The aim of the Dyson Product Design Award is to reward a new generation of emerging designers with ideas that best demonstrate innovative and inspiring solutions to everyday problems.

Mr Wastney is now the 2008 British Council New Zealand Design Ambassador and will travel to the United Kingdom to tour Dyson's Research, Design, and Development Centre. He will also receive a package of prizes including legal and intellectual property advice, and membership to the Designers Institute of New Zealand.

Date: 27/06/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts; Video Multimedia; Wellington



Kent Hodgson's rapid drink cooling system



Iain Tolladay's backpack-style harness

Power of the media under conference spotlight

The Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing is hosting a large gathering of leading educators in the field at the upcoming Australian and New Zealand Communication Association Conference in Wellington from 9-11 July.

The annual conference for academics in the communications field reflects its capital city location with the theme of Power and Place.

A keynote speaker is the man credited with changing forever ideas about media power and public opinion, Professor Maxwell McCombs. He holds a Chair in Communication at the University of Texas, is widely recognised as a media and journalism scholar and is famous for his development of agenda setting theory.

Another keynote speaker is Australian Professor Jennifer Craik, who holds the Research Chair of Communication and Cultural Studies in the Faculty of Design and Creative Practice at the University of Canberra. Her presentation on dressing women for politics discusses the proposition that what women politicians wear attracts much more public and media attention than what they say or do.

The three-day conference at Wellington's Duxton Hotel will showcase the latest research in communications with a diverse range of papers presented by academics from both countries.

There will be a panel session open to the public on 10 July at 1.15 at the Duxton Hotel. The panel members will be Professors McCombs and Craik with author Nicky Hager, who is the New Zealand representative on the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

For more details on the conference see <http://anzca08.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 30/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Wellington



Manager of professional programmes at the School of Aviation, Frank Sharp, with James McCarthy, designer of the system that is a new safety feature in training aircraft.

New tracking system boosts pilot safety

Pilots will no longer be out of sight as they fly cross-country thanks to a new tracking system developed by a University mechatronics graduate and a former staff member.

James McCarthy and Don Sandbrook developed the Spidertracks system to combat radar blackspots – areas where no radar coverage exists – meaning planes can now be located at all times.

Mr McCarthy worked with the University's School of Aviation to trial the system in its earlier stages and now, in a significant commitment to safety, the School has bought five units.

The palm-sized Spidertracks unit picks up a global positioning systems (GPS) signal giving the plane's position, transmits it to the Iridium satellite network and beams it down to servers in Australia and Wellington.

From there the signal travels via the web to the operations base. In real-time, the route of the craft is overlaid onto Google Earth maps. Updates on the position of the plane appear every few minutes for as long as there is a power supply to the Spidertrack unit.

School general manager Captain Ashok Poduval says buying the system is a major step in enhancing safety for any a student pilot who is lost or in difficulty due to unexpected bad weather.

The units will be used in selected aircraft as student pilots fly through parts of the country where there is no radar cover. Until now the position of the training planes flying outside of controlled airspace – much of New Zealand – would have been worked out from a flight plan submitted by the pilot, showing the intended route before departure.

Spidertracks is different from all other satellite tracking systems because Mr Sandbrook discovered a way to integrate a GPS receiver and satellite transmitter into one unit, without the need for external antennae – the first time this had been done.

Captain Poduval says the new tracking equipment also adds training value.

“The system keeps a record of all flights flown so instructors can print out details of the track flown by a student and use this for post-flight debriefing.”

Spidertracks is now used by helicopter, fixed wing and land-based operations, in more than 25 countries.

Date: 30/06/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation



Susan Blundell and Anna Scarlett.

Massey backs beach volleyball team to World University Games

Massey University has provided sponsorship, the coach and two of its students are team members in the women's beach volleyball competition at the World University Games starting in Germany this week.

Anna Scarlett, who is studying extramurally towards a Certificate in Human Development at Massey, and her partner Susan Blundell are one of two teams representing New Zealand at the games.

The other team includes Massey extramural business studies student Hayley Griffiths, who partners Shannen Bagge. Both pairs are coached by Warren Smith, who lectures in coaching in the Department of Management at the University.

But Massey will have a greater presence at the games, as a sponsor of the New Zealand team.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Ian Warrington says the University's sports-related academic programmes in the Colleges of Business, Sciences and Education are attracting increasing numbers of students.

"This combination of academic programmes, initiatives to support emerging and elite athletes and our growing partnerships with a number of sporting codes across New Zealand provide real points of difference for Massey University in terms of attracting athletes as students, securing grants for sports related research projects and securing positive publicity for the University," Professor Warrington says.

Coach Warren Smith says the NZL1 team of Ms Scarlett and Ms Blundell are hoping to make a strong showing in Hamburg.

"They're competing in the World Tour this year for the experience and are looking to make a serious push towards the Olympic Games in London in 2012. But I'm confident they'll do well in Hamburg."

Date: 01/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; College of Education; College of Sciences; Extramural; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Cricketer Rachel Candy receives her award from chairman of the New Zealand Universities Blues Panel Dr Jane Skeen.

Student athletes get the NZ Blues

Fifteen Massey University sportspeople have been awarded University Sport New Zealand Blues Awards for their achievements, from a total of 50 high-performance athletes recognised nationwide.

The annual awards event was held on Friday in the ASB Lounge, North Harbour Stadium, Auckland.

Massey students also took two of three finals places in the Sportsperson of the Year award – Sara Randall (motorsports) from the Palmerston North campus and Juliette Haigh (rowing) from the Auckland campus.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says the national Blues awards are another indication that the University's commitment to sport is paying dividends.

“We are highly delighted to see 15 of our sportspeople recognised nationally for their achievement, particularly following so close on the heels of our students taking 67 Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarships,” Professor Warrington says.

“We have made a considerable commitment to sport, both at the Palmerston North campus and in Auckland and Wellington, enabling our students to compete at the top level and gain a tertiary qualification. It's particularly pleasing too that many of these students have been assisted by the Academy of Sport, which offers a holistic service to support athletes both with their sport, their study, and their lives after sport. Congratulations to both the athletes who received Blues and to those who assisted them to reach their potential.”

To qualify for nomination for a New Zealand Blues award, sportspeople must have passed the national qualifying standard for their sport, with 108 sportspeople nominated for achievement during 2007.

New Zealand Blues athlete recipients from Massey are:

Cricket – Rachel Candy (Palmerston North)

Canoe/Kayak – Michael Dawson (Palmerston North), Scott Bicknell (Auckland)

Canoe Polo – Tania Perrett (Palmerston North), Olivia Spencer-Bower (Wellington)

Hockey – Stephen Graham (Palmerston North), Emily Naylor (Palmerston North), Kimberley Green (Auckland)

Inline Speed Skating – Peter Homburg (Palmerston North)

Motorsports – Sara Randall (Palmerston North)

Rowing – Juliette Haigh (Auckland)

Snow sports – Janelle Miller (Palmerston North), Ben Griffin (Palmerston North)

Yachting – Matt Coutts (Auckland), Joshua McCormack (Auckland)

Date: 02/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Auckland; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington



Pictured from left are recipients: Lindsey Birnie, Ashleigh-Jane Thompson, Rebecca Bloomer, Jillana Robertson, Gemma Cartwright, Hillary Corkran, and Serena Smalley.

Graduate women's scholarships awarded

Eleven women have been awarded scholarships totalling \$50,000 by the Graduate Women Manawatu Charitable Trust.

The aim of the Trust is to encourage postgraduate education for women by providing educational grants and scholarships. The trust is funded by the business Academic Dress Hire which provides academic dress to staff and students at Massey University, and investments.

This year's recipients are studying in bio-sciences, chemistry, ecology, zoology, animal science, software engineering, mathematics, business management, and accountancy. Seven of the eleven recipients had their awards presented at a lunch held at Wharerata on the Palmerston North campus.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens, a senior lecturer in the School of People, Environment, and planning.

The trust was set up by the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women – Manawatu.

Date: 02/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Scholarships

International languages award for Massey graduate

A Hawke's Bay educator and Massey alumna is to receive an international languages award, to be presented by Governor-General Anand Satyanand on Monday.

Gail Spence, is a former secondary school teacher who has served the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers as regional officer for the Massey region, conference convenor and junior and senior vice-president. She also served as the association's national president from 1996-1998, and again in 2000-2001.

Mrs Spence is to receive the 2008 New Zealand Association of Language Teachers' international award, – the highest distinction awarded by the World Federation of Modern Language Associations. It is acknowledgment of members who distinguish or have distinguished themselves in one or more fields of language learning and language teaching.



Gail Spence

Mrs Spence is fluent in French and German, and also speaks Spanish, Japanese, Italian, Te Reo Maori and Chinese. She has also studied Latin and classical studies, and completed her postgraduate diploma in Second Language Teaching and her Masters of Education Administration at Massey University.

College of Education learning languages adviser, languages teacher educator and Association of Language Teachers president Adele Scott praised Mrs Spence's abilities as an educator and linguist.

"I have worked with Gail on a number of projects and consider her a mentor. She has a very astute mind. Her tremendous drive, enthusiasm and energy ensure she carries through her vision for languages with aplomb and success.

"She has learned nine languages and taught most of them. She has taught students through to the final year of high school, has been a teacher educator working in the pre-service teacher education sector, has been a languages adviser to schools and national co-ordinator for the Languages Advisory Services."

Ms Scott says it is a fitting tribute, and recognises the importance and dedication of second-language educators in New Zealand. The award is being presented at the association's biennial conference.

Date: 03/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education

Gisborne secondment for museum studies lecturer

Museum studies lecturer David Butts will be putting theory into practice for the next six months as acting director of Tairawhiti Museum in Gisborne.

Dr Butts, programme co-ordinator for museum studies in the School of People, Environment and Planning, took up the role last week and will continue there until the end of the year. He says the position is an excellent professional development opportunity where he can engage in museum practice over a sustained period.

“During the next five months the museum is developing a major Tairawhiti (East Coast) history exhibition and this will open at the end of my period at the museum.”

Dr Butts will be responsible for writing a development plan for the museum for the next five years.

The museum will also undertake a review of the use of space within the museum complex and a number of collection re-housing projects, he says.

“Tairawhiti Museum was one of the case study institutions in my PhD study of museum governance and I will be extending that study during this period at the museum. My experience working as the acting director will also provide rich case study material for my teaching in museum studies.”

Dr Butts will continue teaching extramural courses and supervising theses at Massey while on secondment.

Date: 03/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



David Butts

Excellent report for accountancy programmes

Programmes offered by the University's School of Accountancy have received a glowing report in a tertiary review by the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The periodic review, valid for the next five years, is an acknowledgement that the University is delivering academic programmes that meet the standards of the institute, says head of school Professor Fawzi Laswad.

The review panel commended the University on the progress made in integrating accountancy programmes across the three campuses since the last review. It also commended the school on a range of qualities including commitment to research and the level of support provided to students and to the institute by academic staff. Collegiality in the preparation and delivery of papers was also noted.

"Student feedback about Massey staff was overwhelmingly positive, with students at all campuses commenting on the quality of advice provided by both academic staff and administrators, the speed of responses to enquiries and the general helpfulness and friendliness of lecturers," the review says.

Professor Laswad is very pleased with the outcome of the review. "It confirms that we offer high-quality programmes and staff are engaged in quality research and teaching. We are particularly pleased that our students appreciate the supportive learning environment and the accounting profession recognises the significant contribution made by staff in various professional boards and committees."

Date: 04/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Rob Creasy (on cycle) paces tri-athlete Kris Gemmell in France.

Massey trainer tracks Olympians in French mountains

The views up in the French Pyrenees mountains are spectacular, but Rob Creasy and the two New Zealand Olympic triathletes he is training have no time to admire the scenery.

The sport scientist from Massey's Auckland campus is in France as Exercise Physiologist for the New Zealand triathlete squad. He is supporting triathletes Andrea Hewitt and Kris Gemmell during eight weeks of intensive training at the French National Centre for Altitude Training in Font Romeu, in preparation for the Olympics in China next month.

The centre, situated in the mountains close to the French-Spanish border, was built for athletes to prepare for the 1968 Mexico Olympics, the first Olympics held at altitude. French and international athletes have since used the centre to prepare for events at altitude and enhance their performance during sea-level racing.

Mr Creasy, from the Exercise and Sport Science Division at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, is training with and monitoring the performances of the athletes under the guidance of coach John Helleman as they run, swim, and cycle at 1800 metres altitude.

"It's high enough to gain an edge over their opponents who are training for the race in China," he says.

Although there is no shortage of high-altitude mountainous training sites in New Zealand, they are snow-covered at this time of year, says Mr Creasy. The athletes also need to train in hot weather in preparation for high temperatures in China, so summer in the south of France is preferable to winter in New Zealand.

"One of the key logistical problems for the athletes will be adjusting to the oppressive heat in China," he says.

As well as training with Ms Hewitt and Mr Gemmell to increase their endurance and speed, he monitors their physiological responses by measuring heart rate, heartbeat variability and blood oxygen saturation – an important risk factor for athletes completing heavy training at altitude.

The athletes' fitness regime begins with two hours' swim training in the morning, training analysis, then lunch and



Rob Creasy measures tri-athlete Andrea Hewitt's blood oxygen saturation after a training run at Font Romeu.

massage for the athletes. A one-hour track session then four-hour cycle ride follow each the afternoon.

Mr Creasy is also finishing his Masters thesis in Sport Science, on how compression stockings affect running performance and physiology. He rises at 5.30am for an hour of pre-breakfast study, and squeezes in more academic work at lunch and after dinner.

After the training period in France, he will present a paper from his research at the European College of Sport Science Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in July. He will then re-unite with the athletes in Beijing for the women's race on 18 August and the men's race on 19 August.

Ms Hewitt, 26, won the International Triathlon World Cup in Kizbuhel in 2007 and she is ranked among the top 15 women's triathletes for the Olympics. Mr Gemmell, 31, won the International Triathlon World Cup in Rhodes in 2007 and finished third at the European Cup Triathlon in Germany two weeks ago. He is ranked in the top five men's triathletes for the Olympics and has been competing on the world cup circuit for 10 years.

Date: 04/07/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Auckland; Olympics; Sport and recreation

Alumni newsletter: Issue 7, July 7 2008

A bi-monthly newsletter for Alumni and Friends which includes essential information about upcoming Alumni events in New Zealand and around the world.

[Click here to view the latest issue](#)

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Alumni news

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- Message from Court of Convocation representatives
- Studying extramurally (written by Pamela Todd)

Alumni events

- 28 July, Auckland Alumni Chapter gathering (Pakuranga)
- 15 August, Old Rivals dinner – LA Brooks Trophy (Palmerston North)
- 16 August, LA Brooks Trophy rugby match (Palmerston North)
- 9 September, Brisbane Alumni function (tentative)
- 25 – 27 October, Bachelor of Agriculture reunion : 1986 – 1988 (Taupo)
- 1 November, Alumni end of year dinner (Wellington)

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Date: 07/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni





Auckland tertiary review should lead to responsible allocation of resources

Massey University Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Warrington, has welcomed the Government's intention to undertake a review of tertiary provision in the wider Auckland region.

"This is a very important area for the whole country, with rapid and sustained growth and a diverse population mix that must be supported by a strong and vibrant tertiary sector," Professor Warrington says.

"Resources have to be allocated wisely and not all institutions can offer all programmes to all people given the constraints that have to be faced. Massey University at Auckland is well placed to provide tertiary opportunities, particularly for those in North Shore and Waitekere cities, the Rodney district and indeed the whole of Northland. Its current and developing programmes offer education options that are highly relevant to the regions' needs. Massey University also offers a very comprehensive extramural programme that can assist those committing to a university education to achieve a work-life-study balance to best suit their needs."

Professor Warrington says the University is keen to work with Government to ensure that capital investments are appropriately aligned to achieving the potential for growth that was apparent in the Auckland region.

Massey's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the Auckland campus and International Professor John Raine says Massey aims to continue be the main university presence north of the Auckland Harbour bridge, with more comprehensive programme delivery over time as the campus develops, but targeted to regional needs.

"Our catchment is greater Auckland and beyond but with a focus on North Shore, Rodney, Waitakere and Northland as key markets," Professor Raine says.

"On social and economic development grounds and to reduce the country's carbon footprint through reduced student travel, Massey looks forward to Government support."

Date: 08/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Government Policy commentators; VC Bulletin

Policy change keeps international fees down

The Massey University Council has voted to discontinue its policy of holding international students' annual tuition fees at the same level for each year of their degree, on the grounds the up-front costs imposed on students are a potential disincentive to enrolment.

The policy, known as grand-parenting, protected international students from market-related and inflation-based fee increases in their second or subsequent years of study. However, the costs of it were largely borne up-front, with a larger than normal increase in fees occurring in 2005 when grand-parenting was introduced.

Rather than having a large increase in international tuition fees next year, the council decided at its meeting on Friday to drop grand-parenting for all new students. University Chancellor Nigel Gould noted the decision by council will not affect the fees of existing international students and it will mean next year's fees will be significantly lower than they would had grand-parenting continued. Grand-parenting has never applied to domestic students, whose tuition is subsidised by the Government.

"There was no obvious benefit from a marketing point of view for Massey and this way we can keep our tuition fees among the lowest and most cost-effective of the New Zealand universities," Mr Gould said.

"Grand-parenting was a genuine attempt to differentiate ourselves in the international student market and attract students but there has been no evidence that it had that effect or provided any financial benefit to the students."

Date: 08/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; International; Palmerston North; University Council; Wellington

Food industry ready for its 'time in the sun'

▶ VIDEO [Watch the Campbell Live item](#)

High-tech ice-cream and freeze-dried kiwifruit were on the menu at today's opening of Massey's \$25 million food pilot plant – the most advanced facility of its kind in Australasia.

The complex at the University's Palmerston North campus will be used for research and teaching as well as commercially, enabling companies to benefit from both the state-of-the-art equipment and the expertise of the largest cluster of food technologists in New Zealand. More than 100 visitors from across the food industry attended the launch, including guests from Heinz Wattie, Fonterra, Crop & Food Research, the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The plant was officially opened by Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton, who noted the timeliness of the University's commitment to the primary sector.

"If ever there was a day when New Zealand had a place in the sun it is right now," Mr Anderton said. "The truth is our agriculture industry remains the backbone of our economy. It grows faster than the rest of our economy because of our scientific research and technical innovation. If we want to continue to have successful growth in our economy we need our primary industries to be successful, we need innovation to improve each step of the production process from what we grow and how we grow it to downstream industries ... we need innovation not only to make new products but to meet the challenges our producers face."

Mr Anderton said the new food pilot plant closely aligned with the education and research intent behind the Government-industry collaboration Fast Forward, which will see \$700 million of Government investment matched by industry to boost research and development in New Zealand's pastoral and food industries.

"Training is the first step we have to get right. This pilot centre will help get that right and it is symbolic of our commitment to innovation in our most important sectors."

New Zealand had always been dependent on its food exports, with agriculture, food, forestry and aquaculture accounting for 65 per cent of exports.

"All those people drinking their lattes on Ponsonby Road would not be able to if we didn't have institutions like this and the people who support them. Food is now back on the agenda, particularly for those nations who depended on others for food products."

Mr Anderton toured the facility, and tasted the nutraceutical peach-flavoured ice-cream manufactured for the occasion. The dessert had added Omega-3 fish oil, which is believed to have health benefits for conditions including heart disease, neurological function and arthritis.

Creator of the ice-cream Amit Taneja says it contains about 60 milligrams of Omega-3 per serve – about 10 per cent of the daily amount recommended.

The Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health has close to 100 PhD students, with the Division of Food Technology the largest department of its kind in Australasia.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington told guests at the launch it was a particularly significant event given the University's genesis as an agricultural college in the 1920s and its immediate involvement in food processing.

"We now have more than 40 staff in the food technology area backed by countless others in human nutrition, food safety, supply chain management, bioprocess engineering and many more in supporting fundamental sciences."



From left, Omega-3 researcher Amit Taneja and Dr Nick Roskrige watch Jim Anderton pour himself an ice-cream enriched with the fish oil.

The University's previous pilot plant had been built up over 50 years, Professor Warrington said, and was the place where many of those running new Zealand's food industry were introduced to the machinery and disciplines of industrial food processing.

“It is where people like Dick Hubbard created his first food product, and it is also where several New Zealand products and even companies were born – there are several more in gestation now.”

While the plant will operate as a research facility for students and staff, it is also export-certified enabling companies to trial batches for export.

“The building not only houses the pilot plant but the new food chemistry laboratories, food product development laboratories and human nutrition clinical laboratories,” Professor Warrington said. “This is capability not duplicated anywhere in Australasia, and a larger grouping of off-farm researchers than anywhere in New Zealand.

“I am very confident this new facility will let us do great things for the New Zealand food industry.”

Date: 08/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Video Multimedia



Moa is fed in the Massey wildlife ward prior to heading to Mana Island.

Match-making on Mana Island

A blind date with one of six eligible bachelors awaits a young female takahe when she is released onto Mana Island today. The seven-month-old bird, named Moa, will be paired with a single male on the island in the hope that they'll eventually breed.

Moa became sick early last week and was airlifted from her home at the Burwood takahe recovery unit near Te Anau to Massey's wildlife ward. Lecturer in avian and wildlife health Kerri Morgan says she was near death's door.

"She arrived exhibiting severe neurological symptoms and was very underweight. Tests showed a high level of the parasite coccidia in her system. We treated her for that and she's recovered quickly."

Ms Morgan says takahe don't usually respond well to hospital treatment.

"They lose weight because they get stressed easily, but we gave Moa the penthouse suite in the ward and brought in native grasses for her to feed on, which she obviously appreciated."



Ready for the drive to Mana Island.

Department of Conservation staff will take Moa to Mana Island this morning, where she'll be kept in isolation with her new mate.

The Department's ranger on the island Sue Caldwell says the scientific reserve, off the coast of Porirua, is short of female takahe.

"It makes sense to bring her here. We'll try and pair her with one of the six single males on the island. Males who aren't paired cause trouble in the pre-breeding season that begins in late August, so hopefully we can get a fairytale ending here."

Ms Caldwell says Moa will also introduce fresh genetics into the 35-strong takahe population on Mana Island.

"Because she's from the Fiordland area, Moa comes from completely different genetic stock, so if she breeds on the island she'll diversify the gene-pool there."

Kerri Morgan says tests showed other birds in Moa's group at Burwood also showed high levels of the parasite, and Massey is sending down a resident veterinarian to treat them. "There will also be some changes made to the birds' management plan to help reduce the parasite levels in the takahe there," she says.

Date: 09/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science; Wildlife Ward



Pondering a business solution are, from left: Ben Atwood from Palmerston North Boys' High School, Bradley Osborne PNBHS, Veronica Zhou, St Mary's College, Wellington, Matt Dixon, Wairarapa College, Masterton, and Konstandina Kosmadakis, Wellington Girls' High School.

School pupils get taste of running a business

Secondary school pupils from throughout New Zealand got a taste of the high-stakes world of business management at Massey's Palmerston North campus on Tuesday as part of New Zealand Business Week.

Organised by the University, Palmerston North Boys' High School and Rotary New Zealand, the week - now in its 18th year - enables year-12 and year-13 pupils the opportunity to run simulated clothing businesses as well as benefit from a range of specialist business speakers.

This year's group comprised 75 pupils from as far away as Auckland and Southland. They were split into eight teams, each supported by advisers including Massey business studies students, College of Business staff and representatives from Manawatu businesses.

The teams competed to maximise the profits and share price of their virtual businesses, making decisions on pricing, production, marketing and staffing as well as solving a few ethical and operational dilemmas presented to them.

They also had mini-lectures on leadership and goal setting from senior lecturer in management Dr Farah Palmer, learned how to draft a news release with lecturer Kane Hopkins from the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, and saw first-hand some of the pioneering work in robotics at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology in the College of Sciences.

A demonstration of robot soccer added some excitement and amazement as teams of small cubes chased a ball around a miniature pitch.

The day ended with an address on business ethics from the Ministry of Economic Development's small and medium enterprises director Dr Roger Wigglesworth.

"It was impressive and exciting" said Lauren Gibbs of Paraparaumu College. "It was great feeling part of the university for a day." College of Business business manager Tom Quelch says the day was one of the most successful yet and feedback from the school pupils had been very positive.

"It gives students the chance to see what university life is really like, including the library, gym and dining hall meals," Mr Quelch said. " Previous experience suggests it will provide many of them with the incentive to return



Gourab Sen Gupta, a senior lecturer in the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology demonstrates a robot soccer game to secondary pupils involved in Business Week at Massey.

as students in the next year or two."

Date: 10/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business



Students from China's Wuhan University are welcomed to Massey to complete their four-year BBS majoring in Finance. At rear are senior finance lecturer Dr Hamish Anderson, Professor Chris Moore and Professor Lawrence Rose. Dr Jing Chi is near the back wearing a beret and Delci Wu is right of her. PICTURE: Massey News.

First business students in '2+2' programme arrive at Massey from Wuhan

The first group of business students from China's Wuhan University was welcomed to Massey's Palmerston North campus this week.

The 39 students, all finance majors, are part of the 2+2 Pathway Programme arranged by the two universities in 2006. The programme will involve cohorts of students from the Wuhan World Trade Organisation School studying for two years at home then move to New Zealand for two years to complete their business degrees at Massey.

Wuhan, in central China with a population of about 7 million, has one of the world's largest universities. About 100,000 students live on campus.

The Pathway Programme was developed by Massey's College of Business Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Moore and senior finance lecturer Dr Jing Chi. At the time Professor Moore headed the Department of Economics and Finance, a position now held by Professor Martin Young. Professor Moore, who is responsible for international and distance learning within the college, says it is an exciting development for the University that will see new cohorts arriving in the second semester each year.

"It's a bilateral relationship with Wuhan, so there is a high level of pastoral care that the department will provide for the students. They will all live in Massey's halls of residence, at least initially, and I think many will choose to stay in the halls for the full two years."

They were accompanied by a full-time administrator employed by Wuhan University, WTO Studies School-Massey Programme Director Delci Wu, who will spend at least a week ensuring the students are settled in at Massey before returning to work with future cohorts.

The students have all completed core business papers equivalent to Massey's as well as English language papers," Professor Moore says. "This gives them a truly international degree and that fits in with the WTO objective of growing international business co-operation and trade."

Another 60 business students are in the programme at Wuhan and those cohorts will come to Massey next year and in 2010. Professor Moore says the programme will shortly expand to include students majoring in other areas such as economics.

College Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose welcomed the students on their first day, telling them they would be exposed to some Massey's best and brightest teaching talent. "Finance is our strongest area and, as a former finance professor and finance major myself, I'm very proud of that. You're in good hands here. I wish you well with your studies and look forward to seeing you all at graduation."

Date: 10/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North



Professor Cynthia White, Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe and Associate Professor Glyn Harper.

New Zealand's origins investigated in first professorial lecture

The debate over when humans first settled in New Zealand was the subject of the first professorial lecture hosted by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe's lecture, *The Dating Game: When did humans first arrive in New Zealand – and why do the answers change?*, looked at theories on the country's history that have held traction over the past century.

Professor Howe's lecture was held at the Auditorium in the Old Main Building at the Palmerston North campus and attracted a near capacity audience.

Four more lectures will follow each month until November. All lectures are free and open to the public, with refreshments served afterwards.

The lecture series is being organised by Professor Cynthia White from the School of Language Studies and Associate Professor Glyn Harper from the Centre for Defence Studies.

Research is a central activity of Massey University and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Harper says.

“The college's research includes outputs that contribute to a wider understanding and greater knowledge of the human condition.”

The remaining speakers are:

7 August

Associate Professor Glenn Banks – Security, resources and development: What Melanesia can teach us about why a little thing called culture matters.

10 September

Professor Cynthia White – Language: Learning Beyond Reason – Why Emotions Matter.

8 October



Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe.



A slide from Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe's lecture.

Professor Richard Corballis with Alan Sanson – The Race for Relativity: How the Hero of James Joyce's Ulysses almost Forestalled Albert Einstein's Theories.

5 November

Associate Professor Glyn Harper – New Zealand and the First World War in (unpublished) photographs.

Date: 10/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar



Award for Hopkirk Research Institute

The Hopkirk Research Institute building project on the Palmerston North campus has received an award of excellence in this year's Property Council New Zealand/Rider Levett Bucknall Awards.

The award was one of two given at a function in Auckland recently for excellence in the Ignite Architects special purpose (community service) category.

The awards are for recognising achievement in property development and investment in New Zealand.

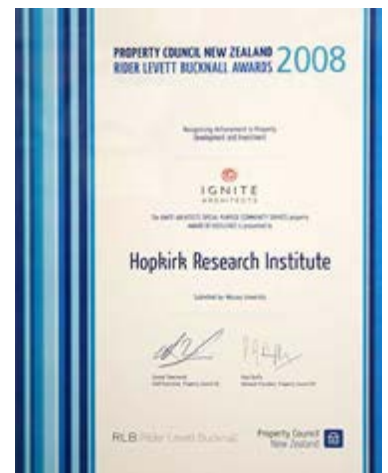
Project director and University director of strategic facilities management Joe Hollander says he is delighted the building has been recognised.

"It was a challenging project, but is a good example of an excellent collaborative team effort."

There were 52 finalists, with 15 merit and eight excellence awards presented, across 10 sponsored property award categories.

The \$17 million state-of-the-art research institute opened in March last year and is a collaborative venture between Massey and AgResearch. It offers close to 4000 square metres of laboratory and office space, sufficient to house about 100 research staff.

Their work focuses 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.



Date: 11/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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



Rower Nathan Cohen.

Massey students en masse at Beijing Olympics

[View the full list of Massey University athletes](#)

Massey lecturers may be forgiven for allowing some of their students a little leeway on filing assignments over the next month or two. More than 10 per cent of the New Zealand Olympic team heading for Beijing are studying at the University.

Twenty-three current and recent Massey students are among the 185 athletes selected to represent New Zealand in hockey, swimming, athletics, rowing, cycling, kayak and shooting events.

Massey academics are also playing roles as support staff for the New Zealand Olympic team. Dr Andrew Foskett is sport scientist for the Oly-Whites, the men's football squad, while masters' student Rob Creasy, from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, is exercise physiologist for the triathlon squad. Masters in Business Management student and former Olympic swimmer Alison Fitch is a volunteer administrator for the Olympic team.

Student athletes bound for China include world champion rower 22-year-old Nathan Cohen, who will represent New Zealand in the men's double sculls with fellow team mate Rob Waddell. Fellow Invercargill rower and Bachelor of Business Studies student Storm Uru has been selected for the lightweight double sculls event. He is a two-time world lightweight Under-23 single sculls champion. And 2005 rowing world champion Juliette Haigh, 23, will compete in the women's coxless pairs with fellow world champion Nicky Coles.

Four of the 15-member New Zealand swimming team study at Massey, all based on Auckland's North Shore. They include 26-year-old Moss Burmester, who has qualified for the 100m and 200m butterfly and who won gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 200m butterfly and bronze in the 100m butterfly, Corney Swanepoel, 22, who has qualified for 100m butterfly, Helen Norfolk, 26, who graduated this year from the Auckland campus with a Bachelor of Arts and who established new national records in both the 200m and 400m individual medley at the Olympic trials, and William Benson, competing in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay.

Massey students also make up a sizeable portion of both men's and women's hockey teams, with three men and six women from the University selected.

One of the youngest in this year's Olympic team is 19-year-old Palmerston North-based Bachelor of Science student Rob Eastham, representing New Zealand in the shooting team. He rose rapidly through the ranks as a junior representative for the sport before qualifying for the Olympics earlier this year at the Beijing World Cup



Swimmer Helen Norfolk.



Emily Naylor.



Storm Uru.

event.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says Massey's strong showing in the Olympic team is a reflection of the University's commitment to supporting and nurturing talented sportsmen and women.

The University has established itself as the leading sports campus in New Zealand for emerging and elite athletes, he says.

"We have 15 of the 50 New Zealand University Blues awards for 2007, and 69 out of the 300 Prime Minister's Sports Scholarships for 2008 – well above the numbers that might be expected."

The University's Academy of Sport programme, established in 2006 and based at the Palmerston North campus, provides mentoring, training, and sport and academic support services for developing athletes. A sport scholarship programme is also in place.

Professor Warrington says Massey's sports-related academic programmes in the Colleges of Business, Sciences and Education are attracting increasing numbers of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Top-class facilities, including extensive sports fields, athletics tracks, an equestrian centre and the Sport and Rugby Institute are available at Palmerston North, and there are long-term plans to increase the range and quality of facilities available at other campuses.

2008 Beijing Olympics – Massey University athletes

Athletics:

- Adrian Blincoe, the 3000m and 5000m. Mr Blincoe attended the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. He is studying a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration extramurally and is based in Auckland.
- James Dolphin, 100m and 200m sprint events. Mr Dolphin was a finalist in the 200m at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, finishing eighth. He has held the New Zealand 200m title for the last four years. He is studying a Bachelor of Business studies extramurally, and is based in Auckland.

Cycling:

- Catherine Cheatley, track cycling, riding in the points race. Miss Cheatley won bronze in this event in the 2007 world track cycling championships. She is studying a Bachelor of Accountancy extramurally and is based in the United States.

Hockey:

- Gareth Brooks, men's Black Sticks hockey team. Mr Brooks attended the 2004 Athens Olympic Games where the men's team finished sixth. He is studying extramurally towards a Bachelor of Accountancy and is based in Wellington.
- Simon Child, men's Black Sticks hockey team. Mr Child was a member of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games squad. He is studying extramurally towards a Bachelor of Business Studies.
- David Kosoof, men's Black Sticks hockey team. This will be his second Olympic campaign after being part of the 2004 Athens team that finished sixth. Mr Kosoof is studying extramurally towards a Bachelor of Business Studies and is based in Auckland.
- Jaimee Claxton, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Mrs Claxton is studying towards a Graduate Certificate in Human Nutrition and is based in Northland.
- Kayla Sharland, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Ms Sharland is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts, majoring media studies both internally and extramurally and is based in Auckland.
- Emily Naylor, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Ms Naylor attended the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. She is undertaking a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise extramurally and is based in Palmerston North.
- Stacey Carr, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Ms Carr attended the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Miss Carr is studying a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise extramurally.
- Caryn Paewai, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Miss Paewai attended the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games. She has a Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, completed in Palmerston North.
- Sheree Horvath, women's Black Sticks hockey team. Ms Horvath holds a Bachelor of Education completed in Palmerston North.

Kayak:

- Erin Taylor is the first woman to represent New Zealand in flatwater kayaking at an Olympic Games. She will compete in the K1 500m event. Miss Taylor is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science conjoint programme, extramurally, based in Auckland.

Rowing:

- Nathan Cohen, men's double sculls. Mr Cohen is studying towards a Bachelor of Business Studies extramurally through the Palmerston North campus.
- Storm Uru, lightweight double sculls. Mr Uru is studying towards a Bachelor of Business studies extramurally through the Palmerston North campus.
- Hamish Bond, men's coxless four event. Mr Bond is studying towards a Bachelor of Business Studies extramurally at the Palmerston North campus.
- Eric Murray, men's coxless four event. Mr Murray and fellow coxless four team-mate Hamish Bond are current world champions. Mr Murray attended the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. He is studying towards a Bachelor of Information Sciences extramurally and is based in Auckland.
- Juliette Haigh, women's coxless pair. Ms Haigh attended the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. She is studying extramurally towards a Bachelor of Business Studies and is based in Auckland.

Shooting:

- Robert Eastham, New Zealand's sole 50 metre prone shooter and its youngest Olympic Games shooter. Rob is studying internally towards a Bachelor of Science in Palmerston North.

Swimming:

- Moss Burmester, 200m butterfly, 400m freestyle and the team relay event. Mr Burmeister attended the 2004 Athens Olympics, the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games where he won a Gold in the 200m butterfly and bronze in the 100m butterfly. He is studying towards a Bachelor of Design at the Auckland campus.
- Corney Swanepoel, 100m butterfly. Mr Swanepoel placed 12th in the 100m butterfly at the Athens Olympics and attended the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. He is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts at the Auckland campus.
- William Benson, men's 4x100m freestyle relay. Mr Benson is studying towards a Bachelor of Business Studies at the Auckland campus.
- Helen Norfolk, 200m and 400m individual medley event. Miss Norfolk attended the 2004 Athens and 2000 Sydney Olympics as well as the 2006 Melbourne and 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in April, and was based in Auckland.

Date: 11/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Alumni; Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Institute of Sport and Rugby; Olympics; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington

Possum hunter to Olympics shooter

Rob Eastham never dreamed shooting possums as a kid on the family farm might one day lead to being an Olympic sportsman.

"I had no idea shooting was a sport until I joined the school team when I was 13," says the 19-year-old Bachelor of Science student.

In just over a year he has moved, bullet-speed, from being a keen member of the Rotorua Boys' High School shooting team to a junior representative in the sport until qualifying for the Olympics earlier this year to represent New Zealand in the Men's 50-metre prone section.



Rob Eastham

He was selected for the New Zealand Olympic team after he attained a world ranking of 61 at the shooting Beijing World Cup held in April. In May he came 53rd at the Munich World Cup and 40th a week later at the Milan World Cup.

Mr Eastham, a second-year member of the University's sport scholarship development programme at the Massey Academy of Sport in Palmerston North, says although athletic fitness is not imperative in order to excel at shooting, he has been running and doing aerobic training in preparation for the games.

The ability to stay focused and calm was the most important skill for success in the sport, he says.

He is taking a break this year from his degree in Earth Sciences because of frequent travel to international sports events.

Date: 11/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Auckland; Olympics; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington

Jazzing it up on tour

The New Zealand School of Music Jazz Orchestra will perform in four cities this month, under the direction of leading jazz artist Rodger Fox.

The 20-member orchestra will combine with American jazz trumpeter Clay Jenkins and New Zealand classical guitarist Associate Professor Matthew Marshall for the programme, *Miles Ahead* – a tribute to composer and arranger Gil Evans.

The performances will showcase the arrangements as performed by Miles Davis on the *Miles Ahead* and *Sketches of Spain* recordings, and have two tracks from the Gil Evans plays Jimmy Hendrix recording.

Director of the New Zealand School of Music Elizabeth Hudson says the short tour represents some firsts for the school.

The tour will be the first time the arrangements have been performed in this country, and the first time since Massey and Victoria universities created the New Zealand School of Music that the school has put together a touring ensemble.

The Gil Evans Trust has supported the tour by allowing Rodger Fox and the orchestra to use the original arrangements penned by Mr Evans.

Rodger Fox says the series is a “once in a lifetime opportunity for New Zealand musicians to perform this iconic music and a first for New Zealand concert audiences”.

The New Zealand School of Music will host a celebratory function that will precede the concert in the Wellington Town Hall on 22 July.

The tour - which will take in Napier, Nelson, and Christchurch before it returns to Wellington - is supported by the New Zealand Jazz Education and Performance Society.

Tour programme:

- 19 July in Napier at the Deco Decanted and Jazz Festival, Century Theatre. Book www.artdeconapier.com.
- 20 July at Nelson's Winter Festival. Book online at www.nsom.ac.nz.
- 21 July at the James Hay Theatre, Christchurch. Book at www.ticketek.co.nz.
- 22 July at Wellington Town Hall, book at www.ticketek.co.nz

Date: 11/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Music and campus life; Wellington



Rodger Fox



Classical guitarist Associate Professor Matthew Marshall



Dancers Brent Harris and Elizabeth Barker throw themselves into workshopping Sleep/Wake.

Days spent on sleepless nights

Performers and crew of acclaimed production Sleep/Wake have spent the last three weeks intensively workshopping sections from the performance piece.

Sleep/Wake is a collaboration between sleep expert Professor Philippa Gander of the University's Sleep/Wake Research Centre, and designer Sam Trubridge. The first season, which ran from 31 January to 10 February this year, garnered great reviews.

Sleep/Wake blends dance, science and performance design to explore the world of the unconscious, revealing those things that lie dormant within people: obsessions, ambitions and dreams.

Mr Trubridge said \$26,000 of Creative New Zealand funding received in May allowed the creative team the luxury of time to workshop portions of the production.

New performers also brought fresh energy to the production, which has had strong interest from New Zealand festivals for performances next year.

Date: 11/07/2008

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



One of the dancers in Sleep/Wake, Jack Gray, during rehearsals.



Dancer Elizabeth Barker, from England, during workshopping of Sleep/Wake.

Methamphetamine use stable but causing more problems

 [Watch the ONE Breakfast item](#)

New research suggests methamphetamine use has stabilised over the past three years, but frequent users are experiencing more health and legal problems.

Massey's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE) has released the 2007 Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS), which offers a snapshot of trends in drug use and drug related harm in New Zealand.

Lead researcher Dr Chris Wilkins says frequent users of methamphetamine were more likely to have needed an ambulance, accident and emergency department, drug and alcohol worker, counsellor or GP in relation to their drug use in 2007 compared to the previous two years.

“Overall levels of methamphetamine use appear to be fairly stable but this research indicates there is a growing population of heavy users experiencing health and legal problems.” Dr Wilkins says.

Frequent methamphetamine users were also more likely to have committed violent or property crime last year compared to the 2005 findings.

“Users are under increasing financial pressure, however only minorities of frequent users reported paying for their drug use with money from property crime and even smaller minorities committed violent crime.”

There has been some decline in the availability of crystal methamphetamine (ice), the research shows.

“This is likely to reflect the impact of some very large seizures of crystal methamphetamine made by police and customs in 2006 and 2007,” Dr Wilkins says.

Frequent drug users, interviewed as part of the ongoing research, stated that more people they knew were using ecstasy last year compared to 2006.

“The situation with ecstasy is somewhat confused by the previous ready availability of BZP party pills [now outlawed], which are sometimes fraudulently sold by drug dealers as ecstasy. Increasing use of ecstasy may also reflect the declining reputation of methamphetamine which is increasingly associated with serious psychological problems and addiction.”

The full report can be found at: http://www.shore.ac.nz/projects/idms_study.htm

Date: 14/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Video Multimedia



Captain Jane Derbyshire in Afghanistan earlier this year.

Military lawyer selected for Geneva training course

Centre for Defence Studies lecturer Captain Jane Derbyshire has been chosen to attend an advanced training course in international humanitarian law in Geneva, Switzerland.

Captain Derbyshire is one of 29 university teachers worldwide selected for the three-day course run by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, to be held at the end of August. Captain Derbyshire teaches papers in military law and the law of armed conflict at Massey, one of three serving military officers at the Centre for Defence Studies.

The course will explore specific issues and recent developments related to a range of international humanitarian law topics such as the war on terror, private military and security companies and the interaction between international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Captain Derbyshire says the course will help both her teaching at Massey and in the Defence Force, where she works as a legal officer in the New Zealand Army based at Waiouru.

“The Geneva academy is well funded and highly regarded and the course will provide up-to-date resource materials that will be of immense use both at Massey and in the military. It's also a great chance to gain contacts from around the world.”

Captain Derbyshire says the course covers the same subjects as her paper, law in armed conflict.

“We cover the war on terror, the classification of insurgents and legality within a conflict, so what I learn in Geneva will compliment and update what I teach in that paper.”

Date: 15/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Virtual community and on-line resource portal for PhD students

A unique web-based cyber community to support Māori PhD students will be launched at a symposium, in Palmerston North on Wednesday.

The community has been developed by the University's Te Mata o Te Tau – Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship – in an effort to create a virtual community and resource portal for the more than 70 Māori PhD students enrolled at present. The students are based throughout New Zealand and most have limited opportunities to visit a campus or discuss issues with classmates.

Te Mata o Te Tau director Te Kani Kingi says as far as he is aware this is the first virtual community of its type for PhD students.

"The cyber community has been designed to address the sense of isolation many Māori PhD students feel and provide an innovative communication and resource tool," Dr Kingi says. "There has been a concern that PhD students didn't feel like they belonged to a community of learning. Often because their degree is not taught in a traditional sense – they do not attend classes, are typically off-campus, and therefore find it difficult to develop a sense of collegiality."



Recent Massey graduate Audrey MacDonald during the development of the cyber community.

Initial testing indicated that students wanted to see and hear other people and to engage each other in a more interactive way, rather than simply read text. "Through the use of technology we will be able to foster a sense of community, no matter where students are, and enhance their learning and research outcomes. We have students based in Auckland, Wellington, Manutuke and Hamilton, who will now be able to find out information and have face-to-face and virtual dialogue with their peers and supervisor."

The cyber community and resource portal has been developed using existing WebCT technology used for distance learning at the University for several years.

Dr Kingi says similar technology has been tested and used to good effect with Te Rau Puawai, a Māori mental health workforce development initiative based at the University.

He says the information available through the portal will include 20-minute audio-visual clips [broken into a menu of 1-2 minute segments] given by supervisors, including a bilingual presentation by Professor Tai Black in Māori for those students completing their thesis in Māori, slide shows and notes as well as the answers to general questions about ethics, research methods and online resources to assist with the completion of PhDs.

"Often PhD students raise similar questions about ethics, how to use Microsoft word, how to manage End-Note, or appropriate research methods. They will be able to find answers to these questions, as well as information about research management, research grants, and applying for funding.

"Most PhD students will find End-Note [a computerised referencing tool] useful, no matter the subject area. By providing an on-line presentation they can see for themselves how to install and operate the software. More importantly, they can review the presentation as many times as they like and from any location, which can save them time, and money."

Dr Kingi says the portal will include a range of tools to assist students to finish their PhD. He says much of the information will be applicable to PhD students generally and some will be of particular interest to Māori.

He says PhD students who cannot attend the symposium will be able to watch the presentations via the portal soon after it is launched.

The portal and cyber community was developed by recent Massey graduate Audrey MacDonald and will be maintained, coordinated, and regularly updated by researcher Dr Rangi Mataamua. To facilitate the development

of the community, PhD students will need to go through a registration process to help the coordinator assess and meet the needs of students.

Dr Kingi says that the initiative is part of a broader strategy to support and assist Māori postgraduate students and all universities and wānanga in the country, and could not have been achieved without the support and guidance of Massey University's Graduate Research School, or the overall vision of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Mason Durie, who has played a significant part in the project's development.

Date: 15/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Maori; Palmerston North



Spotless Catering Dining Hall manager Alan Shannon with Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Sandi Shillington.

Campus catering goes green

New food packaging that is 100 per cent biodegradable has been introduced to the Palmerston North campus in an effort to further reduce waste levels in the environment.

Catering company Spotless Services has introduced a new range of fibre-based packaging in the dining hall for lunch-meals and take-away dinners.

Produced by KiwiGreenPak, the fibre-based toxin-free product range is made from renewable plant materials and can be composted domestically or commercially, or buried in a landfill. The packages take about a month to completely decompose to a natural state, causing no harm to the environment.

Food Services director Alan Shannon, says that approximately 400 units are distributed each day with meals. "We package lunchtime meals with the KiwiGreenPak packaging, and up to a third of students choose a take-away option at dinner-time."

Mr Shannon says the new containers are durable to 100 degrees water resistant, oil resistant to temperatures of 150 degrees, and safe to microwave, refrigerate and freeze. The cost is similar to the old styrofoam containers.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Environmental issues; Palmerston North

Elizabeth Smither to read on Montana Poetry Day

Acclaimed writer Elizabeth Smither will read from her work in the city on Montana Poetry Day on Friday.

The event is part the Massey Writers Read series, presented by the School of English and Media Studies and the Palmerston North City Library, where the reading is held.

Ms Smither writes poetry, short fiction and novels and released her first book in 1975. Her collection *The Lark Quartet* won the poetry category of the 2000 Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

Despite a long literary career, Ms Smither says writing is just as difficult as it was when she began.

“The nearer you get to perfection the further the goal recedes from you. I'm always interested in the next poem, so I don't tend to look back.”

Ms Smither is looking forward to her reading and says events like this give an audience a connection between the writer and the words.

Dr Bryan Walpert, who lectures on creative writing in the School of English and Media Studies, says poetry has an important place in New Zealand culture, and Montana Poetry Day is a time to remember that.

“This is an increasingly busy world we live in, but poetry makes you slow down and savour the moment. It makes you look around and think. So Montana Poetry Day is a day to encourage the entire country to do that.”

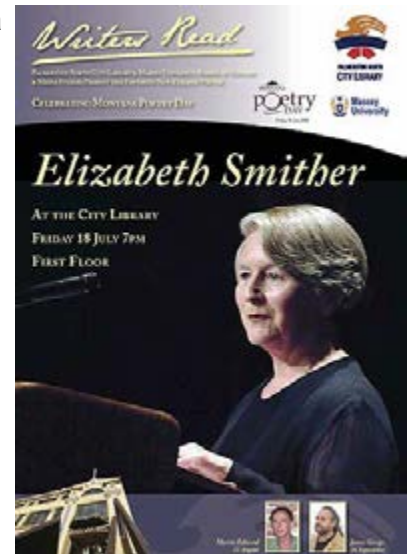
Dr Walpert says it is wonderful to have a poet of the calibre of Elizabeth Smither read in the city, which has shown great support to the Writers Read series.

Elizabeth Smither's reading is at 7pm on Friday 18 July on the first floor of the Palmerston North City Library.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



NASA scientist shares moon mission with students

A visiting NASA scientist revealed details of his high-tech project to build low-cost robotic machines for lunar exploration in a lively lecture to Massey engineering students this week (July 15).

Mark Leon, director of the Robotics Alliance Project at the NASA Ames Research Centre in California, lived up to his reputation as a captivatingly animated presenter of technical information about how developments in robotics are breaking new frontiers in space exploration.

Mr Leon was in Auckland to oversee a robotics "boot camp" for nearly 1000 secondary school pupils from Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North and Christchurch taking part for the first time in the US-inspired FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Students, with the help of Massey engineering tutors and students and visiting US robotics instructors, spent the two-week term break designing and building mini-robots capable of carrying out a specific task, as preparation to compete in next year's international competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

The competition began 17 years ago and involves more than 30,000 students from seven countries. It was devised as a way of engaging teen students with the challenge of applying mathematical, scientific and technological knowledge to robotics by linking them, via the competition, with a network of professional and educational institutions and companies. Aimed at encouraging more students into engineering careers, the programme is strongly supported by top-level NASA scientists, such as Mr Leon.

The New Zealand limb of the competition was launched earlier this year at Smales Farm Technology Office Park on Auckland's North Shore, along with Massey University and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences



Mark Leon at Massey's Auckland campus with Dr Johan Potgieter, a lecturer in mechatronics and robotics at Massey's School of Engineering and Advanced Technology in Auckland.

Massey man helps footballers prepare for Olympics

Body cooling gel, gas masks, ice baths, compression stockings and a tonne of nutritional snacks will all be in the luggage of sport scientist Dr Andrew Foskett as he accompanies the New Zealand men's football squad, the Oly-Whites, to the 2008 Olympic Games in China.

Dr Foskett says being appointed as sport scientist for the first New Zealand football squad to go to the Olympics is "a dream role", which allows him to combine his academic knowledge with a passion for football at the world's ultimate sporting event.

The biggest challenge for athletes going to China will be adapting to the heat of 30 to 35deg, and humidity of 90 to 95 per cent, as well as China's much-publicised air pollution, he says. Normal summer humidity in Auckland is in the high 70s.

The 25-strong squad, including 18 players, will play several practice games in Australia, followed by two weeks of acclimatisation in Indonesia where the climate is similar to that of China..

The squad then has a week in China before the first games in Shenyang against China on August 7 and Brazil on August 10. The team then faces Belgium in Shanghai on August 13.

Dr Foskett, a lecturer at the Exercise and Sports Division of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, says although the media has focused on the problem of China's severe air pollution and its impact on athletes, he is also mindful of the effects of oppressive heat and humidity on the football squad in his care.

Like all other New Zealand athletes attending the games, football team members are being urged to wear protective masks while travelling to prevent them catching flu or other bugs, and to wear carbon filter masks in China to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution.

"Athletes are more susceptible to catching bugs when they're at peak fitness," Dr Foskett says.

During games, players will wear special vests soaked in a cooling gel originally formulated for racehorses to delay the onset of fatigue caused by overheating.

"Fluid loss in football is normally between one and three litres per hour. But with the challenging environmental conditions and intense physical activity, the players are potentially going to be at the upper end of fluid losses – possibly in excess of four and a half litres per match," says Dr Foskett, a UK former semi-professional footballer who has also played in the National League in New Zealand.

He will also provide coaching support with post-match recovery logistics and technical analysis of player performance using specially developed computer software.

He is "very excited" about the forthcoming trip. "It's the pinnacle of sport. For the players, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because it's an under-23 tournament."

The under-23 age restriction is to avoid too many professional players being involved because it runs counter to the amateur concept of the Olympics, he says. Olympic football teams are, however, allowed to include three over-23 players, and the Oly-Whites are pleased they will have elite New Zealand footballer Ryan Nelsen, currently star central defender for the English Blackburn Rovers club, for the first two of their three games in China.

Dr Foskett says the Olympics are a "huge shop window" for international football scouts seeking new talent for what is one of the world's most lucrative sports.

The team qualified in Fiji to represent Oceania, and is one of 16 teams in the competition.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



Poetry CDs an alternative to talkback radio

Compact disc recordings in a new anthology of New Zealand's hottest new poets promise to engage a wide audience, including those who are not "poetry fiends", says one of its co-editors Massey English lecturer Dr Jack Ross (pictured).

New New Zealand Poets in Performance (Auckland University Press) is the third and last in a series he has co-edited with poet Jan Kemp. The unique publications each come with two CDs of recordings of poets reading their work to accompany the written text.

"A lot of people might want to try listening to the poems while they're in the car driving to work," Dr Ross says. "Instead of talkback radio, why not open up to some new ideas with a poem?"

The book follows Classic New Zealand Poets in Performance and Contemporary New Zealand Poets in Performance and brings together 28 young to mid-career poets, including Anne Kennedy, Jenny Bornholdt, Glenn Colquhoun and Andrew Johnston, to celebrate "the rich jangle of clashing ideas, voices, genders that combine to make a living culture", Dr Ross says in his introduction.

He is "greatly relieved" the third collection has more women, as well as more Maori and Pacific Island voices, reflecting a more diverse demographic among poets who came to prominence in the 1980s, 1990s and this decade, compared with the two previous collections, which inevitably had more male poets. "It's been nice to redress the balance, and it was easy to do because there are so many more poets to choose from."

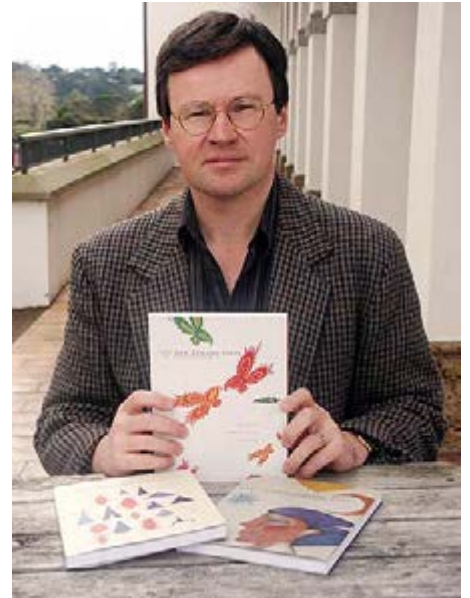
Dr Ross, a North Shore novelist and poet who teaches New Zealand literature and creative writing at Massey's Auckland campus, describes the poems as "sharply focused, possibly more worldly than the previous collections, but certainly not cynical or lacking in innocent joy. The book represents just "the tip of the iceberg" in terms of the number and range of poets whose work can be accessed online via the archive website. Further details can be found at <http://aonzpsa.blogspot.com/>.

The book was launched last week at the Auckland Public Library to coincide with Montana Poetry Day.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Dr Mahina demonstrates the fangufangu, a traditional Tongan bamboo pipe played by blowing through a nostril.

Pasifika researcher explores novel time-space theory

A novel time-space theory of reality based on Polynesian concepts has been making waves among artists and intelligentsia in London following a recent symposium.

Newly-appointed senior research fellow Pasifika Dr Okusitino Mahina, based at the Auckland campus, co-convoked the symposium with Albert Refiti, head of Art and Design at the Auckland University of Technology, as part of the London International Festival of Theatre held at the Southbank Centre last month.

They brought together a group of Maori and Pasifika artists whose work connects with Dr Mahina's philosophical theory based on the Pacific concepts of ta (time) and va (space). They included Maori activist, artist and performer Tame Iti in a New Zealand-based theatrical performance, *Tempest II*.

In Dr Mahina's theory, "art is defined as a form of intensification of ta - time, and reconstitution of va - space, and involves transformation from a condition of chaos to a state of order through sustained rhythmic production of symmetry, harmony and, more importantly, beauty".

Artists at the symposium also took part in an art installation producing interactive art works in traditional and contemporary Pasifika styles and techniques to reflect ta-va theory.

Dr Mahina lectured in social work in 1993 and 1994 before moving to Auckland University where he taught Pacific Political Economy and Pacific Arts in Anthropology.

Born in the Tongan village of Tefisi, on the island of Vava`u, he was the only one of 11 children in his family to attend university. He graduated from Auckland with a BA with a double major in anthropology and sociology, and masters degree in social anthropology with first-class honours, then completed his PhD in Pacific history from the Australian National University in Canberra.

A keen student of Western philosophy, Dr Mahina says he created his own theory as a way of making sense of the world from an indigenous Pasifika worldview and has continued to develop it. He has published extensively on his Pacific-driven time-space theory, while a number of masters and PhD students in New Zealand, Australia, the Netherlands and the United States have embraced the theory and applied it to their various disciplines.

"The ta-va, time-space theory is so general and formal that it enters into all fields of inquiry, within and across₄₁₂



Dr Mahina (right) in London outside Queen Elizabeth Hall where the symposium was held, with Maori and Pasifika artists, from left: Filipe Tohi, Semisi Manuesina Tonata Potauaine, Albert Refiti and Tame Iti.

nature, mind and society,” he says.

As well as supervising several Pacific-related theses in his new role at the University, he is currently leading projects on Tongan research, and curriculum development relating to Maori and Pasifika performing arts, as well as writing and editing several projects. They include a volume in a series on Pacific leadership, a collection of his political, educational, artistic and philosophical essays, speeches and writings, and a book of his poems in both Tongan and English.

Dr Mahina, who was awarded the Creative NZ Pasifika Heritage Award 2007, is also an accomplished performer of the traditional Tongan instrument, the fangufangu, a bamboo pipe played by blowing through a nostril.

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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

Olympic swimmer goes behind the scenes at games

Mentoring young athletes and supporting team spirit will be a new focus for former Olympic swimmer and Massey student Alison Fitch as she heads to the Beijing Olympics this month.

Ms Fitch is studying part-time at Massey Auckland for a Masters in Management while working as an events and marketing manager for an insurance broker in Auckland. She will join elite athletes and former Olympic gold medallists triathlete Hamish Carter and cyclist Sarah Ulmer as athlete support crew at the New Zealand team base in the Olympic Village.

As well as day-to-day logistics including accommodation, shuttling athletes to venues on time and checking communications and security operations are running smoothly, Ms Fitch will help set up and decorate the New Zealand team's themed headquarters, details of which are being kept under wraps.

Ms Fitch says her role is also to nurture a strong team spirit by making sure athletes competing as individuals rather than in a team feel they are part of the larger New Zealand team, and to mentor young athletes overawed by the juggernaut of the Olympics.

She says competing at the Olympics is, for most athletes, the ultimate sporting experience, and one that comes with immense pressures as well as rewards.

The Hamilton-born athlete powered through the water when she represented New Zealand at Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 and Athens in 2004. Now 28, she retired from competitive sport at last year's New Zealand open championships after more than a decade at the top of her sport, says she relishes the opportunity to be part of the Olympic phenomenon.

“At the Olympics in Atlanta and Athens I'd just rock up and take part in my event. Now I'm seeing it more from a detached perspective.

“There will some glamorous parts of the job, and some less than glamorous aspects. The whole set-up is enormous. There's a lot to learn,” says Ms Fitch, who is keen to pursue a future in sports administration.

Alison Fitch will be blogging with the latest news from inside the NZ Olympic Team headquarters in Beijing. Her blog is accessible via <http://www.olympic.org.nz>

Date: 16/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni; Auckland; Olympics; Sport and recreation





Carver Ranga Tuhi and the new pou tuarongo.

New carving for Wellington campus marae receives local blessing

A new carved pou donated to Massey University's Te Kuratini Marae in Wellington, has received the blessing of local kaumātua, University staff and the student community.

The pou was formally blessed yesterday at a dawn ceremony led by local kaumātua Sam and June Jackson.

A small group of 12 staff and whānau gathered outside the marae and were led into the whareniui while karakia (prayers) were recited by the kaumātua elders. This was followed by a karakia recited by the carver of the pou, design student Ranga Tuhi (Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto). Mr Tuhi also gave an explanation of the carving in Māori to the gathering.

Later in the morning, a presentation was made to a group of about 40 University staff and students, where Mr Tuhi explained the spiritual connection between carvers and their work and the different influences and aspects of the pou.

Te Kaiwawao – Senior (Māori) Manager Te Tumatakuru O'Connell says the koha of the carving by Mr Tuhi has provided a unique engagement opportunity for staff and students and showcases the work of a student who will graduate from the College of Creative Arts at the end of the year. "Mr Tuhi has effectively revitalised the culture of the campus, as the marae is often referred to as its heart."

Mr Tuhi says the 2.4m pou tuarongo (post symbolising the tangata whenua or home people) is a koha, and is his way of giving back to the marae. "Since I started studying here five years ago, I felt the house needed to be clothed and needed a pou. The pou tuarongo is important for tangata whenua and is the backbone to



Carver Ranga Tuhi works on the pou tuarongo. The pou is intentionally obscured in the picture prior to the unveiling. Picture – William Franco.

marae activities.

“The reason I decided to create the pou was to unite staff and students and strengthen the sense of community around the marae. There is a strong bond between carvers and marae. A carver has an obligation or responsibility to marae, particularly those without carvings.”

He says modern processes as well as materials were used. “This pou stands 2.4m tall and, instead of kauri, is carved out of custom-wood. It’s more difficult to work with in a lot of ways because it is like soft butter and there is not much room for error.”

He will also leave documentation about the pou and its development with marae staff to inform future students and staff about the carving process and why and how it was made. This will include drawings of the surface pattern and design, which includes three main figures. The bottom figure features the goddess of death, Hine Nui Te Po. Above her is a likeness of Maui, the demigod in his quest for immortality for mankind – a quest in which he failed and was killed by Hine Nui Te Po. A figure of the goddess features again at the top of the pou.

Associate Professor Ross Hemera, the College of Creative Arts’ Kaiwhakaahua (Director of Māori Development), says the pou tuarongo is one of the most important pou in a whare as it depicts the culmination of the Māori life cycle.

“Gifting the piece to the marae is very honourable. The marae provides a Māori context on campus for design students and pou are created as a living piece of work, and need the marae to bring it to life,” says Mr Hemera.

Mr Hemera says the pou is also a fantastic example of what can be achieved through the University’s Toi Ātea programme. “The piece is quite close to what you might expect to see in customary whakairo (carving). A lot of the references and aspects he uses are drawn from customary whakairo practice, and therefore, he is to be commended for his desire to work within an institutional teaching and learning environment.”



Date: 16/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Maori; Wellington



Elaine Reilly from Vision Manawatu cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Atawhai common room.

Partnership boosts halls connectivity

A new student commons at Massey's Atawhai Village in Palmerston North was officially opened today and marks the completion of a campus-wide systems upgrade for the residential halls.

Around 950 students live on campus and a collaboration between the University and local internet provider Inspire Net has seen extensive networking undertaken to provide students with access to University services such as online learning and library services and faster broadband speeds from the comfort of their rooms.

Students can connect via computers in student commons located within each halls cluster, from their rooms on their own computers or wirelessly at various locations around campus.

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Dr Sandi Shillington says the project's completion is good news for Massey and for Student City.

"The provision of a fast and reliable connection to the internet is an important tool for study, and a big draw card for students looking to live on campus," Dr Shillington says.

"We are thrilled that our partnership with Inspire Net has allowed us to achieve this important milestone for students."

Inspire Net general manager Keith Linforth says the project is a culmination of three years' effort and the result is both exciting and rewarding.

"Palmerston North is one of New Zealand's better connected cities, and the good working relationship that we've built with Massey has contributed to this. Students can now enjoy some of the fastest speeds the city has to offer."

The closing date for students seeking a place in the halls of residence next year is 1 October. There has already been a strong expression of interest for accommodation in the Halls for 2009 and this is expected to increase following the Open Days on 6 and 9 August.

Date: 17/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson, Dr Hamish Anderson, Dr Lisa Emerson and Professor Ian Warrington at the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards held at Parliament last night.

Massey lecturer named supreme winner at national teaching excellence awards

Dr Lisa Emerson was last night named the supreme winner at the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, continuing Massey's successful run of 11 national awards in the seven years since they started.

Dr Emerson, from the School of English and Media Studies in Palmerston North, received the Prime Minister's Supreme Award and \$30,000. She was selected as nominee for the national awards after receiving Massey's Darrilyn O'Dea Award for Innovation in eLearning earlier this year.



Supreme excellence in teaching award winner Dr Lisa Emerson and sustained excellence in teaching award winner Dr Hamish Anderson.

Dr Hamish Anderson, who teaches finance in the Department of Economics and Finance in Palmerston North, received a national award for sustained excellence in teaching and \$20,000.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, at Parliament with Dr Emerson and Dr Anderson for the awards ceremony, says he is delighted with their success.

"It's extremely pleasing to have exceptional teachers recognised and further evidence of the University's commitment to teaching excellence," Professor Warrington says.

"We pride ourselves on the quality of teaching both in the lecture theatre and through distance education and we value and hold in high regard the innovative approaches our staff use, and the standards they achieve.

"This year in fact we made two additional Massey teaching awards for excellence because the standard of nominees was so high – taking two of 10 national awards confirms we were on exactly the right track in recognising the strengths of our many committed teachers."

Dr Emerson, who joined Massey in 1989, has taught and designed courses in writing across the University, and has research interests including science writing, plagiarism, online writing and writing in the disciplines. She publishes widely on academic writing, is the author of the Writing Guidelines series and runs The Writery, an online community for creative writers. The Integrative Grammar programme that she designed won the Writing Programme Administrators teaching award in 2004, the first outside North America.

Dr Emerson's citation says the variety and breadth of teaching and assessment she uses are impressive, with

her commitment evident in all she does. “Colleagues and peers comment on Lisa's sustained leadership and professionalism.”

Dr Anderson says he was stunned to receive the national award.

“Finance is a very difficult subject for many to grasp, which presents particular challenges when teaching. However, I've always simply tried my best to extend all students, whatever their capability.

“To be recognised for this simple commitment to students at the national level is humbling and it reinforces for me personally my decision to teach all those years ago.”

Dr Anderson's citation notes that he is able to match teaching strategies with learning outcomes in a way that breaks down the “Berlin Wall-size barriers” many students associate with learning about finance.

“His consistently positive student evaluations and many accolades from colleagues confirm his sustained commitment to excellence in teaching.”

The awards ceremony was hosted by Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson. Nine academic staff representing Massey, Otago, Victoria, and Auckland universities, and the Otago Polytechnic and Waikato Institute of Technology received sustained excellence awards.

Mr Hodgson said it was a pleasure to see recognition for excellence in tertiary teaching.

“Between them these 10 people influence the learning of thousands of students and their excellence is therefore hugely valuable for New Zealand.”

At the ceremony, Mr Hodgson paid tribute to the work of Massey University's Emeritus Professor Graeme Fraser, chairman of the awards committee since 2002, who is now stepping down from this role.

“Graeme will be extraordinarily difficult to replace – he has ensured the integrity and reputation of these awards and brought to the process his own commitment to tertiary teaching excellence that was manifest throughout his own academic career.”

It was noted that all 10 awardees demonstrated outstanding teaching practices that were both student-focused and committed to promoting effective learning. Common themes across portfolios included: leading by enthusiasm, caring about student achievement, using their own learning experiences to enhance their teaching methods, and recognising students not only as individuals and equals, but also potential colleagues.

Date: 17/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; Teaching



Naomi Brewer, a research fellow at the University's Centre for Public Health Research.

Blood sugar levels might be new measure of health

Blood sugar levels might be just as important in measuring good health as blood pressure or cholesterol, new University research suggests.

Naomi Brewer, a research fellow at the University's Centre for Public Health Research, is the lead author of a study published in the leading international diabetes journal *Diabetes Care*, published by the American Diabetes Association.

The study followed 47,904 people who had undergone haemoglobin A1C testing – a standard way to measure blood sugar – as part of a screening program for hepatitis B from 1999 to 2001. They were followed until the end of 2004, when it was found 815 had died.

Ms Brewer and her team discovered that the likelihood of death rose in parallel with blood sugar levels, even when the analysis was restricted to people without diabetes. Those in the highest category of blood sugar levels had more than twice the death rate of those with low levels.

“In future, people will need to know their haemoglobin A1C level, just as they may currently know their blood pressure or their cholesterol levels,” she says.

As well as the association with the overall risk of death, strong associations were seen for some specific causes of death, including endocrine, nutritional, metabolic and immunity disorders (which can include diabetes and cystic fibrosis), and diseases of the circulatory system (which can include heart disease). Weaker associations were noted between elevated blood sugar levels and deaths from cancer. The associations were equally strong in men and women.

Ms Brewer was surprised at the lack of previous research in to the subject in New Zealand. The association has previously been seen in several overseas studies, but this new study is the largest that has been carried out internationally on this topic, and the first such study in New Zealand.

“People might have thought of those with diabetes as being in one corner and themselves in another. This suggests there might be more to it than that,” Ms Brewer says.

“It is interesting because it's something people might want to know, and to think about. There's possibly more of a continuum between not having diabetes and having diabetes than previously supposed.”

Date: 21/07/2008

Type: Research

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



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine is pictured with four of the award recipients, from left: Kataraina Hohua, Chris Rodley, Kenneth Taiapa and Kaleb Leeming.

Students rewarded for academic excellence, mentoring and contribution to Māori development

Twelve Māori students received awards from Massey University in Auckland last month in recognition of their contribution to the University, leadership and Māori development.

Four undergraduate students received bursaries worth a total of \$12,000, sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International), Professor John Raine.

The bursars were chosen for their academic performance and contribution to Māori development on and off campus.

Recipients were:

- Kenneth Taiapa (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata), who is studying a Bachelor of Arts with a major in sociology and Māori studies. Mr Taiapa was also awarded both Te Pūtaka Mentor Award in recognition of his leadership among the student community.
- Nadita Beauchamp (Tuhoe) is studying for a Bachelor of Arts with a major in social policy.
- Kataraina Hohua (Tuhoe) who is studying for a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in accountancy.
- Kaleb Leeming (Ngāti Whātua), who is studying a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in sport business management.

Six postgraduate students received Purehuroa Awards sponsored by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Mason Durie. These recognise academic performance and students must have a minimum B+ average. The awards are valued at between \$2000 and \$4000 each.

Recipients were:

- Michelle Wright (Ngā Puhī) studying for a Master of Business Administration.
- Peter Kendrick (Tuhoe) studying for a Bachelor of Business Studies (Hons).
- Robyn Fitzgerald (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Haua) studying for a Masters in Nursing.
- Sara Poananga (Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tai) studying for a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.
- Chris Rodley (Ngāti Koata), studying for a PhD in genetics.
- Virginia Tamanui, (Ngā Puhī, Ngāriki) studying for a PhD in Arts and completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology.

Ramona Radford (Ngāi Tai, Whakatohea, Ngāti Porou) was the other recipient of a Te Pūtaka Mentor award. Ms Radford is studying for a Bachelor of Business Studies. Recipients become mentors of first-year students for five and half hours per week and receive a payment of \$1000 per semester.

Date: 21/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



President Anote Tong awards Associate professor Tony Whincup with his Kiribati Order of Merit.

Passion for Kiribati rewarded

Lecturer Tony Whincup has received the Kiribati Order of Merit. The award was made in recognition of his 30-year labour of love researching and communicating the importance of a wide range of Kiribati practices and artefacts.

Associate Professor Whincup, Head of the School of Visual and Material Culture at the University's College of Creative Arts in Wellington, arrives back in New Zealand this week.

Mr Whincup says the award is a great honour.

“This is a wonderful endorsement of my work over the last 30 years,” he says.

In 2002 Mr Whincup and his wife Joan wrote *Akekeia! – Traditional Dance in Kiribati*, which won the Montana Book Awards illustrative category.

Mr Whincup will give the first lecture in the Wellington campus public lecture series at 6pm on 7 August in the Massey University Museum Building Tokomaru theatrette. He will speak on *The Threat of Climate Change to Indigenous Knowledge – A Case Study on Notiruru, Kiribati*.

All are welcome. An email to indicate attendance should be sent to s.richards@massey.ac.nz with Associate Professor Whincup in the subject line by noon on 4 August.

Date: 21/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



PhD student Amster Reedy recites a traditional oriori (lullaby) to his grandson Rikipapaki. The oriori is about the mythical origin of the kumara, composed in the 1600s by Enoke Te Pakaru of the Gisborne iwi, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, “Pō! Pō! E tangi ana Tama ki te kai māna” – “Pō, Pō (thought to be the shortened form of Pōtiki or last born). The boy, my son, he is crying for food.

Maori lullabies subject of PhD research

 [Watch the 3 NEWS item](#)

Traditional Maori lullabies – oriori – are the subject of new PhD research to be written entirely in Maori by Wellington-based student Amster Reedy.

Mr Reedy says he was motivated to research traditional child rearing practices by the furore over the killings of the Kahui twins and the deaths of other babies.

Mr Reedy says he aims to create a revival of Māori birth rites, rituals and practices. Oriori are recited at birth, during a child's upbringing or to observe the death of a child. “My goal is to reaffirm that Māori have comprehensive childrearing traditions, and that these practices are just as comprehensive and relevant as those of any other civilisation or society that exists or existed.”

Mr Reedy, 64, has worked as a consultant providing advice about Māori issues and leadership to a range of private and public sector organisations for almost 20 years. Since 2003 he has also been part of the athletes services unit that has supported New Zealand's Olympic and Commonwealth Games sports teams and leaves for Beijing to carry out his duties with the team at the end of the month.

He has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons), majoring in Māori from Victoria University and a background in Education. He grew up in Ruatoria, and was head prefect at Ngata Memorial College, where he returned to teach Māori and as principal.

Mr Reedy is relishing the opportunity to discuss an aspect of childrearing – “the most important of traditions” – in his mother tongue. “The celebration of birth is the most important tradition in any society. The practice of oriori while the child is in the womb, during birth and as the child grows instils the importance of relationships; with parents, caregivers, and kin.”

He says the tradition of oriori often begins at conception, and sometimes before that, to entice woman to conceive. Traditional karakia (prayers) and oriori will be used as the framework for his research.

Mr Reedy says oriori convey stories about ancestral journeys and achievements and give children something to aspire to. “The feats of our ancestors show us that there is no mountain too high, and no sea too far to sail. Māori were, and remain, a proud, independent people. The practice of oriori encourages a life-long pursuit of learning and provides a unique experience of ritual for the whole whānau.”

His research will focus mostly on oriori from his own iwi, Ngāti Porou. Oriori is a tradition shared by all iwi, many of the best known classic oriori are more than 300 years old. He will also reflect on his own experiences

performing tohi (naming ceremonies) for more than 40 babies over a period spanning 30 years.

“I will also explore the psychological and physiological benefits to the mother of reciting oriori during the birthing process, practices for burying of the whenua, maioha [pledge or commitment to the child from both sides of the family], pure [the induction ceremony for young adults into their tribe] and moenga rangatira [chiefly marriages].”

Date: 21/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori; Video Multimedia

First-time author wins two Montana categories

Creative writing tutor Mary McCallum won two awards at this year's Montana New Zealand Book Awards for her first novel *The Blue*.

At a ceremony in Wellington last night Ms McCallum won the Society of Authors Hubert Church Best First Book Award for Fiction and the Readers' Choice Award.

The Blue is about life in an isolated whaling community on Arapawa Island in the Marlborough Sounds in 1938. Awards judges' convenor Lynn Freeman said it was such an accomplished piece of writing that it had also earned a place in the fiction category shortlist.

"We only rarely find a first-time novelist who can write with such precision, maturity and real emotional insight," Ms Freeman said.

Ms McCallum says the first book award win is very exciting. "You put this little book out there and you have a vague daydream of winning something," she says. "But there are so many amazing books out there; you really focus on the readers and what they love about it. I've got such lovely readers who want the book to do well, and I'm just so delighted they voted for *The Blue*.

"It's now time to really knuckle down and get on with book number two."

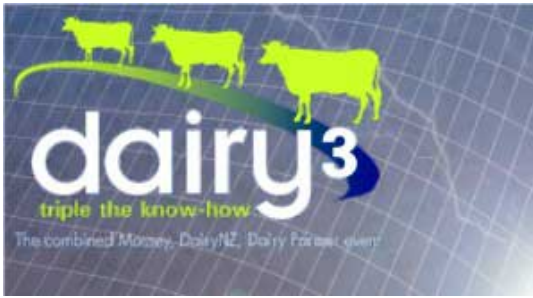
Date: 22/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington



Mary McCallum



Farmers input sought for Dairy3 conference

Dairy3, the annual dairy conference involving North Island farmers, DairyNZ and Massey University, has a new chairman and new focus – and the organisers want to hear from farmers on the topics that they would like to see covered.

The new chairman is Keith Riley, a dairy farmer from Woodville.

“We’re in the most exciting, dynamic part of the dairy industry – we are producing quality milk from contented cows, in an increasingly sustainable manner, in a great environment,” Mr Riley says. “Working together, we can ensure New Zealand is a leader in dairying. Dairy3 is part of that, and farmer ideas are vital.”

The two-day conference has been an annual event since 2003. Under topics such as What’s hot, What matters most, Smart and sharp, and Milking the extremes, the conference has offered information, networking and entertainment in direct response to farmer needs. There are seven farmers on the conference organising committee to ensure that the programme meets real on-farm requirements. Three representatives each from DairyNZ and Massey University are also on the committee, ensuring access to latest research.

Next year the form of Dairy3 is likely to change. “We recognise that farmers are increasingly busy and increasingly in need of information targeted at their farms,” said Mr Riley. “We hope to have one-day events in at least three places across the country.”

The programme involves latest research, best practice workshops and motivational talks. The committee is now working on ensuring that hot topics are covered – containing costs and emissions trading are high on the list. Farmers are already being consulted on what they would like to see on the programme, and are invited to send their ideas to enquiry@dairy3.org.nz.

“There are many challenges ahead for dairying,” said Mr Riley, “but with research we are making advances – and that is part of what makes it exciting. It beats sitting in an office and pushing paper any day.”

Date: 22/07/2008

Type: University News

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

Blaze of tradition and technology

A new series of artworks connecting customary Māori tukutuku patterns with urban signage and lighting technology will be exhibited at Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures in Porirua until the end of September.

The exhibition is called Muramura, which means blaze, shimmering, eye-catching, or communicative, according to the artist, University lecturer and Māori visual artist Kura Puke.

She made the works from acrylic, light-emitting diodes and fibre optic cable to represent the traditional wood and fibre used in tukutuku found in whareniui.

Ms Puke, who teaches at Massey's Auckland School of Design, says Muramura investigates how Māori visual culture continues to reconcile and integrate fundamental values and cultural identity in an increasingly, globalised, urbanised reality. The exhibition features eight illuminated animated tukutuku panels. Six of the panels make up one integrated work.

"I had to develop customised components for these works including a software programme to control the patterns, timing, colour and intensity, and also a customised fibre optic/LED interface through which the light points are distributed and driven by a small single board computer.

"Most of the development work for the exhibition took place in 2007, when I received two Massey University awards," she says. The University Māori Award for time off teaching to conduct research, and a Māori masterate scholarship, which helped fund the project. "I also received some sponsorship from the electronics company Argonaut Ltd."

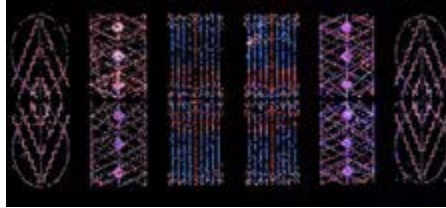
Ms Puke does not know of anyone else using fibre optic cables and LED in the same way, but says there is growing interest in the mediums among artists, architects and designers.

She will explain the concepts of the work at a floor-talk, at 1pm on Sunday, 27 July, at Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures, Porirua. The exhibition opened on 14 June and runs until 14 September.

Date: 22/07/2008

Type: Features

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



Tukutuku tradition and technology come together in Muramura artworks created by Massey University lecturer and Māori visual artist Kura Puke.





Chick Corea

Jazz artists' tribute to Corea's Spanish sound

Jazz-infused Spanish sounds composed by United States jazz genius Chick Corea are the inspiration for Spain, the title of a special concert this Saturday night at the Auckland campus.

Some of the country's finest artists, who double as New Zealand School of Music tutors at Massey's jazz faculty, will perform tunes including Spain, La Fiesta, Crystal Silence and Windows, from Corea's extensive and eclectic repertoire.

Highly-regarded as a leading pianist since his debut recording in the early 1960s, Corea contributed greatly to the development of jazz as an art form through his compositions.

Much of his music - from solo pieces to concerts with his Rhumba Flamenco ensemble - is infused with the flavour and rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage and fused with a New York jazz sensibility.

Concert artists include director and pianist Phil Broadhurst, bassist Alberto Santarelli and drummer Frank Gibson along with vocalist Julie Mason, flutist Trudy Lile, vibraphonist John Bell and saxophonists Pete France and Stephen Morton-Jones.

The concert starts at 8pm in the Atrium Building, Massey University Auckland, Gate 1, Albany Expressway. Book at www.iticket.co.nz or phone 0508-484-2538.

Date: 23/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts; Exhibition/Show; Music and campus life

Dream job for sport management graduate

Sport management graduate Dan Burton has landed what he says is his dream job with the Vodafone Warriors in the National Rugby League. Next month he takes up the role of corporate sales and membership manager with the Warriors headquarters in Auckland.

Mr Burton completed his Bachelor of Business degree in sport management at the College of Business on the Palmerston North campus and is well known in rugby league in the Manawatu region. In his sport management practicum with Manawatu Rugby League he was business manager for the local Central Falcons franchise. After graduating in 2006 he became Manawatu Rugby League general manager.

He says his education at Massey University and the experiences he had through his practicum have brought him fantastic career opportunities.

“The sport management practicum allowed me to apply my knowledge to the real world and prepared me for the challenges of the sport and business environment. This new job with the Warriors had been my dream since I was about 12 years old,” he says.



Dan Burton

Date: 23/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Student profiles

Cultural identity and mental health

A Harvard University medical student has suggested ways in which links might be identified between Māori cultural identity and better mental health.

Stephen Pomedli, who spent time at Massey University's academy for Māori research and scholarship, Te Mata o Te Tau, last year as part of an exchange programme, had an article called *Cultural identity and mental health* published last month.

He says the exchange programme, funded by Harvard Medical School, was a valuable opportunity to learn, compare, and contrast the experiences of different cultures and consider the similarities as well as differences between indigenous peoples.

“Te reo Māori, for example, is unique to, and distinct within the Māori world, and thus may be especially useful in evaluating certain aspects of cultural identity,” Mr Pomedli says.



Harvard medical student Stephen Pomedli.

“A possible option would be to look at the relationship of an individual's ability in te reo, their satisfaction with this level of ability and participation, and the mental health of those individuals that self-identify as Māori.

“This analysis would offer a unique opportunity to examine a variable of cultural interest such as te reo, and to consider what possible relationships to mental health, if any, exist.

“Overall, I was interested in exploring some of the methods and identity scales currently being used to assess cultural identity and ways in which these scales might be modified to better capture the experiential identity of indigenous peoples in the 21st century. I was interested in how these scales might subsequently be used to make associations between cultural participation, experience and identity, and mental health.

“In terms of the Māori language, I proposed that it may be interesting to quantify language ability in te reo Māori and see how this correlates with subjective experience in terms of individual satisfaction with one's participation with the Māori cultural world, ultimately to see if this putative correlation impacts mental health indicators.

“One of the most interesting things that I learned from my time at Massey relates to the dynamism of the Māori culture, and the way in which Māori culture has adapted and continues to adapt to the multitude of forces from without and within. It was fascinating to hear about, read about, and consider how these forces have shaped the culture in the past, and how Māori continue to reassert their core values in new ways within the 21st century context, and still retain tangible ties to the values of the ancestral culture.”

Mr Pomedli is 24 years old and is in his second to last year of medical school at Harvard in Boston, Massachusetts. He is currently completing a psychiatry clerkship at Mclean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Te Mata o Te Tau Director, Dr Te Kani says he was impressed with the depth of Mr Pomedli's analysis of cultural identity and how this could be measured.

“Te Mata o Te Tau aims to provide a forum for fostering Māori academic advancement and creating new knowledge. As an international scholar Mr Pomedli's paper is making a contribution to Māori development,” Dr Kingi says.

“While his paper stopped short of establishing a link between culture and positive mental health he did raise a number of important points for consideration and highlighted the complexities involved with measuring identity in a contemporary context.”

Date: 23/07/2008

Type: Research

Olympian shares story with pupils

Olympic-bound shooter Rob Eastham spoke today with pupils at College Street Normal School about his path to Beijing. He will compete in the 50m prone event at next month's games.

Mr Eastham is studying towards a Bachelor of Science at the Palmerston North campus and is also a member of Massey's Academy of Sport. He was invited to speak at the school as part of its focus on the Olympic Games in the lead-up to Beijing.

The captivated audience of 8 to 10-year-olds asked him about the equipment he would be using and what training was needed to become an Olympic athlete.

Mr Eastham also spoke about the conditions in Beijing that could affect his event. He said the smog and humid weather would make it difficult to focus on the targets placed 50m away.

Pupils were also keen to have Mr Eastham's email address so they could send him messages of encouragement while he was in Beijing. He leaves for the Olympics on Wednesday.



Rob Eastham, wearing his competition equipment, answers questions from pupils at College Street Normal School.

Date: 24/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Olympics; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Award for Professor of Animal Science

Professor Steve Morris is this year's recipient of the Sir Arthur Ward award for application of research to animal production.

Professor Morris has worked in sheep and beef cattle production for more than 20 years. After completing a Bachelors and a Masters degree in agricultural science, he undertook a PhD in sheep production, all at Massey University. His research interests include sheep production and international agriculture development, while his expertise extends to farming and food production systems, farm management, grassland farming and beef production.

Professor Tom Barry, also of the University's Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences in Palmerston North, says a key feature of Professor Morris' work is its industry relevance.

"Examples of successful research programmes include beef production from Jersey cross Fresian steers, effects of early pregnancy nutrition on calf birth weight and calving difficulty in heifers, hogget management to maximise reproductive performance, management of triplet-bearing ewes and mid-pregnancy shearing of ewes," Professor Barry says.

"Steve has always been a practical and hands-on researcher, still known for appearing in overalls and gumboots and participating in research alongside students. He has also been a key communicator, both with industry leaders and to individual farmers and students. He has made a considerable contribution to pastoral livestock by serving on many boards and training bodies, including the training of future agricultural scientists, and at Massey has been a member of the animal ethics committee since 1994.

"For all these reasons he is a very appropriate recipient of the Sir Arthur Ward award."

Professor Morris received the award at the recent joint conference of the New Zealand and Australian Societies of Animal Production in Brisbane. The trophy was donated by Sir Arthur Ward to encourage communication of agricultural and horticultural science. It is to provide recognition to a member of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science who has, through writing, public speaking, radio, television or practical demonstration, made a significant contribution to the extension and adoption of agricultural or horticultural science.

Date: 24/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Professor Steve Morris takes a hands-on approach to research on year-round lambing.



Professor Paul Moughan

Canada lecture invitation provides international recognition for Riddet Institute co-director

Professor Paul Moughan has been invited to present the 2008 JM Bell Distinguished Lecture in Canada in September.

Professor Moughan, a co-director of the Riddet Institute, will present the lecture, titled *The functional foods revolution – opportunities for agriculture*, in both Saskatoon (in Saskatchewan), and in Edmonton (Alberta).

The lectureship is awarded annually to an individual who has achieved international prominence in nutritional sciences and recognises Professor Moughan's leading contribution to animal growth biology, mammalian and human amino acid metabolism and food chemistry.

“My address will highlight the need for new scientific alignments in food and agricultural research and the strategic importance to New Zealand of recent cross-disciplinary initiatives such as the Riddet Institute and Massey's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health,” Professor Moughan says.

He has a longstanding association with Canadian researchers and is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Guelph's Centre for Nutrition Modelling and a member of the College of Reviewers for the prestigious Canadian Research Chairs. He also serves as a scientific adviser on a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada research project.

The JM Bell Lectureship was established by the University of Saskatchewan to honour the scientist, JM Bell FRSC.

The Riddet Institute was successful last year in its bid to become one of New Zealand's Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs). Based at Massey University in Palmerston North, the institute's CoRE partners are Crop & Food Research, the University of Otago, AgResearch and the University of Auckland.

Date: 25/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences



Associate Professor Ross Hemera.

Artist connects with grandfather's burial place

A Kati Huirapa community project at Puketeraki Marae, in the Otago town of Karitane, has provided an opportunity for a Wellington artist to reconnect with his Ngāi Tahu whānau.

Associate Professor Ross Hemera, from the College of Creative Arts, says his mother told him some time ago that according to oral history his paternal grandfather was buried near the marae, where he is to install a new carved waharoa (gateway) this weekend.

The waharoa project is to be dedicated on Sunday after a two-year collaboration between the marae community and two Ngāi Tahu artists, Ross Hemera in Wellington and James York in Dunedin.

Mr Hemera says his personal connection to the area made it feel like he was following in the footsteps of his ancestors. He says the connection was as strong as the one he feels between himself and the rock drawings left by his forefathers, which are a distinctive feature in his work.

"It has been rewarding on so many levels connecting with the Huirapa whānau, least of which is the opportunity to collaborate with other Ngāi Tahu artists," Mr Hemera says.

"For me working with Māori communities, especially my own iwi, validates what I do as an artist." On the waharoa project, he has collaborated with carver James York. While Mr Hemera has been sculpting the totara and aluminium posts (amo) of the gateway from his Wellington studio, Mr York has been working on the (maihi) barge boards from his studio in Dunedin and the two compare notes and collaborate most often by phone, email and occasionally in person.

"Working with other artists, and the community, is an essential part of Māori creative practice," Mr Hemera says. "As Māori and as Ngāi Tahu I enjoy the opportunity to contribute to the collective aspirations of the community. When working with our art forms the concept of taonga tuku iho is the pervading kaupapa - the knowledge that comes from the atua [gods], and ancestors - this is treasured, added to and developed and then passed on to others. These concepts also underpin my teaching practice.

"As with the rock drawings, with this project I felt that my forefathers were telling me how to make forms, so essentially whānau, or the concept of taonga tuku iho, is at the heart of all my work."

The waharoa conforms to a traditional amo and maihi convention, with two side posts and gabled bargeboards. "It is made from totara the customary timber for such structures. The carved elements and surface patterns are reduced to a bare minimum. However, some contemporary elements have been introduced through the use of aluminium components. At its widest the gateway spans about 6m and is about 3m high at the apex."

Mr Hemera has worked at Massey for 14 years in a variety of teaching and researching roles. "Part of my work as an academic at Massey involves creative practice in the visual arts. Another expectation is connecting and

working with communities. I feel fortunate that I have been able to undertake both of these aspects within the context of my whānau and iwi.”

Puketeraki Marae manager Suzanne Ellison says the collaboration presented challenges that required negotiation. “The challenge for the hapū was to find the whakaaro (concept) behind the waharoa and the challenge for the artists was to bring this out in the work... the artists can't do their own thing, they have to work with the community and can take it only as far as people want it to go.

“The gateway is based on the whakatauki [proverb], 'Ki uta, ki tai' - from the mountains to the coast, and reflects the stories about the local area and whānau.”

Mr Hemera and Mr York are also part of an exhibition of the works of six Ngāi Tahu artists that opens at Gallery Thirty Three in Wanaka today and runs until 15 August.

Date: 25/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Maori; Wellington

Focus on children's design nets global award

A passion for designing for children and a love of nature have combined to help final-year Bachelor of Design student Carolina Pena win a bronze award in highly regarded international design awards.

Mrs Pena won the award in the student section of the International Design Excellence Awards for her design, called Close Up, a combination drawing table with specimen viewing containers for bugs, insects, leaves or flowers.

Described as an "art-lab" table for six and seven-year-olds, it features removable containers with magnification lenses and a light underneath to enable children to study and then draw or trace the flora or fauna in the containers.

"I really like to design for children and I'm really into nature so I wanted to look at how to inspire and motivate children with art and nature," says Mrs Pena, who is studying at the University's Auckland campus and majoring in product design.

Close Up was the result of a third year-furniture and technology component of Mrs Pena's study, during which students were challenged to design marketable, educational furniture.

Run independently by the Industrial Designers Society of America and sponsored by *Business Week* magazine, the contest attracted more than 1500 entries in 17 categories.

Mrs Pena says winning the bronze award is very encouraging. "It really motivates me to keep working harder. You have to work hard and believe in yourself."

She is now working on her final major project, which is designing for children with sensory dysfunction.

Date: 25/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Carolina Pena with her children's art lab table.



Close up of one of the table's removable containers.



Karen Stockin with one of Massey's two dolphin research vessels.

Dolphin researcher in running for UNESCO fellowship

Research on the New Zealand common dolphin has earned Massey marine biology researcher Karen Stockin the sole New Zealand nomination for a 2009 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) fellowship for women in science.

It is the second time Ms Stockin has been selected as the New Zealand nominee for the prestigious UNESCO-L'Oreal co-sponsored fellowship for young women in science. Fifteen fellowships are awarded every year, each worth \$52,000 over two years. Recipients will be announced this September.

Ms Stockin says if she succeeds in gaining a fellowship, the funds would assist with her postdoctoral research on the common dolphin in New Zealand and Australia, and its significance as a biological marker of changes in the marine environment.

Currently a research officer and lecturer in the Coastal Marine Research Group at Massey's Institute of Natural Resources in Auckland, Ms Stockin's just-completed doctoral research on the New Zealand common dolphin provides the first substantial scientific data on the species. Ms Stockin says the species has been overlooked by researchers as a result of false assumptions based on the dolphin's name. Despite being labelled common, it is in fact not nearly as common in terms of its abundance as some other species of dolphin.

Her zoology doctoral thesis, *The New Zealand Common Dolphin – Identity, Ecology and Conservation*, provides an understanding of the biology and status of the dolphin and investigates the impact of tourism, commercial fishing and marine pollution on the species.

Ms Stockin, who has recently been mentoring dolphin researchers at Flinders University in Adelaide, is also to develop New Zealand's first common dolphin management plan for the Department of Conservation.

New Zealand's National Commission for UNESCO describes Ms Stockin in its statement of recommendation for the fellowship as "an outstanding role model for young women in science".

Date: 25/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Top scholarships for pair tackling infectious disease

Two Massey scientists working on new ways to control infectious diseases have been awarded prestigious postdoctoral scholarships worth more than \$500,000.

Dr Gayle Ferguson and Dr Monica Gerth, both researchers at the University's new Institute for Advanced Study in Auckland, were named yesterday as recipients of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology Postdoctoral Fellowships. Each recipient is eligible for a stipend of up to \$58,000 a year for three years, plus an allowance for research costs and ongoing skills development, to a total of \$264,000 over three years.

Dr Ferguson's fellowship will support research into the fundamentals of bacterial evolution, a study with potential to deliver new knowledge about infectious diseases together with novel treatment strategies. She is based at the University's Institute for Advanced Study in Auckland, and will investigate the way organisms mutate and evolve to better understand pathogenicity in bacteria.

As well as improved infectious disease control, Dr Ferguson's research into how controlled molecular switches are constructed has potential to produce knowledge of interest to mathematicians and nanotechnologists. Possible applications in these areas are biosensors, artificial cells for enhanced pharmaceutical biosynthesis and light detectors for advanced image processing. Dr Ferguson has recently returned from the United Kingdom.

Dr Gerth's fellowship will support research into new treatments to control infectious diseases, significant in New Zealand because around 7 per cent of deaths result from bacterial infection and antibiotic resistance is a growing problem. Her novel strategy is to use the cell's own metabolism to poison itself. The research will initially seek to understand how a common bacterial protein called HutD works, and then to develop drug-like inhibitors of it. The work will result in new scientific knowledge useful to the drug development and infectious disease control industries. Dr Gerth also aims to develop patentable intellectual property for developing new drugs based on HutD. She will be working with staff at the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study and the Institute of Molecular Biosciences at Massey University's Auckland campus.

NZIAS chairman board Professor Grant Guilford says it is particularly pleasing to see two young scientists among the 14 acknowledged as the country's brightest and best.

"A key focus in developing our Institute for Advanced Study was to provide an environment where fundamental scholarship can thrive, enabling the kind of original thinking that produces major advances in knowledge.

"NZIAS provides an excellent multidisciplinary environment for the mentoring of these young scholars by its professoriate," Professor Guilford says.

Date: 25/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



Dr Gayle Ferguson



Dr Monica Gerth



Amy Jerram with some of the hardest workers on her parents' Ongaonga farm.

Health of agriculture's 'hardest worker' to be studied

A world-first study into the health of farm dogs will provide an insight into their contribution to New Zealand agriculture. Masters student Amy Jerram will also develop measures that could improve working-dog well-being and add value to farming operations.

Based at her parents farm in Ongaonga, Central Hawke's Bay, Miss Jerram has observed farm dogs throughout her life. "The farm dog is New Zealand agriculture's hardest worker," she says. "We have always had heaps of them and we are with the dogs all day – they are a passion. They work really hard, spending all day trying to please you."

Ms Jerram says she has not been able to find any epidemiology-type health-related information on farm dogs, although there are many studies undertaken throughout the world on pets and commercial livestock.

"We don't even know how much work farm dogs do," she says. "It totally depends on where the dog is – on a station they might be covering huge kilometres every day, in other instances they may be covering only a small distance. But that's only distance. People may only use them at certain times of the day or for certain reasons – it may be there's a huge variety too in the number of dogs used."

Associate Professor Mark Stevenson, who is supervising Ms Jerram's research, says dogs are a very important part of the farm operation.

"A good dog does the work of several men on quad bikes, in terms of being able to get to the stock quickly and effectively and move them," he says. "There's good dogs and there's not so good dogs and it's important that if farmers find good dogs we can maximise their longevity and keep them productive."

These high-performing farm dogs are the elite of the farm dog population, Dr Stevenson says.

"When good dogs are found we want to know how long they last and why they are being retired – is it due to old age or injury? If arthritic conditions are identified as an important reason for loss, for example, then a useful outcome of this study will be to provide owners with some early intervention strategies: maybe a reduction in the intensity and length of work periods and providing a few home comforts."

Miss Jerram completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences at Auckland University, before returning to the family farm and starting postgraduate study at Massey's EpiCentre, the largest veterinary epidemiology training and research centre in Australasia. The centre has expertise in the understanding and control of disease in animals, the transmission of disease from animals to humans, and hazards in food of animal origin.

Information will be collected from more than 100 farms in Manawatu, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa. "We want to find out about the farming operation, experiences of the people with working dogs, the health of dogs currently in work on the farm and dogs retired from the farm in the previous 12 months," Ms Jerram says. "It will only take 30 minutes for farmers to complete but we will analyse the data to identify common health problems

and risk factors for farm dogs, and initiate changes to assist the dogs.”

Ms Jerram will be supported by the University EpiCentre staff Dr Naomi Cogger and Associate Professor Mark Stevenson.

Date: 28/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science; Working Dogs

Writer's final work released

It was written in a race against time but Bronwyn Tate's last novel *Adam's Ale* is one of her best works, according to friend and editor Rae McGregor.

The novelist, who lectured in creative writing at the School of English and Media Studies, lost her battle with cancer as the book was completed in 2005. The novel, her fifth, will have an official release in Palmerston North this week.

The book tells the story of a group of students who spend a summer holiday restoring an old homestead. It is being released through Brava publications.

Ms McGregor says time spent with her friend and colleague as she struggled to finish the novel was invaluable when it came time to edit it.

"We were with Bronwyn when she was very sick and trying to finish the novel. We came down to Palmerston North and helped her complete it, it was a race against time and she was very determined to get it done."

The manuscript sat with a publishing company for several years before Ms McGregor and another friend, Valda Paddison, got it back and edited it themselves. The task was difficult, but the job was made easier because of the long relationship they enjoyed with the writer, Ms McGregor says.



Bronwyn Tate.

"Bronwyn, Valda and I used to have writing weekends in Auckland together, where we'd congregate at my house and just write. That meant we knew her style and understood how she wanted the book to be."

Ms McGregor says parts of the book were hard to read because they related her friend's illness.

"One character is dying of cancer and talks of losing words from her vocabulary such as 'tomorrow' and 'next year'. I knew that was related to Bronwyn's experience. But she would never actually talk about being sick. The last weeks of her life were spent just working very hard to complete the book."

Dr Lisa Emerson lectured with Bronwyn Tate at the School of English and Media Studies and says she was a wonderful teacher.

"Bronwyn taught from the perspective of a craft-person and the students valued that. She was an endlessly patient teacher and amazingly supportive."

Adam's Ale will be launched at Bruce McKenzie Booksellers on George Street in Palmerston North on Thursday 31 July at 6pm.

Date: 28/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Alanah Gibson with the crocheted wool tulle fabric.

‘Spider web’ dress nets Hokonui fashion award

A crochet dress that took more than 20 hours to complete won Alanah Gibson the \$1000 knitted category award at the Peugeot Hokonui Fashion Design Awards in Gore on Saturday.

Miss Gibson's dress was made by crocheting strips of wool tulle fabric together and has a leather neckband. The fourth-year Bachelor of Design student says the spider web look is designed to reflect wanting something you cannot have or cannot get to. “It was all about reinventing something vintage. I wanted to bring crochet back and reinvent it so it was cool.”

Another of Miss Gibson's designs was highly commended, also in the knitted category of the awards.

Other students or recent graduates also had garments named runner-up in the awards: Sarah Dally (menswear), Wenting Zhu (nightlife); or highly commended: Remy Sung (menswear), Sarah Dally (menswear), Bonnie Stevenson-Wright (Kiwiana), and Wenting Zhu (nightlife).

The achievements continue a run of success at the awards for Massey Wellington's students and alumni at the awards, which have been held for the past 20 years.

Fashion lecturer Nina Weaver says entering awards is always a worthwhile goal. “It gives the students something high to aim for and achieve, rather than just the academic side,” Mrs Weaver says.

She says entries by the University's students were easy to pick out. “When Massey University garments came out on the stage you could see the quality and intellect in the garment.”

Current or former University students took out four merit awards. They are Anna von Hartitzsch and Amy van Luijk, who are still studying at the Wellington campus, and recent graduates Remy Sung and Samantha Croft.



The award-winning dress.

Date: 29/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Associate Professor Glenn Banks at the Porgera Mine in Papua New Guinea.

Lessons from Melanesian culture subject of public lecture

Lessons that can be learned from Papua New Guinea and other Melanesian cultures will be the subject of the next professorial lecture presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Associate Professor Glenn Banks, who lectures in development studies in the School of People, Environment and Planning, will continue the Professorial Lecture Series with his talk, entitled Security, resources and development: What Melanesia can teach us about why a little thing called culture matters.

The lecture will be held at the auditorium in the Old Main Building, Palmerston North campus at 3pm on 7 August. It is open to the public and refreshments will be served following the lecture.

Dr Banks' research centres on the resource sector in Papua New Guinea and the lecture will focus on the nature of conflicts around the large-scale mining operations in the country.

“These are often framed as David and Goliath-type encounters between large multinational miners and poor stone age Papua New Guineans, but the reality is much more complex. I will outline these complexities, particularly foregrounding local accounts of change and rationales for conflict, and then explore some of the implications we can take from these conflicts in terms of resource management here in New Zealand.”

He says there are lessons the western world can learn.

“Too often we in New Zealand, and the rest of the West, are quick to 'prescribe' solutions for Pacific Island countries, but we are far less likely to look to these same places for lessons to improve our own processes.”

The remaining speakers in the Professorial Lecture Series are:

7 August

Associate Professor Glenn Banks - Security, resources and development: What Melanesia can teach us about why a little thing called culture matters.

10 September

Professor Cynthia White - Language: Learning Beyond Reason - Why Emotions Matter.

8 October

Professor Richard Corballis with Alan Sanson - The Race for Relativity: How the Hero of James Joyce's Ulysses almost Forestalled Albert Einstein's Theories.

5 November

Associate Professor Glyn Harper - New Zealand and the First World War in (unpublished) photographs.

Date: 29/07/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North

Entries sought for Massey Blues

Top sporting talent has until Friday 15 August to get nomination forms completed for the 2008 Massey University Sporting Blues Awards.

The annual awards dinner to recognise students sporting success will be held on Monday 6 August at Massey's Auckland campus and Tuesday 7 October at the Palmerston North Convention Centre. The functions include the naming of the Auckland and Palmerston North campus sportsman and sportswoman of the year and the presentation of awards for most outstanding men's and women's team. Outstanding contribution awards for both sport and campus life will also be presented.



Blues Awards are the highest sporting honour given to athletes enrolled at the University, recognising outstanding achievement in both a sporting pursuit and academic studies. To be eligible for a Massey sporting Blue, students must be enrolled in the equivalent of at least half a full-time course over the period of one academic year or be completing a degree or diploma that year.

Application forms for sporting blues, team awards and outstanding contribution awards are available from MUSA, the Massey Recreation Centre, and campus information services reception in the Registry Building in Palmerston North or from the Recreation Centre at the Auckland campus. Students can be nominated or self-nominate.

Date: 29/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington

Bank announcements no cause for panic

 [Watch the Business Breakfast item](#)

Provisions announced by both the National Australia Bank and the ANZ banks in the face of the global liquidity crisis should be viewed as prudent steps, the Director of the University's Centre for Banking Studies, says Dr David Tripe. He says other big banks may soon be announcing similar moves.

Dr Tripe says that although both banks are clearly expecting things to get worse, the provisions they are making now will still leave them in a profit situation at the end of the year. Because the banks are going to remain profitable, he says, the situation is very different from the string of recent finance company collapses.

In the weekend the National Australia Bank publicly signalled it would be writing down the value of loans it has in the disastrous US sub-prime market, thereby cutting an estimated \$600 million from its profit. The ANZ subsequently followed with an announcement that it would be significantly increasing its reserves to cover bad debt arising from some of its loans in Australia.

Making the announcement, the ANZ said that although its underlying business would continue to deliver solid results, the continuing deterioration in global credit markets, a weak New Zealand economy and softening Australian economy would result in further provisions and valuation adjustments this year.

"The moves made by these two banks this week are an example of prudent behaviour of banks which hold relatively high credit ratings compared with finance companies which hold relatively low credit ratings," Dr Tripe says.

"What we are seeing here is not going to cause either of the banks to move into a loss situation. The write downs the NAB is making are small relative to the total amounts of their assets."

As the two Australian banks have gone public in their plans to address losses related to their current loan exposure, Dr Tripe expects it's likely other banks will also be facing difficulties.

"It wouldn't surprise me if some of the other big banks go public on potential problems they may have in their loan portfolios."



Dr David Tripe.

Date: 29/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Video Multimedia

New records manager appointed

The University has appointed a records manager to lead the development and implementation of a records management programme.

University Registrar Stuart Morriss says the records management project is an important initiative for the University. One objective of the programme is to ensure that the University records are well managed and its corporate memory is well preserved in order to facilitate quick and easy access to information in a secure and appropriate manner.

“Records are critical intellectual assets for the University that contribute to our research, teaching and administrative goals,” Mr Morriss says.

Former Crop & Food information and records manager Cecily Fung has been appointed to the role. At Crop & Food Research Ms Fung's main responsibility was leading the development of an information management strategy that had particular emphasis on developing and implementing a records management programme in response to the Public Records Act 2005.



“We are very fortunate to have a Records Manager with Cecily's experience leading us in this important project,” Mr Morriss says.

Ms Fung believes that the value of effective records management is far beyond legislative compliance. “One of my first jobs here is to meet with staff so I can understand how records are currently managed at Massey and what the records requirements are so that I can plan how to improve our systems, set priorities for the records management project and identify the best ways to manage our records into the future”, she says. “I am looking forward to meeting and working with everyone to ensure that the programme meets the University's needs and helps to organise and manage different types of records held at the University in a more efficient and effective way.

Ms Fung will be meeting with college, campus and service managers over the next month.

Date: 29/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Palmerston North; Uni News

Exhibition highlights old and new printing methods

Whitebait, kiwifruit, and other distinctively New Zealand delights are being celebrated in print in Nostalgia, Memory and Food, an exhibition of typography work by graphic design honours students on the Wellington campus.

Typography subject director Annette O'Sullivan says the first semester's work by 24 students reflects student experimentation with both digital and hand-printing methods.

The typography paper, called contemporary letterpress, explores the use of nostalgia in design and how this can be utilised in a modern context, as well as the cultural, historical and social aspects of New Zealand food.

Miss O'Sullivan says some students loved using old methods of printing like stencils and wooden and metal type. "The ones who loved it, loved it. It is challenging; it's not easy."



Kate Arnott works on a poster promotion of her chosen New Zealand food, hangi.

The exhibition is on in the Great Hall of the University Museum Building, Tokomaru, until Friday.

Date: 30/07/2008

Type: Research

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



Recipients of Sydney Campbell Scholarships: Back row, from left: Tristram Bennett , Ilyse McMillan, William Cuttance, Julia Langley, Caitlin Berry. Second row: Philippa Tocker, Juliette Ashby, Sarah McKenzie, Noelle Finlayson, Jennifer Breukers , Elizabeth Ashby. Front row: Richard French, Georgina Cameron, Abby Hull, Gillian Campbell (trustee), Ian Campbell (retiring trustee), Matthew Olds, Craig Lawrence.

Wairarapa scholarships awarded

Sixteen Wairarapa students received Sydney Campbell Scholarships recently, provided for from the will of the late Mr Campbell.

He farmed Riverside Farm, near Masterton, until his death in 1977, when it was placed in a trust to be used for the benefit of farming. It is now leased by Massey University and used extensively for agricultural and veterinary research. Income from the farm, which had been in the Campbell family for 120 years, is used for the scholarships.

Preference for scholarships is given to students studying agriculture and horticulture, and who attended secondary school in the Wairarapa and are likely to return to the district on completion of study. The scholarships are awarded to a maximum of \$1000 for undergraduate study and up to \$2000 for postgraduate study.

Date: 30/07/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Scholarships

Psychology study to shed light on anxiety in elderly

Health professionals working with older people will soon have a new tool to assess anxiety and its causes in older adults.

Margaret Sandham, a Doctor of Clinical Psychology student at Massey's School of Psychology in Auckland, is looking for people aged between 60 and 75 to respond to a questionnaire on their everyday experiences of worry. The information from the study will be used to construct an age-appropriate questionnaire she hopes will be used by doctors, psychologists and other health professionals to help them accurately assess anxiety and its causes in older adults.

Ms Sandham says that because most anxiety research has been done on young to middle-aged people, the important differences in life experiences of older adults are likely to be overlooked.

"Younger people may be more concerned about work-related issues, while older people may worry about their health - a reflection of natural developmental changes that come with ageing", she says.

Often the willingness to acknowledge or discuss anxiety is difficult for the older generation who grew up before psychology and its jargon entered mainstream life and who are perhaps afraid and suspicious of language related to mental health, she says.

"But if anxiety about doing day-to-day activities becomes habitual and inhibits people from socialising and living normally, it is important they can get help," Ms Sandham says. "What people need to realise is that feelings of anxiety are normal for all of us, and that anxiety is so treatable."

By constructing a questionnaire specifically addressing older people's needs in language they can relate to, health practitioners will be better placed to recognise anxiety symptoms and help their clients.

"It is important that psychologists understand all levels of worry, so that they can identify when it becomes problematic", says Ms Sandham. "My research seeks participants who may not see themselves as being anxious, but might have some concerns from time to time."

The first stage of the study will see 200 people answering a questionnaire about their experiences and how they perceive anxiety in their friends and acquaintances.

Experiences as a registered nurse at Mercy, Greenlane, and Auckland hospitals brought Ms Sandham into contact with elderly patients. She says her conversations sparked her interest in the mental well-being of older people whose needs and experiences are, at times, ignored or misunderstood.



Margaret Sandham wants find out how older people experience anxiety.

Date: 30/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Never a better time for small businesses

The environment for small businesses has never been better but there is a need for a change in the way the sector is perceived, Director of the New Zealand Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise Research Professor Claire Massey told the country's recent small business summit in Auckland.

“Although the environment has never been more complex, support for small business has never been stronger. Today there are more agencies small business can turn to for help, more experts on the subject, more funds available and more websites to seek information from.”

Professor Massey was a keynote speaker at the summit, which she says was an excellent initiative for a sector of business people crying out for information. A long-time observer of government policy as it relates to small business, she says New Zealand will suffer unless we develop a better appreciation of the complexity of the sector and become more effective at recognising its contribution to the country.

How government perceives the small business sector has a direct bearing on whether or not small firms fulfil their potential as the backbone of a sustainable economy, Professor Massey told the summit.

“Government has the ability to both reflect our thinking and to lead it. This thinking has the potential to influence the health of the small business infrastructure and the environment that makes sustainable business development possible,” she says.

“There is now a large evidence base that suggests three things about small firms. We know they have particular needs, they are resource constrained compared with larger firms and we know growth will occur more quickly when there is targeted intervention.”

She says the country needs to develop a new conceptual framework that moves beyond the one-dimensional approaches that were helpful a decade ago. On the way to developing what she calls a “SMEcosystem” achievable goals need to be identified and worked on collectively.

“We have to stop griping about ‘lifestyle business’ and mom and pop firms as if they were a bad thing,” Professor Massey says.

Date: 30/07/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



The Auckland School of Design's new Integrated Design Centre draws on international expertise with new staff arrivals, from left: Dong-Yen Ryu (Korea) with Regional Director Azhar Mohamed, Jacob Risteau (United States), Erdem Selek (Turkey), Erik Champion (New Zealand) and Oliver Neuland (Germany).

Dimensions merge in new Integrated Design Centre

Blending good looks with functionality in design is the aim of a new research centre launched at the University's Auckland campus this month.

The Integrated Design Centre reflects a global trend towards an increasingly holistic approach to product development whereby designers are expected to be well-versed in visual design, branding and marketing as well as the technical, functional and sustainable features.

Regional Director of the Massey Auckland School of Design Azhar Mohamed says the new centre will undertake research and teaching, aiming to equip students with the skills to create products that are aesthetically pleasing as well as practical and pleasurable to use.

Mr Mohamed says students trained in integrated design will be better prepared to meet the needs of the New Zealand market, where manufacturing and design companies are small and tend to overlap.

"In a small economy like New Zealand's, design graduates need to be very versatile," he says.

Integrated design links disciplines rather than requiring students to choose between them, from the marketing, advertising and brand-building visual side to the technical areas of engineering and production.

"Consumers are more sophisticated," says Mr Mohamed. "Increased competition means that products have to be high-performance and a pleasure to look at and to use."

Although design students already undertake courses from 2-D and 3-D design areas before specialising in an area, the Integrated Design programme - to be offered from 2010 as a new major within the Bachelor of Design (Honours) - will formalise this integration with additions to the existing curriculum.

The opening of the new centre in July coincides with the arrival of four new lecturers to the School of Design, bringing expertise from academia and industry to a range of disciplines.

Associate Professor Erik Champion is a new media specialist. Originally from New Zealand, he has been based in Australia where he worked at University of Queensland and Sydney's University of New South Wales. Jacob Ristau is a typographer and visual communications expert from Los Angeles. Erdem Selek, a Turkish industrial designer, and Dong-Yen Ryu, an automotive design specialist from Korea who has worked as a designer for Toyota in Japan, are also joining the School. Oliver Neuland, a design consultant and senior industrial and transport design lecturer from Germany, joined the University last year.

The Integrated Design Centre will encourage research in design, as well as fostering design consultancy projects and work experience initiatives with industry, Mr Mohamed says. Lecture, study and research exchanges with top international design institutions are also planned.

Date: 30/07/2008

Type: University News



The leg is wrapped in lolan, a protective material; every precaution is taken to reduce the risk of infection.

New vet roles boost patient care, industry capability

A new internship at Massey's vet teaching hospital is giving vet Ben Leitch the chance to hone his surgical skills – and boosting New Zealand's chances of retaining its top vets.

Through an arrangement with Pfizer Animal Health, the vet hospital can host a surgical intern and bolster its nursing capability to provide round-the-clock care for sick and injured animals.

Mr Leitch has been selected as the first surgical intern funded by the scheme, with recruitment under way for additional staff to fill new nursing roles.

Director of the vet teaching hospital Dr Frazer Allan says the one-year surgical intern position allows the “best and brightest” to return to Massey to experience their chosen speciality before they embark on the testing three-year residency to enable qualification as a specialist.

“A residency programme is a high commitment so the internship is an opportunity for the University to ensure we have the right candidate – and the candidate to ensure they are on the right track.

“The training is the clinical equivalent of a PhD – it takes just as much time and effort, but provides a different pathway to high-end skills.”

Dr Allan says the residency and internship programmes also contribute to the vet school's philosophy of growing its own specialists.

“These people are in very high demand overseas – there's an international market for specialists and it's pretty hard for us to keep up with salaries overseas. But we can provide a supportive environment and encourage specialists to stay on – it's a very real benefit both for the vet hospital, the vet school in terms of teaching capability and for New Zealand to have access to these very skilled vets.”

Mr Leitch says that since graduating from Massey in 1994, he has been working as a vet on Otorohanga.

“I was happy being a general practitioner but I was becoming bored and frustrated by my surgical caseload and



Within an hour of the operation Buck is awake and comfortable in the hospital's intensive care unit.



Anaesthetists stabilise Buck using the latest human equipment

ability – my skills weren't quite what I would have liked them to be.

“I had one case referred to [companion animal surgeon] Warwick Bruce and was able to scrub in. He made it look so simple fixing the fracture on a dog with precision and smoothness of the surgery. I thought 'I am so far from this but I would like to get there'.

Soon afterwards, Mr Leitch saw the advertisements for the surgical intern position. He and his wife Rachel then moved to Palmerston North to start the training in March.

“Moving to Palmerston North is a lot better than having to move to the States,” Mr Leitch says.

One of Mr Leitch's recent patients was Buck, a dog who needed treatment for cruciate ligature rupture in his right stifle (knee). The surgical team, including surgeon Richard Kuipers von Lande and anaesthetist Tamas Ambrisko, along with Ben and two final-year students took him to theatre to perform a repair procedure called a TTA.

As well as the intern role, the Pfizer sponsorship is funding new nursing positions, Dr Allan says.

“This will have an immensely beneficial effect for existing staff who at present already work long hours and regularly return after a full day to attend to critically ill or debilitated patients. As the referral centre for a large area of New Zealand, we regularly have patients arriving in need of very close care or monitoring. It also enhances the quality of care we can offer clients, and moves us towards receiving accreditation from the New Zealand Veterinary Association as a BestPractice™ Hospital – a goal we would like to achieve to show our support for a very good initiative.”

Dr Allan says Pfizer has agreed to support the hospital for at least two years.

“It's a substantial contribution to vet education and one which both the Institute and the wider profession will benefit from.”

Pfizer companion animal health business manager Glen Cooke is also positive about the emerging relationship.

“We are very excited to be able to support the Massey vet teaching and to further enhance our commitment to the future of the New Zealand veterinary profession.”

Date: 01/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Belle, played by Massey graduate Louise Flynn, with the cast in full swing. Photos: Manawatu Standard

Musical boasts strong Massey connections

Massey staff, students and graduates are treading the boards of the Regent on Broadway theatre in Palmerston North this month in the stage production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

The production, a theatrical adaptation of Disney's 1991 animated feature, stars a local cast and crew – many of whom have strong connections to the University across a range of disciplines. Massey graduate Louise Flynn plays the lead role of Belle, while senior lecturer in politics Dr Richard Shaw is the villain, Gaston.

Dr Shaw teaches in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and, in 2004, received a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award and a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

College of Education graduate Barry Jones, a teacher at Tiritea School, is the show's musical director, with eight of 18 in the orchestra boasting Massey connections.

Director Dean McKerras runs his own dance school and is no stranger to Palmerston North musicals having directed and choreographed the popular productions of *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Cats*. He is also an education graduate, completing a Bachelor of Education and Graduate Diploma of Teaching at the University.

All three were involved in the Abbey Musical Theatre's production of *Cats*, held at the Regent on Broadway last year. Senior lecturer in Plant protection Dr Terry Stewart, plays the part of Maurice, Belle's father in the show. Dr Stewart has been teaching at Massey for 25 years and received a National Tertiary Teachers Award in 2003.

Wellington-based Weta workshop, headed by graduate Richard Taylor, has provided key costumes. Disney has also collaborated with Weta for the production of the *Narnia* films.

Beauty and the Beast was the company's first stage musical to be drawn from a film – and features academy award-winning music and stunning costumes. The show opens tonight.

Date: 01/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Lefou, (Richard Rewa), left, Monsieur D'Arque (Hayden Giles), centre, and Dr Richard Shaw has 'Beauty' in his sights as the villain Gaston.





Professor Allan Rae.

Doha collapse delays opportunity for exporters

The collapse this week of the Doha trade negotiations is bad news for New Zealand exporters, who will have to wait for tariff cuts and quota removals that will enable them to grow their markets, says Professor Allan Rae from the Centre for Applied Economic and Policy Studies.

The breakdown followed an impasse between the United States and India reached over so-called "safeguard clauses" sought to protect the interests of developing nations. Professor Rae says that was an example of the growing difficulty of matching the objectives of the developed nations with the developing ones.

"Around the world many will be expressing disappointment about yet another collapse of the trade negotiations," Professor Rae says. "Major gains that had been expected have now been pushed further out."

He says for the time being exports of meats and dairy products to some markets will continue to be constrained by quotas and tariffs that sometimes exceed 100 per cent for agricultural products.

Developing countries became a much stronger negotiating group at the Doha round because many more are now members of the World Trade Organisation.

"Developing countries, with some justification, felt that they received little benefit from the previous round. They were looking for a more liberal trading environment, but one that allowed them to meet their legitimate rural development, food security and farmer livelihood objectives. They sought to do this through a safeguards arrangement that would allow them to temporarily increase tariffs on agricultural imports, should surges of imports threaten their rural industries.

"The problem was that what they viewed as an import surge, might in fact be just the steady import growth that can be expected in developing countries as their demands for meat and dairy products continue to grow along with their incomes.

"But richer countries also might have offered more to help bring about an outcome that would be of real benefit to the developing world, since several rich countries subsidise production of products in which poorer countries ought to have a competitive advantage, such as cotton.

"Rich countries also have very high tariffs on agri-food products that impede exports from poorer countries and also make it difficult for food processing industries to become established and grow in the developing world."

Date: 01/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Auckland campus head librarian Valerie Cohen and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine at the site of the new library building with the current library in the background.

New library under way at Auckland campus

Construction of a \$30 million library for the Auckland campus is under way.

Despite heavy rain and ferocious winds, earth movers began levelling ground adjoining the existing library in preparation for the six-storey building that will house the library and be connected by internal archways to the current facility, which it will incorporate.

It is expected to be completed by the end of next year and will provide a full range of information and study facilities including more than 1000 new study spaces, 150 computers and 120,000 more books, as well as a cafe, campus head librarian Valerie Cohen says.

The building will reflect the Mediterranean architectural theme of the campus.

It will also provide temporary relief for a serious shortage of study space for postgraduate students, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland and International) Professor John Raine says. They comprise nearly a third of the 7000 Auckland students.

Professor Raine says the next projects on the agenda are student accommodation and a student centre.

Date: 01/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland



Appeal Court knockback to grocery giants 'good news' for shoppers

Consumers have won out from the Court of Appeal decision preventing supermarket giants Woolworths and Foodstuffs attempting to take over The Warehouse, says senior economics lecturer and competition specialist Dr Simona Fabrizi.

Dr Fabrizi says takeovers would have been part of a strategy to pre-empt increased competition in grocery retailing from The Warehouse, which plans 15 new stores with grocery divisions.

The court made the ruling after an appeal by the Commerce Commission against a High Court decision that would have allowed the retailers to lodge takeover bids.

Woolworths (Progressive Enterprises) and Foodstuffs account for 99 per cent of the grocery market in New Zealand and each has a 10 per cent stake in The Warehouse

Dr Fabrizi says if either retailer succeeded in a takeover it would have made it very unlikely that any third competitor could enter the grocery market in New Zealand.

“There are high barriers to entry in this market and allowing the takeover would have been a way of guaranteeing that the incumbents could continue to enjoy high profits,” she says. “The market would have become less competitive and therefore the consumer would have lost out.”

She says she is surprised the decision process went through so many legal steps before the Commerce Commission's position was upheld.

Although Woolworths and Foodstuffs have slim margins, it is possible that in fact they enjoy substantial margins because the degree of competition where the two are already dominant players is not as intense as pure duopoly competition would imply.

“I think the move to lodge takeover bids was a clear case of pre-emption by the two giants who want to maintain the market situation as it is. Even though The Warehouse planned to roll out only 15 stores, these would have only been the beginning of possible further expansion.”

Date: 01/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey discusses the book with editors Bruce Glavovic and Murray Patterson at the launch this week.

New book explores sustainable coastal management

An ecological approach to managing coastlines and oceans is required to ensure their resources are sustained, according to a book released this week.

Ecological Economics of the Oceans and Coasts is edited by Associate Professor Bruce Glavovic, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, and Professor Murray Patterson from the New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics at Massey University.

Dr Glavovic says the book explores fresh ways of managing oceans and coasts.

“Oceans are the last frontier on Earth but we’re currently exploiting them like they’re a limitless resource. Marine ecosystems are under huge pressure and it’s not sustainable.”

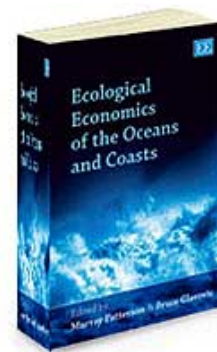
He says ecological economics approaches coastal management with a fresh perspective.

“We’ve tended to use an economic model that ignores nature’s limits as we have exploited marine resources in the past, but here we are bringing ecology and economics together in an integrated approach to ocean and coastal management. The focus is on sustainability.”

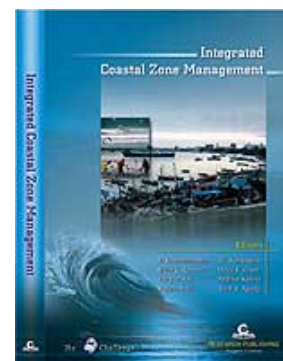
The book addresses key issues relevant to the New Zealand context, but contributors include scholars and practitioners from across the world, Dr Glavovic says.

The book is a product of the New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics, a partnership between Massey University and Landcare Research.

Dr Glavovic is also an editor of another book about to be released. *Integrated Coastal Zone Management* also looks at real-world experience and innovative ways of managing coastal zones, presenting case studies from around the world including many Asian countries, Africa, North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and island nations.



Ecological Economics of the Oceans and Coasts



Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Turbos players Francis Bryant, Johnny Leota and Aaron Good outside the White House.

New headquarters working for Turbos

The Manawatu Turbos rugby team has made a strong start to the Air New Zealand Cup rugby competition with a win over Canterbury and manager Wesley Clarke says the team's new home base has helped.

This season the team has moved to the White House at Massey's Palmerston North campus, next to the Recreation Centre and the Sport and Rugby Institute.

Mr Clarke says the team has enjoyed having all its facilities at one location.

“The White House is our HQ now and it's great to have everything we need here. There are plenty of practice fields and the gym is just next door. Last year we had to drive to town for gym sessions, so having everything right here has cut down on travel time.”

He says the management team has also made itself at home in the White House, while the grounds staff have provided the team with quality training grounds.

Friday sees the Turbos play their first home game, against Southland at FMG Stadium, where Massey's support of the team will be on display. The University is a sponsor of the team, with naming rights for the goal post pad.

The team's presence on campus has also given an opportunity to students in the Department of Communications, Marketing and Journalism to put their studies into practice. The students are running [TurboTV](#), part of the [Manawatu Rugby Union website](#), and providing communications assistance to the team.

Date: 05/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Chloe Akers in action at an earlier event.

Massey equestrians help beat Australia

Massey University students Chloe Akers and Caroline Parkes provided two clear rounds to guarantee New Zealand retained the trans-Tasman Young Riders Shield at the weekend.

The pair is part of the team that defended the shield, which is contested twice a year against a Queensland team, at Toowoomba west of Brisbane.

Both Ms Akers and Ms Parkes were selected for the New Zealand team based on their outstanding results during last summer's showjumping competitions.

The University has a focus on developing equestrian sport, through its academic programmes, equestrian facilities and athlete development programmes.

Massey has a long history of equestrian success with previous students including Olympic representatives and medallists Andrew Scott and Sally Clarke. Former student Heelan Tompkins is representing New Zealand at the Olympic equestrian competition in Hong Kong later this week.

Ms Akers and Ms Parkes are both part of Massey's elite athlete development programme.

Sport development officer Kelly Rofe says it is great to see riders developing their potential with the University's support.

"Massey is fortunate to have 23 athletes and recent graduates competing at this year's Olympics and we look forward to further international representation and possibly future Olympic representation from both Chloe Akers and Caroline Parkes."

Date: 05/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Palmerston North

Study launched as noise-induced hearing loss on the rise

Noise-induced hearing loss is on the increase with New Zealanders making claims for compensation at the rate of 11 cases a day and at a cost of more than \$43 million a year to the Accident Compensation Corporation.

A study into the prevention of noise-induced hearing loss will be undertaken by a multidisciplinary team led by the University's Centre for Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Health at the College of Business.

A \$500,000 contract has been awarded under the Occupational Health and Safety Research Portfolio, which is an initiative funded by the Accident Compensation Corporation, the Department of Labour and the Health Research Council. The study is part of a programme of work focused on noise-induced hearing loss.

The ACC reports a steady increase in the number of claims for noise induced-hearing loss, a permanent form of hearing loss that occurs because of exposure to intense sound. The latest statistics from ACC for the 2004-2005 financial year showed there had been more than 4000 successful claims in that period.



Dr Ian Laird

The ACC reports that despite knowledge of effective controls and guidelines, the prevalence of noise-induced hearing loss shows no sign of decreasing.

The organisations working to combat the problem anticipate that the cost to ACC will continue to escalate dramatically unless there is a big shift in the effectiveness of current interventions.

Dr Ian Laird at the University's Centre for Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Health is leading the project and is now fine-tuning the research strategy.

"It certainly seems that the current controls and preventive programmes don't appear to be working," he says. "It also seems that some sectors that were not considered to be noisy workplaces are, in fact, more harmful than thought. The world is becoming a noisier and noisier place.

"Although excessive exposure to loud noise over a period of time is known to be the cause, why this is occurring in large numbers in certain industry sectors isn't clear, as permanent loss usually takes some time to develop."

He says the project will evaluate existing work-related interventions to reduce noise-induced hearing loss in New Zealand. It will identify critical factors in the development and implementation of strategies and it will propose strategies/interventions where current interventions are considered ineffective.

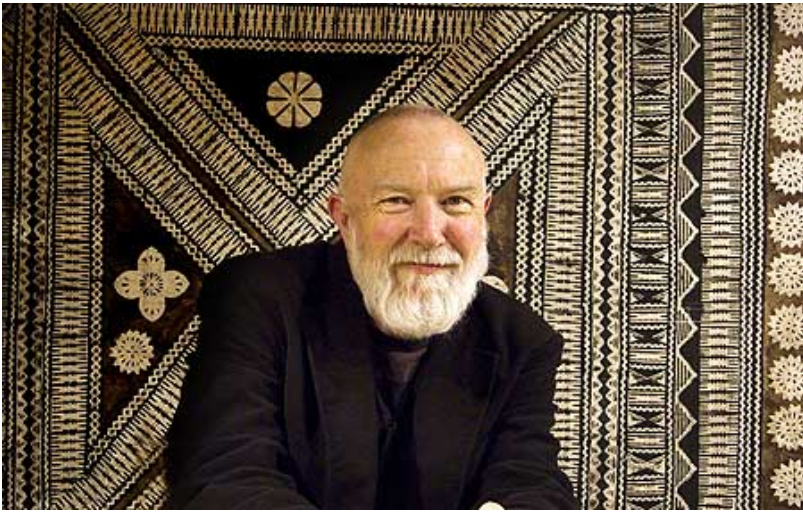
The researchers want to identify any barriers to implementing current strategies and will examine aspects of workplace culture that affect decision-making around the issues of noise prevention.

Dr Laird's research team includes Massey researchers on all three campuses and researchers from Otago University, Canterbury University and the University of South Australia.

Date: 05/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH



Associate Professor Tony Whincup has spent more than 30 years researching Kiribati practices and artifacts.

Climate change lecture a life lesson for all

There is a lesson for everyone in the climate change crisis that threatens the existence of Kiribati, says Associate Professor Tony Whincup, head of the School of Visual and Material Culture at the College of Creative Arts.

Mr Whincup, who was recently awarded the Kiribati Order of Merit in recognition of his work in the Pacific nation over the past 30 years, will present a lecture on climate change and Kiribati at the Wellington campus on Thursday.

“Rather than global warming, this is about rain, about precipitation and how it will affect these delicately balanced Kiribati practices,” Mr Whincup says.

“People don't live there easily. What if something even as small as more rain comes along and interrupts it. Home-making, string-making, drying out copra, drying out food ... you've got rain breaking down centuries-old systems.”

Mr Whincup's photographs are a vital part of the lecture, and were taken over a period of six weeks 18 months ago. He recently returned from another trip to Kiribati.

“This is not just having to walk away from a coastal property. This is the loss for the world of a whole culture. What I want to turn people's attention to is that it's a salutary lesson for all of us. We're all going to be terribly affected by climate change,” he says.

“The lecture is a ‘what if’ lecture. What if this continued and wasn't a one-off?”

The lecture builds on Mr Whincup's recent exhibition, *Water on Water – Kiribati in Crisis*, which ran at Pataka for three months this year.

Mr Whincup's lecture: *The Threat of Climate Change to Indigenous Knowledge – A Case Study on Notiruru, Kiribati* is at 6pm on 7 August in the University's Museum Building Tokomaru theatrette. All are welcome. An email to indicate attendance should be sent to s.richards@massey.ac.nz with Associate Professor Whincup in the subject line.



Photographs of Kiribati will play an important part in his lecture.



Date: 05/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Pasifika; Wellington



Rachel O'Connor sells a student pack to Waiopahu College student Lafi Williams during Open Day.

First-up win boosts Turbos packs' popularity with students

Promotional packs including tickets to every Manawatu Turbos home game are proving popular once again on the Palmerston North campus.

The sale of the packs is being co-ordinated by Massey business studies student Rachel O'Connor, who is completing her practicum paper with the Manawatu Rugby Union. The practicum paper is compulsory for all students majoring in sports management.

The packs include tickets to the five Turbos games, a voucher for a Brazilian wax at beauty salon Studio31, vouchers for McDonalds and Downtown Cinemas and entry into the Bucket-head supporters' club, complete with green bucket.

Ms O'Connor has been selling the packs for several weeks and says they have been popular.

"Of course the Turbos' win against Canterbury in the first round last week has increased interest."

Her time at the rugby union was providing invaluable practical experience.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying it. The experiences and the contacts I've made are very valuable and will help me pursue a career in the sports industry."

Ms O'Connor was joined by members of the Turbos team on concourse today as part of the first of two Open Days this week.



Turbo Man lends a hand to McHardy Hall students in a tug of war.

Date: 06/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Grant for communications researcher

A determination to see not-for-profit organisations develop and implement successful communications campaigns has attracted a grant from a leading communications agency for postgraduate student Fiona Shearer.

Ms Shearer, based in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing in Wellington, is the recipient of a \$1500 grant from communications firm Senate Communication Counsel for her doctoral study on adult literacy campaigns. Annual grants from Senate support research that aims to increase knowledge and understanding of communication and reputation management and promote communication research and evaluation.

Ms Shearer says a desire to see not-for-profit organisations using the sophisticated communications strategies that are applied by practitioners in the corporate sector led her back to study. A graduate from Glasgow with a BA Honours degree majoring in communication, she had worked in Britain on communications campaigns for large events. In New Zealand she has worked in communications for Women's Refuge.



For her doctoral project, Ms Shearer is examining publicity campaigns carried out in New Zealand by an organisation that promotes adult literacy.

Last year the Senate grant was awarded to master's student Mark Dittmer for his study of the communications issues relating to the Mt Ruapehu lahar.

Date: 06/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Early childhood teaching reviewed to meet growing literacy, numeracy needs

A review of Massey's early year's education programme is being undertaken in response to what College of Education researchers say is a worrying trend in child literacy that sees one in four children having difficulty learning to read.

Associate Professor Claire McLachlan from the School of Arts, Development and Health Education says New Zealand's world literacy ranking of 24 has remained the same for the past seven years and a review of early childhood programmes and teaching practices is overdue.

Massey has increased the primary school teaching degree programme from three to four years and now plans to do the same for the early years teaching degree programme, Dr McLachlan says.

“As well as building compulsory literacy and numeracy papers into our early years degrees, we will incorporate management components also. Many teachers based within early childhood centres find themselves in management roles and it is a significant demand, particularly on those with no formal qualifications or training in management.”

The early year's programme ranges from birth to eight years old, in line with international teacher education programmes, which means there is an element of cross-over with the work done by graduates of the primary teaching degree.

The Government has proposed making it compulsory in the next four years for all early childhood teachers to have recognised qualifications or at least be in training for them. The current requirement is for half the teachers to be qualified.

Dr McLachlan says the goal, which may change depending which party leads the next government, is an important step to raising literacy standards.

The Ministry of Education pays early childhood centres more if they have a higher percentage of qualified staff – up to \$2 per hour more per child if all teachers are qualified. Dr McLachlan says this is a good incentive for employers, their staff and the parents and caregivers of the children using a centre.

It is also important that education programmes are equipped to prepare these teachers, she says. Young children are especially susceptible to suggestions and influences, so teachers must be well-prepared to support literacy in their programmes.

“We offer a high quality of teacher education at Massey. We teach face-to-face on campus, as well as on-line through web-based tools, which provide discussions, virtual classrooms and a sense of community that works well for people who can't commit to campus.”

The accessibility of Massey's programmes, their unique and comprehensive material, and the strength of on-going research partnerships make Massey well-positioned to promote better practice in the sector.

Date: 07/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education



Nutrition information labels lost on consumers

The nutrition labelling system carried on food packaging for over five years is having little impact on consumers' product evaluations, research suggests.

As policy makers consider whether alternative approaches to nutrition labelling could improve diet and cut obesity rates, Massey researchers have sought to evaluate how presenting nutrition information in different formats affects the ability of consumers to recognise healthy and less healthy food profiles.

Marketing PhD student Ninya Maubach, working in conjunction with marketing professor Janet Hoek, carried out an experiment with nearly 300 consumers in Palmerston North, presenting them with breakfast cereal packs carrying nutrition information in three different formats. The findings earned Ms Maubach a student 'best paper' award at the 2008 International Nonprofit and Social Marketing Conference held at the University of Wollongong recently.

Ms Maubach says that although nutrition panels are now mandatory on many food products, she and Professor Hoek were concerned that consumers may not understand much of the information available. The researchers tested two 'front-of-pack' nutrition labels, and compared the performance of these to the currently used information panels.



Ms Ninya Maubach.

In some conditions, participants saw a breakfast cereal packet displaying the Traffic Light Label format developed by the British Food Standards Agency, which is favoured by consumer lobbyists in New Zealand and Australia. The Traffic Light Labels (a system not in use in New Zealand) rate fat, sodium and sugar content in food with an eye-catching red, orange or green dot, intended to signal high, medium or low levels of these nutrients in the product.

The other two packs presented for the experiment were a standard control pack and another version of a nutrition information label including the 'Percent Daily Intake' label now voluntarily incorporated on packaging by some manufacturers.

Irrespective of the information format they saw, consumers arrived at similar evaluations when viewing a healthier breakfast cereal. However, those exposed to the Traffic Light Label made more accurate evaluations of the less healthy cereal and were better able to differentiate between the healthy and less healthy options.

"This is a very important finding, given the need to help consumers identify high fat, sugar and salt food to manage or reduce energy consumption," Ms Maubach says.

Date: 07/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Three Massey students get \$280,000 worth of scholarships

A study to determine how different types of depression respond to treatment is one of three Massey research projects to receive nearly \$280,000 in Top Achievers Doctoral Scholarships announced today by Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson.

Auckland campus postgraduate student Kimberly Good has been awarded \$99,682 for her study, titled *Is the Black Dog Really a Dalmatian?* – an investigation into whether different types of depression lead to different outcomes through cognitive behaviour therapy.

Ms Good was also recently awarded a \$30,000 William Georgetti scholarship to help her complete her Doctor of Clinical Psychology over three years.

The other recipients are Jing Wang and Tilman Davies, both based at Palmerston North.

Ms Wang, from the College of Sciences' Information Systems Department, receives \$90,034 for her study, *Modelling Data-Intensive Scientific Workflows for Lab Automation in Analytical Research*.

Mr Davies, from the College's Institute of Fundamental Sciences, receives \$86,750 for his research project, *Semiparametric Methods for Spatio-Temporal Modelling in Epidemiology*.

Mr Hodgson says the awards, 32 of which were announced nationally, recognise that a healthy and vibrant research sector is essential for the nation's economic and social development.

"This round of scholarship recipients represents a rich variety of disciplines," he says. "While some research will contribute directly to innovation, other topics will help us to gain important insights into our society and culture, giving us a deeper understanding of the way we live."

For a full list of scholarship recipients visit: <http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/standard.aspx?id=675>

Date: 07/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Scholarships



Julia Buhs-Catterall, from KingsWay School in Orewa, who won a \$3000 Massey bursary and ASB-sponsored prize for her study on how lung capacity and resting heart rate affect aerobic endurance, is pictured with senior lecturer Dr Ajmol Ali from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Science of sport projects rewarded with bursaries

The effects of energy drinks on sports performance, whether left-handed batsmen are better and if Olympic athletes live longer than the average person were among the diverse topics researched by secondary school pupils who attended a school sport symposium at the Auckland campus this week.

About 90 pupils from seven mostly North Shore schools attended the symposium on Monday. Organised by the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health's Sport and Exercise Science division, it is designed to give potential students an opportunity to apply scholarly prowess to sport, wellness and health themes, and also to compete for bursaries worth a total of \$12,000 for sports-related studies at the University.

They worked individually and in pairs to prepare their research projects, which were displayed in the Recreation Centre. Awards included six bursaries valued at \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000, with three for degrees in Sport and Exercise study and three for Sport Business Management study with the College of Business.

Julia Buhs-Catterall, from KingsWay School in Orewa, won the \$3000 bursary for the year-13 sport and exercise science project. Sam Hanna, from Rosmini School, Takapuna, won a \$2000 bursary and Rebecca Watkin, from KingsWay, won \$1000.

For year-13 sport management: Laura Griffin and Rosalind McNeil of Long Bay College (\$3000), Aleisha Westerdal of KingsWay School (\$2000) and Layce Pereira of KingsWay (\$1000).

Years 10, 11 and 12 students were awarded prizes including an iPod nano, iPod shuffle and sports packs for the best three projects for each year.

Special prizes were also given for the best injury prevention project (Ms Griffin and Ms McNeil), for best original research project (Vuk Stanojevic of Rosmini) and best presentation (Ms Westerdal).

Other schools involved were Glenfield College, Pinehurst School and Kristin School from North Shore and Selwyn College in Auckland City.

Date: 07/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Sport and recreation



Manawatu rugby mascot Turboman is supported by McHardy Hall residents in a tug-of-war with pupils from Foxton's Manawatu College.

First campus open day pulls a crowd

Prospective students from about 50 schools descended upon the Palmerston North campus today for the first of the annual open days at the University's three campuses.

Among the range of activities and exhibitions on display was a robotics display in the College of Science's programme, which featured a range of interactive activities including a peek into a smart house designed for easier living, and a taste of food technology.

In the student lounge Student City coordinator Hannah Pratt showed how to prepare a meal for \$5, while outside halls residents took on University staff, students and secondary school visiting pupils in a tug-of-war.

Manawatu Turbos mascot Turboman also took part, while Turbos players joined the crowds and held a rugby ball-throwing challenge, with tickets to Friday night's Turbos match up for grabs.

Presentations from the Colleges of Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sciences gave introductory presentations at the Social Sciences Lecture Block.

Buses were available to take visitors to the Hokowhitu site, where the College of Education is based.

Student liaison adviser Trevor Weir says open days are an important fixture on the University calendar and attract pupils from a wide range of schools in both the North and South islands.

"We had a busload of pupils accompanied by liaison staff from the Tauranga area come to Palmerston North, and one pupil from Oamaru, who flew up to visit the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences," he says. Tours of the veterinary teaching hospital ran throughout the day and are very popular with visitors.

A second open day will be held at Palmerston North on Saturday. The Auckland campus holds its open day on Saturday, 16 August, and Wellington follows on Friday, 22 August.



Students from all over the lower North Island enjoy lunch in the sun on concourse.



The robotic kiwifruit picker was just one of the high-tech displays on concourse.

Date: 07/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Open day Palmerston North; Palmerston North

Open day to showcase exciting study options

Robotics competitions, a mock investment game for finance whizzes, a chance to analyse your body fat at a food technology session, and discovering stars using computer technology are among the numerous events at Massey's Auckland campus Open Day on 16 August from 10am-3pm.

Visitors will be able to explore the campus, attend seminars run by the colleges of business, education, humanities and social sciences, sciences and the College of Creative Arts' Auckland School of the Design. Academics will be available to discuss study and career options and provide activities aimed at giving students a feel for the area of learning they are interested in.

For example, those keen on a career in communications can "Be a Journalist for a Day" and enter a prize draw by writing a promotional article on their experience of Open Day. Entries will be judged by a local newspaper.

Special events include jazz workshops run by leading musicians from the New Zealand School of Music, an introduction to speech and language therapy training, a computer science "Robo-Soccer" demonstration, and a special lecture on Pasifika advancement at the University by Pasifika academic staff and students.

There will be live music and cultural performances by Maori and Pasifika groups, live bands and fire dancers, and food available.

Date: 08/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland



New professor joins property group

The University has appointed a new Professor of Property in the property group within the Department of Economics and Finance.

Professor Jyh-Bang Jou is based at the Auckland campus.

Professor Jou comes from the National Taiwan University, where he received his bachelors and masters degrees and was most recently a professor in the university's Graduate Institute of National Development.

Professor Jou gained his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1992. He was a visiting scholar in the Department of Finance at San Francisco State University in 2001 and, in 2006, he gained professional experience as a certified financial risk manager.

Professor Jou has published extensively and last year received two "best paper" awards at international conferences for academics in property research. He will teach contemporary issues in real estate.

Date: 10/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business



Professor Virk (right) and a colleague with the Robug 3, a robotic climbing spider he helped design and build when he worked in England more than a decade ago.

Lecture to explore robots as servants and saviours

Climbing and walking robots are likely to serve us and save us in the future, according to University Professor of Robotics Gurvinder Singh Virk.

Professor Virk, who is head of the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology and based at the University's Wellington campus, will give a lecture on **Thursday 14 August** titled: *Climbing and walking robots - our servants of the future?*

Professor Virk says although robotics as a discipline is only 40 years old, robots have already moved forward significantly from early industrial versions developed in the 1960s.

"Fixed-base robots are really boring, but when you add mobility, legs or wheels, they become little creatures".

The new type of robot being developed is a service model, which will help people in their homes. Engineers in countries with rapidly ageing populations are working particularly hard to advance domestic service models, he says.

"This will be a domestic assistant robot and will interact in a close and personal way," Professor Virk says. "Robots for personal care will be available in some places in about three years."

Professor Virk is also director of the Massey University Engineering Assisted Surgery Research Centre.

"Natural progress will mean there will be a robot able to climb inside the body and help the surgeon," he says. Highly technical robots are also being developed to rescue people after natural disasters.

Professor Virk is chairman of CLAWAR, Climbing and Walking Robots, which will hold its annual conference in Portugal next month.

"The reasons we're fascinated with robots is they can do what all creatures do: sense the environment, make decisions, and take action."

The University plans to launch the Massey Robot Society at the end of the month. Secondary pupils nominated by their schools will get the chance to work on robotics projects after a period of training at the Wellington campus.

Professor Virk will deliver his lecture on Thursday at 6pm at the Theatrette, Museum Building, at the Wellington



Professor Gurvinder Singh Virk says robotics is moving forward fast.

campus. To register, contact Serena Richards on s.richards@massey.ac.nz or 04-801-5799 ext 62300.

The lecture follows one by Associate Professor Tony Whincup last week on The Threat of Climate Change to Indigenous Knowledge - A Case Study on Notiruru, Kiribati, which was attended by 130 people.

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Engineering; Wellington

Fulbright for commerce professor

Socio-economist Professor Anne de Bruin has received a Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Award for four months' research in the United States.

Professor de Bruin is based at the University's Auckland campus where she is a Professor of Finance in the College of Business. She is known for her long-running research interest in entrepreneurship and has worked with a wide variety of industry groups and innovators.

Entrepreneurship, she says, is everywhere and is by no means just the province of the elite. As a culture, we are newly in love with the success of entrepreneurs and the concept of entrepreneurship, but there is little empirical and theoretical research into its definition or into the conditions that foster it.

The Fulbright award will take Professor de Bruin to the leading entrepreneurship research and teaching institution in the United States – Babson College in Boston. While there she will also take the opportunity to interact with other researchers at neighbouring Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

She plans to design a cross-cultural research programme to investigate entrepreneurial activity in the creative industries.

"In New Zealand, as in other countries, the creative industries are acknowledged as an integral facet of the knowledge economy and crucial to the country's global positioning," Professor de Bruin says. "Understanding of entrepreneurship in this area, however, is negligible, and there is an urgent need for research."

She will also take the chance to "brainstorm" with international researchers on the creation and origins of opportunity. "Opportunity is central to entrepreneurship but the existence of opportunities is often taken for granted."

Professor de Bruin leaves for Boston in October and says she is delighted to have a period of research time with leading United States scholars and to have the opportunity to be a cultural ambassador for New Zealand.

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business





Anna Mansell.

Language studies student takes up German scholarship

Second-year language studies student Anna Mansell faces sitting her Māori language exams in Cologne this year after taking up a scholarship to teach in Germany.

The 20-year-old, who is studying extramurally towards a Bachelor of Arts in Māori and German languages, leaves this week for nine months in the small town of Erkrath, near Düsseldorf.

Ms Mansell, whose mother is German, says she cannot wait to get there.

“My grandparents live there and they're very excited to be seeing me again. I've been in touch with a couple of families in the town who are keen to host me while I'm there.”

Ms Mansell will work 12 hours a week at a secondary school, teaching English, with the German Academic Exchange Service paying her a monthly allowance and contributing towards airfares.

She will continue her studies while in Europe.

“That means I'll have to sit exams in German and Māori language later in the year in Cologne, which should be interesting.”

Senior German lecturer Dr Ute Walker says the teaching scholarship is a fantastic opportunity.

“It's great for language learners because they don't have to be fluent speakers,” Dr Walker says. “Anna will get work experience through teaching at the school but, more importantly, will gain cultural exposure while in Germany. It will provide opportunities should she wish to go back and work there after finishing her studies.”

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Extramural; Palmerston North; Scholarships

Pictures really do paint a thousand words

Literacy adviser Christine Braid has developed a teaching resource based on her belief that picture books develop literacy skills in ways not previously realised.

Ms Braid, from the College of Education's Centre for Educational Development, has just released *How do I Look? Exploring Visual Images and the Picture Book*, a book designed to help teachers using picture books in the classroom. "Techniques used by picture book artists add layers of meaning to the words," Ms Braid says. "Exploring the layers enables students to engage with and access the depth of the message."

She says some teachers have found that children who ordinarily seem unable to find a way to engage in literary activities, suddenly come forward with their own ideas, and she sees this as a perfect opportunity for picture books to help develop their literacy skills and reading comprehension.

The book explores visual elements and how these are used. The popular picture book *Where the Wild Things Are* is used as an example throughout. Elsewhere it suggests activities relating to the use of picture books and outlines specific learning opportunities to develop understanding of visual images. "If we look at *Where the Wild Things Are*, we can see that from the beginning, the picture frame actually becomes larger with each page, but for what purpose? In this and other texts we can explore such ideas as the colours used in the pictures, and the emotions they convey.

"Rather than use a stock set of factual questions relating to the text, these are the types of interesting discussions that teachers can initiate when examining picture books. They help children gather a richer understanding of the story and the children can then decide what it means to them." The publication has been developed over more than six years and will continue to be updated. It has been produced by the University's Printery. Copies are available by contacting the author.



Christine Braid

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

Poet Laureate to speak at Auckland campus

New Zealand Poet Laureate Michele Leggott will read her poetry and talk about her work in a Chancellor's Lecture at the Auckland campus on Wednesday.

The internationally-acclaimed poet and academic has published six collections of poetry and criticism, and edited five anthologies of poetry and criticism.

Ms Leggott's first collection, *Like This?*, won the PEN best first book of poetry in 1989 and *Dia* won the 1995 New Zealand book award for poetry.

In her collection of poems *As Far As I Can See* she writes of her deep sorrow at losing her eyesight, which has been ongoing since 1985.

She grew up in Taranaki and lives on the North Shore and is known for her work on the writings of New Zealand author Robyn Hyde. As well as writing essays, she has edited a collection titled *Young Knowledge: the poems of Robyn Hyde*.

Appointed Poet Laureate for 2007-08, she is recognised as an innovative promoter of poetry. She has been the founding director of the New Zealand Electronic Poetry Centre since 2001, which can be visited on www.nzepec.ac.nz.



Michele Leggott

The free public lecture and poetry reading will be in the Study Centre Staff Lounge on Wednesday August 13 from noon to 1pm.

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Margaret and George Fergusson at Fergusson Hall, Palmerston North, with Massey's Professor Andrew Brodie.

Fifth generation of Fergussons visit Massey

British High Commissioner George Fergusson visited the Palmerston North campus on Saturday, walking in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both have Massey connections.

Mr Fergusson's father, Sir Bernard Fergusson, and grandfather, Sir Charles, both served as New Zealand governors-general. In 1964 Sir Bernard opened the new Fergusson Hall, named in his honour, adjacent to the Palmerston North campus, while Sir Charles laid the foundation stone of the University's Old Main Building on 4 December 1929.



British High Commissioner to New Zealand George Fergusson with a portrait of his father Sir Bernard Fergusson, a former Governor-General of New Zealand.

Professor Andrew Brodie, chairman of the Presbyterian Educational Purposes Trust, which owns Fergusson Hall, invited Mr Fergusson, his wife Margaret and daughter Lizzie to the annual hall dinner held at Caccia Birch House on Saturday night. The group was hosted during the afternoon by acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Dr Sandi Shillington and was joined by Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey and Dean of the Graduate Research School Professor Margaret Tennant for lunch at Wharerata. After a tour of the redeveloped campus heart precinct, the Fergussons visited the campus heritage precinct including Tiritea House, McHardy Hall, Refectory Building and Old Main Building.

After the campus, the Fergussons visited the nearby Number 4 Dairy Farm before having afternoon tea with head of Fergusson Hall Simon Cayzer and students.

Fergusson Hall was originally home to the Keiller family. It was built in 1908 by Edwin Keiller, a member of the Dundee marmalade-making family. The home, named Atawhai, was designed by Charles Tilleard Natusch, who also designed Wharerata. It had 17 large rooms featuring New Zealand and Australian native timber. When it was built on the high ground above Palmerston North and the sheltered Tiritea stream basin, which later became the first campus of the University, Atawhai was surrounded by a 21ha estate, including orchards, gardens and a small farm. Atawhai was occupied by Keiller's family until 1963, when it was bought by the Presbyterian Educational Purposes Trust to be used as a hostel for students.

The Old Main Building foundation stone laid by Sir Charles can still be seen in the northern corner of the building.

Mr Fergusson was educated in New Zealand and returned on a working holiday before taking up a post in a law office in Scotland. He joined the British Civil Service, initially working for the Northern Ireland Office, and has been a diplomat both in the UK and overseas. He is a former head of the foreign policy team in the Cabinet Office in London.

Fergusson Hall is home to more than 90 students, and is still run by the Presbyterian Educational Purposes Trust in association with the University.

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni; Palmerston North

Olympic media under spotlight

The way athletes at the Beijing Olympics are portrayed by the media will be scrutinised by two University researchers.

Dr Sarah Leberman and Dr Farah Palmer, both senior lecturers in the Department of Management, will study how athletes are portrayed by media in New Zealand, China, Italy, South Africa and the US.

Dr Leberman says they will look at a number of different aspects including how male athletes are shown compared with females and how team sports are portrayed compared with individual athletes.

“All athletes should really get the same coverage, for instance if both the women's and men's hockey teams are competing they should get the same exposure, but that may not be the case.”

Female athletes are often portrayed differently to men, she says.

“Previous research suggests the number of photos of women is coming close to the number of men. But there is still the tendency for women to be shown off the court, or off the field, and the shots can be of a more sexualised nature.”

Media in different countries is being studied to see if there are cultural differences in the way sport is covered.

“We're looking at 12 newspapers spread across the five countries, but are also recording the television news here in New Zealand to see how this country approaches its Olympic coverage,” Dr Leberman says.

The study is being carried out in conjunction with researchers at the University of Minnesota in the US.

School pupils in New Zealand will be interviewed and shown photographs of sports events to see information they glean from them.

“Our findings will be published in academic journals at a later date, but will also be helpful for organisations who want to promote sport,” Dr Leberman says.

Caption 1: Dr Sarah Leberman

Caption 2: Dr Farah Palmer



Sarah Leberman



Farah Palmer

Date: 11/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Olympics; Sport and recreation

Language teaching survey now online

A research project is under way to examine second language teaching in New Zealand schools. All teachers teaching a second language (other than English as a second language) are invited to participate in an online survey which will provide data on the nature of the language teaching profession.

The survey is being conducted by senior lecturer Adele Scott of the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy as a part of her PhD research. Ms Scott is president of the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers.

“The data will be gathered in two stages,” she says. “First, participants will be asked to complete an online survey to provide an initial set of information about their background including qualifications and experience.

“Results from this will inform the framework for the second stage, which will involve a limited number of case study interviews.”

The online survey is available at <http://www.nzalt.org.nz> and must be completed by 1 September.

Date: 12/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Conference/Seminar; Palmerston North; Teaching

Massey flying instructor gets top award

The Civil Aviation Authority's top flying instructor award has been won by the Deputy Chief Flight Instructor at the University's School of Aviation, Paul Kearney.

The award is presented to an instructor who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and made a significant contribution to the quality of flight training.

Mr Kearney's association with the University began in 1992 as a student at the school. In 1999 he returned as an instructor and in 2005 he did further training to gain an A Category flight instructor's rating, joining the elite ranks of the country's best instructors.

In 2006 he completed training in quality assurance and was subsequently appointed to the role of Quality Assurance Manager at the school, a position he holds in conjunction with his role as flight instructor.

In 2006 Massey School of Aviation Chief Flight Instructor Mark Carter received the top award and last year the recipient was Mark Woodhouse, an adjunct lecturer at the school.



Caption: Deputy Chief Flight Instructor Paul Kearney receiving the top award for flight instructors at the Aviation Industry Association Conference Awards Dinner in Tauranga.

Date: 12/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation



Historian Helen McCracken points out some of the features of the University's Museum Building to Blyss Wagstaff, heritage advisor registration for the Historic Places Trust central region.

Historic Places check-up for Museum building

Tokomaru, the Wellington campus Museum Building, is having a check-up to ensure its Historic Places Trust status and data is up to date.

Historian Helen McCracken has been contracted by the trust to document changes to the building and take photographs.

"The building was first placed on our register in the 1980s. There has been a large amount of work and a whole new history has developed since then," Ms McCracken says.

Ann Neill, general manager for the central region office of the NZ Historic Places Trust, agrees.

"Heritage and buildings are not static," Mrs Neill says. "They have many lives and many changes. We want to support the owners in the continued enjoyment of the buildings and allow them use them in a functional way."

A report on the updated information will be prepared and will go to co-owners, the Wellington Tenth Trust and the University, for comment before being filed online. The building will retain its category one trust rating.

The Old Main Building on the Palmerston North campus also has a category one classification, while Craiglochart (Moginie House), Refectory and Wharerata are category two.

Date: 13/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Georgina Gatenby from Wellington East Girls' College collects a water sample from one of the tanks at the University's Roof Water Research Centre.

Rainwater harvesting project a joint effort

The University has played a vital part in the launch of a rainwater harvesting project at Wellington East Girls' College.

Roof Water Research Centre director Stan Abbott spent a week with 52 year-10 (fourth form) pupils, teaching them the benefits of rainwater harvesting, as well as how to test water samples.

Mr Abbott says the project is about being enterprising and innovative about learning. "This was not just about something in a text book; it was hands-on learning."

It was also about forging connections between the University and community. College principal Sally Houghton says the project "signifies, above all else, the power of collaboration. Our students think differently about the world as a result of your contribution," she told University staff and project sponsors Environmental Diagnostics, Devan Plastics, Marley New Zealand and WaterGain.

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast endorsed that when she officially launched the college's rainwater harvesting project earlier this month. "It's wonderful to see university, private sector and schools working together." The project was also "entirely in line with the council's vision for a green capital city".

The opening coincided with the installation of six 1000-litre rainwater tanks at the college.

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Date: 13/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Wellington

Witchcraft paper casts a spell over students

▶ VIDEO Watch the *Close Up* and *Campbell Live* items

Charms and curses have been flooding into the office of Dr Gina Salapata, but the senior classics lecturer is happy to have them, along with the odd “voodoo” doll.

Dr Salapata, along with Dr Karen Jillings and Dr Chris van der Krogt from the School of History, Philosophy and Classics, is running a new extramural paper this semester entitled Magic and Witchcraft, which looks at how the supernatural has been revered and reviled through history.

Students study the use of sorcery in the classical world, medieval and early modern times and in colonial Maori culture as part of the 100-level paper offered extramurally.

Dr Salapata says the idea for the paper grew out of her background in classics. “I had thought it would be good to have a paper on magic and witchcraft in my programme and when one of my colleagues suggested the topic we decided to make it a collaborative effort.”

The first assignments have arrived from the 120 students enrolled in the paper and Dr Salapata says marking them is already proving interesting.

“One of the options for the first assignment called on them to create a magical curse tablet or erotic charm and so far I've received everything from 'voodoo' dolls to elaborate curses.”

However, the fanciful assignments must be backed up with research. “These things are not just made up,” she says. “The format of a curse or spell must be based on real examples from the classical period and reflect the beliefs of the practitioners.”

Paper co-ordinator Dr Chris van der Krogt says it provides students with an opportunity to develop their academic research and writing skills while exploring a fascinating topic. The lecturers are not advocating witchcraft but using the theme to open windows to past societies, he says.

“We are putting it in a historical context. I also teach about Christianity, but I'm not advocating it.”

Dr Salapata says the paper is proving popular with students studying in other University programmes, and should provide them with an introduction to history, philosophy and classics, leading them to take other courses.



Dr Gina Salapata holds a “voodoo” doll.

Date: 13/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; Video Multimedia

Political Awareness Day debate lures MPs to Auckland campus

A living allowance for students and tertiary funding are hot topics on the agenda for a debate between the main political parties at the Auckland campus.

The debate, organised by the Students' Association, will be held on Friday August 22 to celebrate Political Awareness Day, an annual event at the Auckland campus.

Political representatives to take part in the debate and question time are the Labour Party's Hamish McCracken (candidate for Northcote), the National Party's Wayne Mapp (MP for North Shore), the Green Party's David Hay (candidate for Rodney), NZ First's Dail Jones (candidate for East Coast Bays) and ACT NZ's leader Rodney Hide (MP for Epsom).

The debate is from 12pm to 1pm, Friday August 22, Study Centre Auditorium.

Date: 14/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Election/Politics



Scientist Matthew Brodie models the sensors on his race helmet.

Motion capture system scoops science award

▶ VIDEO [Watch the TV3 Nigtlite item on the MacDiarmid winners.](#)

A revolutionary motion capture system that tells skiers how to race faster has won Massey PhD researcher Matthew Brodie the Future Science and Technology honours at the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards.

Mr Brodie, who is studying biomechanics based in Wellington, was also tonight named runner-up for the overall MacDiarmid award at a ceremony in Auckland.

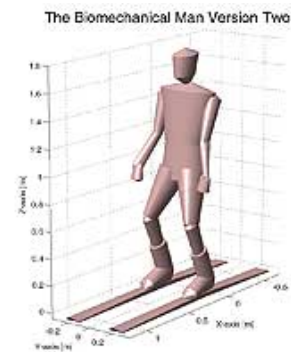
A former speed skier, race coach and instructor as well as a graduate in engineering, Mr Brodie has pioneered a system which tracks the movements of a skier using a network of lightweight sensors strapped to the body. The fusion motion capture technology uses 15 motion sensors attached to the skier, producing data that can be used to adapt technique to enable the skier to go more quickly.

“Before I started this I worked as a ski instructor and as a ski race coach and on ski patrol in Japan,” Mr Brodie says. During that time I was exposed to different so-called ski methodologies – different views of how people should ski. But my previous training was as an engineer and when you look at the task of skiing down a slope it is governed by simple scientific equations, such as your change in height in relation to your final velocity. It seemed to me that these different ski methodologies were maybe more mythologies and didn't take into account the science behind the technique.”

Measuring performance using traditional methods – multiple cameras placed around the ski run, around 40 cameras for just one kilometre – proved impractical due to the limited data capture and long set-up time. Massey University funded a new measurement system, but the software needed to process data was unable to cope with the rapid direction changes experienced while skiing.

“It was a big setback when I found that didn't work but every cloud now has a silver lining and I can now use the fusion motion capture I have developed to capture data on many sports – it's serendipity really.”

The system uses inertia monitoring sensors attached to a skier's limbs, a GPS receiver in their helmet and pressure sensitive insoles in their ski boots. After data is transmitted to a central hub on the athlete's torso, data fusion algorithms are used to calculate their position on the slope and direction. A computer then converts the



Biomechanical man is the athlete-specific body model.



Matthew Brodie in a spot of powder at Broken River.

data into animations, allowing comparison between competitors and analysis of where speed gains were made. Although the system has been designed for skiing, it can be used in any sport, and with its flexibility will be suitable even for sports where longer distances or difficult terrain have made traditional camera-captured data impossible.

As well as his interest in skiing, Mr Brodie says he chose ski racing for his research because it had a straightforward performance measure. "The fastest time through the course is the best."

Interest in the project is coming from around the world, and Mr Brodie has trialled his system on Mt Ruapehu with two members of the national alpine ski team and in Italy, in collaboration with Padova University and ski equipment manufacturer Nordica.

"Ultimately I can see many more applications," he says, "such as preventing falls in the elderly population, ergonomic equipment design, entertainment and even the design of transport systems to minimise energy consumption.

"I went to Austria on an Education New Zealand Postgraduate study abroad award, where I received a the International Ski Federation Innovation award at the 4th International Congress on Science and Skiing at end of last year." A factor he believes was considered in naming him the future science and technology winner and overall runner-up.

"Success builds on success, and part of the criteria is to show your research is getting international recognition and putting New Zealand at the forefront of that area."

The MacDiarmid Awards are presented each year by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, sponsored by Fisher & Paykel. Mr Brodie receives a cash prize of \$5000 and a travel grant to attend a science event in Australasia. He says he will use the travel to attend the Congress of the International Society of Biomechanics in South Africa next year.

Mr Brodie was brought up in Palmerston North and attended Awatapu College. His father Professor Andrew Brodie is a lecturer in chemistry at the University's Palmerston North campus, and was last year himself a winner, taking the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry academic research prize for his research into the chemistry of transition metals.

Mr Brodie's PhD supervisors are Dr Alan Walmsley, from the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, and Dr Wyatt Page from the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.

Mr Brodie's work can be viewed at www.youtube.com/BrodieMAD

Details of the MacDiarmid Awards can be found at <http://www.first.govt.nz/awards-and-events/MacDiarmid-awards>

Date: 14/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Engineering; Video Multimedia

Research shows family violence court working

Massey University research shows the Waitakere Family Violence Court has been largely successful in achieving its aims.

The domestic violence research team in the School of Psychology is part of an ongoing collaborative evaluation programme of the court and its stakeholders.

Dr Leigh Coombes says the team began its research, which focuses on the court in Waitakere, in 2006.

“The evaluation so far shows the court meets international best practice. The strength of the Waitakere Family Violence Court is the collaboration between government and non-government agents.”

Dr Coombes says the piece of research the team conducted for the Ministry of Justice covered victim experiences of the court process, not reconviction rates.

“What it found was that women who seek legal intervention did so as a last resort and having ongoing victim advocacy was critically important. The court’s success in achieving early guilty pleas was also important to victims.”

The team is currently collaborating with support agencies Man Alive and Viviana to evaluate their services to the court and community.

“The research team considers that the court in Waitakere is successful in meeting its aims in as much as it provides an intervention into the most intimate relationships and enables victims and their families the opportunity to get the support they need,” Dr Coombes says.

Massey’s first two research reports, a preliminary report and statistical description, can be found at:
<http://psychology.massey.ac.nz/news/psych-news.htm>

Massey’s latest report *Responding Together: An Integrated Report Evaluating the Aims of the Waitakere Family Violence Court Protocols*, written for the Ministry of Justice, can be found at:
www.justice.govt.nz

Date: 14/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Grants awarded to nursing students

Two nursing studies students were presented with grants from the Te Hopai Trust at a nursing forum in Wellington this week.

First-year students Jeremy Brankin and Linda Roeters received the grants from a representative of Wellington's Te Hopai Home and Hospital, Pakise Sari.

The grants, worth \$300 and \$200 respectively, are given to Bachelor of Nursing students judged to have performed to a high standard while gaining clinical experience in a residential care setting.

Date: 15/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington

Unclear whether or when mortgage rates will drop

Despite widespread expectation that banks should be passing on reductions in the official cash rate with cuts in mortgage interest rates, Massey Director of Banking Studies Dr David Tripe says it is now very difficult to work out whether those hopes are justified.

"It is a very tricky question because the many issues relating to the sub prime crisis make it much harder now for analysts to judge the true lending costs banks are facing," Dr Tripe says. "Therefore it is very hard to judge whether or not the banks are able to pass on cuts in their interest rates at this time even though there have been suggestions that they should.

"As recently as 18 months ago the impact of changes in the official rate and other inter-bank rates was transparent because we understood the relationships around bank funding. This is no longer the case."

Although the official cash rate dropped at the end of July there has been very little reflection of this in the floating rates banks are offering borrowers, he says.

"Although there have been some movements in fixed rates, this could be seen as just window dressing on the part of the banks because they have raised specific funding with a corresponding maturity, and therefore subsequent changes in the market conditions are of no consequence. Realistically though, there is undoubtedly some pressure on banks at the moment, not because they are having difficulty accessing funds but because world-wide angst in the financial sector means banks are paying higher prices for their funds."

Although commentators are reluctant to forecast movement in floating rates any time soon, Dr Tripe says it is expected that many borrowers will be looking to refinance loans in the last three months of this year.

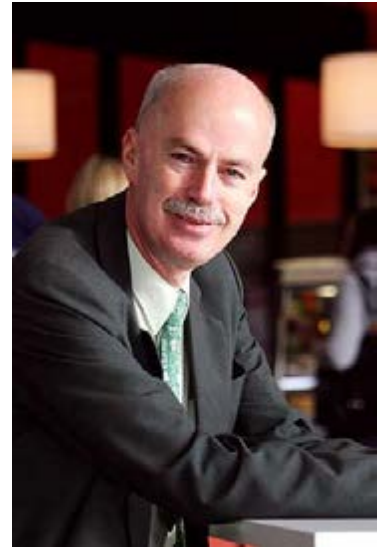
He says data from the Reserve Bank shows \$50 billion in mortgages is due to be refinanced in the year from June. The high number of people refinancing at this time is due to the fact that many had taken out loans for a fixed period at particularly favourable rates offered by banks in previous years.

"We know a good chunk of that \$50 billion is going to roll over in the last quarter of this year."

Date: 15/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business





Back Row (left to right): Dr Rakhmad Budiono, Dr Agus Suman, Dr Djamhur Hamid, Dr Unti Ludigdo, Dr Suryadi, Professor Sutrisno, Dr Mochamad Bakri, Dr Hermawan. Front Row (left to right): Dr Budi Prasetyo, Dr Rurini Retnowati, Dr Diana Arfiati, Dr Multifiah, Dr Andarwati, Dr Siti Ragil Handayani, Dr Sri Minarti, Dr Mintarti Rahayu.

Indonesian lecturers go back to school

Sixteen senior lecturers from Indonesia have gone back to class at the University's Wellington campus.

The lecturers work at Brawijaya University in Malang Province, Indonesia. The university has 30,000 students and 2000 lecturers. They are attending three months of training at the University's Wellington-based Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies (CUPELS).

The lecturers all have PhDs and work in a wide range of fields including economics, law, management, and agriculture.

Dr Djamhur Hamid, the group's leader, says Massey Wellington is a small but beautiful campus, and student numbers in lectures are much smaller, with up to 70 in a class at Brawijaya.

He says children start learning English at age 12 in Indonesia but putting it into practice in everyday situations was a new experience.

None of the visiting lecturers has been to New Zealand before, though some have studied overseas including in France and Australia. Many in the group were finding Wellington cold with average temperatures in Brawijaya in August about 28deg Celsius.

CUPELS will also facilitate speech-writing training for officials from the Commission on Higher Education in Thailand in October.

This week is International Languages Week.

Date: 18/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington

Scholarship cloaked in te reo

Te Kākahu Whakataratara, or the adorning cloak, is the title of a PhD thesis being written in Māori that will explain, support and promote the scholarship contained in te reo Māori from a tribal perspective.

Lecturer and PhD student Agnes McFarland is of Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Maniapoto and Samoan descent. She is the oldest of 14 children and was brought up by her Tūhoe great-grandparents. She shared her childhood with 18 matāmua (first born) grandchildren, and was the youngest of the group.

Ms McFarland grew up in the Rūatoki valley and was saturated in tikanga (customary concepts), where te reo Māori was the language of communication, except at school, particularly by her koroua Te Iwikino Wiwi and kuia Emere Kepa.



Lecturer and PhD student Agnes McFarland at Te Kupenga o Te Mātauranga Marae, at the University's Palmerston North campus.

She says she has seen many instances where informal language reserved for the kāuta (cooking shed) is used on the marae ātea – the area reserved for formal speech making, or when karakia (blessings) for food are used out of context, and wants to provide examples for the generations of speakers who missed out on this knowledge. She uses these fond memories in her teaching classes, including the students she teaches as part of the University's Māori immersion teaching programme – Te Aho Tāitairangi.

"I've seen people transfer what they are talking about in the kitchen to the marae ātea. The aim of this research is to help capture, transmit and revitalise the genre, and provide some examples for coming generations of what is tapu and what is noa, and of where and how to use the genre," she says.

Ms McFarland's research will focus on four language domains and will also talk about the formal and informal elements: te reo kāuta – the informal entertaining, humorous, language used when preparing kai – free flow language; te reo o te marae – formal language, used for whaikōrero or speechmaking and whakapapa or genealogy; te reo tohunga – the language used for dedication ceremonies including births, naming, deaths, kai, marriage, dawn, and dusk; and contemporary language.

The concept of poroporoaki (farewell to those who have passed on) was covered in Ms McFarland's masters thesis, also written in Māori, and will feature as a chapter in her doctoral thesis.

Another aspect of her research will cover the marae-based apprenticeship and learning process, male and female roles, karanga and whaikōrero (speechmaking).

Ms McFarland has a teaching background in early childhood education, and a conjoint degree from Wellington Teacher's College and Victoria University majoring in Māori and art. After qualifying she taught at Titahi Bay Intermediate School in the Māori immersion unit for two years before joining Massey, where she also completed a Master of Arts in Māori. She has worked at Massey University since 1995.

She has been working on her doctoral thesis for about a year and lives at Ohingaiti, about an hour's drive from the Palmerston North campus. Her son, Ariki McFarland-Ratu, is also studying at Massey, and is in his second year of the Bachelor of Māori Visual Arts programme.

Date: 18/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education; Maori; Scholarships



The victorious Massey Ag team after the match.

Massey Ag XV wins back LA Brooks cup

The Massey Ag XV has won the LA Brooks Cup for the first time since the rugby rivalry with Lincoln University was renewed in 2005.

The fixture, first contested between 1952-66, is played between teams made up of agricultural students from the universities.

Massey won the match 20-10 in front of a boisterous crowd at the Sport and Rugby Institute on Saturday, its first win since 1966.

On Friday night an "Old Rivals" dinner was held at the institute and was attended by 80 alumni and current and former players, including former All Black John Hotop, who was part of the LA Brooks Cup rivalry in the fifties.



Old Rivals Peter MacGillivray and John Hotop reminisce at Friday's dinner.

Massey Alumni Relations manager Leanne Fecser says the dinner, attended by Acting Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Palmerston North) Dr Sandi Shillington and Lincoln University Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Field, was a huge success.

"There was a large number of alumni and supporters there for the dinner, and again after the match when the cup was presented to the Massey team for the first time in over 40 years."

The cup will stay in the University's alumni office for the next year.

Date: 18/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



St Francis Xavier's School Year 5 and 6 pupils in all parts of the classroom can hear principal and teacher Bernadette Murfitt with the help of a sound field system.

Sound system boosts classroom performance

Researchers have found that connecting teachers to a sound system can dramatically improve pupils' test results and reduce classroom disruption.

Using a microphone and a radio transmitter, what the teacher says is broadcast using speakers around the room. Pupils are able to hear more clearly, and teachers do not strain their voices.

Dr Stuart McLaren from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health and Dr Steve Humphries from the School of Psychology surveyed teachers and tested pupils and classroom acoustics at primary schools in Auckland and Wellington.

Tests given to pupils when the system was in use showed an increase of up to 60 per cent more correct answers.

Teachers also reported significant improvements in attention, co-operation and understanding of verbal instructions among pupils, major improvements in behaviour and quieter classrooms. They also noticed they were less likely to strain their voices to be heard and, as a result, were less likely to become tired.

The research was funded by a private education trust, which is considering investing in sound field systems. Installation of the system costs between \$1500 and \$2000 per classroom.

In one classroom in the trial, pupils' ability to hear and interpret instructions from the teacher was tested with and without the system.

Dr McLaren says the research differs from previous New Zealand studies in that it tested systems when noise was introduced to the classroom to imitate heavy traffic and heavy rain. Even in quiet conditions, with pupils listening attentively, a significant improvement was noted with the number of correct scores in the listening test obtained with the system turned on. In a noisy classroom, results were more dramatic.

St Francis Xavier's School in Tawa took part in the research.

Principal and teacher Bernadette Murfitt says the system, which has been installed for nearly two years, is easy to use and means every child is able to hear his or her teacher speak. "It's made a big difference for our children."

Dr McLaren says the positive feedback from teachers was echoed by the pupils at the Auckland school where the research was conducted. "Their disappointment when they learnt the system was only on trial and might be removed said it all," he says.

Dr McLaren, who researched noise levels in early childhood education centres for his PhD, is now keen to investigate the use of sound field systems in early childhood centres.

Date: 18/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; College of Sciences; Teaching; Wellington

Expo highlights career opportunities in sport

Current and prospective students will get a taste of job opportunities in sport, at the Sport@Massey career expo at the Palmerston North campus tomorrow evening.

A number of Massey graduates who work in the industry will be there to discuss the path to their chosen profession.

Secondary students from around Manawatu and current Massey students will be able to talk to representatives from a number of organisations, including the Manawatu Rugby Union, the Manfield event centre, Awapuni Racing Club and Palmerston North Basketball.

Sports nutritionist Sarah Burkhart and sports psychologist Sarah Jack will speak on how they achieved their career goals after studying at Massey.

Nicola Stone from the University's career and graduate recruitment service says the expo is a great opportunity for students to meet prospective employers in the sports industry.

"The expo will promote sport programmes to students interested in the field, but also give practical advice on career pathways, graduate positions and practical work placements."

Massey offers a wide range of sports-related programmes including sport and exercise science, physical education and sport management and coaching.

The expo is being held in the Social Sciences Lecture Block from 5-7pm tomorrow evening.

Date: 19/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Radical steps needed to improve Maori reading says literacy professor

A Massey literacy specialist has suggested six steps that could see Maori children lead the world in reading within a decade.

Professor Tom Nicholson told a recent education conference in Christchurch that Maori have fallen behind in reading but could be “number one in the world” by 2018 if education authorities, teachers and parents adopted the steps for improvement.

Professor Nicholson, who co-heads Massey's Centre of Excellence for Research on Children's Literacy, advocates teaching how to sound out words using phonics, which has been largely dropped by the New Zealand education system in favour of a “whole language” approach.

He says that approach is failing Maori children particularly because phonics is well-suited to learning to read Te Reo and would provide an easy transition to English.

New Zealand was first in the world for reading achievement in 1970, dropped to 13th in 2001 and was ranked 24th out of 40 countries and five Canadian states by the latest (2006) Progress in International Reading Literacy Study statistics for 10-year-olds.

Those results prompted Professor Nicholson to design a six-point recovery plan targeting Maori children, whom he says are consistently at the bottom end of the PIRLS distribution.

“It appears we have an average education system where many children are not doing well – and where more than half of Maori boys are leaving school with not even a basic qualification,” he says.

Solutions for improving reading improvement include higher pay for teachers of Maori children, extra tuition for Maori children who are lagging behind with reading and introducing a phonics-based approach.

Research he has carried out in several lower socioeconomic schools in South Auckland has shown that regular tuition, once a week for 45 minutes in school hours and using a phonological approach, made a significant difference to children who were behind in reading and spelling.

Raising expectations of achievement are among steps needed to improve Maori reading levels, better research into improving the teaching of reading, and informing Maori parents about their children's literacy levels, were also needed.

His ideas, outlined out in a paper he presented titled How to Get Maori to Number 1 in the world again by 2018, gained wide support at the Christchurch summit, Nga Maata Waka 21st Century Education Wananga, with some participants planning to do marae-based reading assessments over the summer.

Expectations of Maori reading needed to change, he added. “When you look at reading scores for 10-year-old children in decile-10 schools in leafier suburbs, their reading comprehension is nearly a year above their chronological age. But in decile 1 schools in poverty areas, where there are many Maori children, their comprehension is nearly two years below their chronological age.”

“We have to want Maori children to match the achievement of decile-10, the top echelon.”

Professor Nicholson's propose six steps to improved Maori reading achievement:

- teach reading using phonics
- raise expectations and aim for decile-10 level of achievement
- extra tuition for Maori in need with specialist help in school and summer holidays
- pay teachers of Maori in low-decile schools more to keep and attract the best teachers
- inform and involve Maori parents in children's learning, and use local marae for testing
- more research on how to improve reading and find out what really works best



Date: 19/08/2008

Type: Research



*Professor Mason Durie being capped by Otago University Chancellor Lindsay Brown.
Photo - McRobie Photographics Ltd Dunedin.*

Reward for 50 years of academic excellence

Massey University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Mason Durie returned to his alma mater, Otago University on Saturday, to accept an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and deliver the graduation ceremony address.

"It is an overwhelming honour not only for myself, but especially for my wife and family, for my colleagues and for my people," Professor Durie told the graduates and others present. "There is a proverb that recognises achievement, not as a solo effort but as a collaborative undertaking. 'Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari i te toa takitini.' Anything I may have accomplished is a tribute to the many who have made it possible.

"This graduation ceremony has even more significance for me, coming as it does exactly 50 years after I first enrolled at Otago University in zoology, physics, chemistry and botany.

"Rather than reflecting on the 50 years past – and although we cannot predict the future with absolute certainty, there are three challenges of world-wide significance that will need to be addressed; global inequalities, global warming and global colonisation."

He said the challenge for universities will be to provide an education environment where learning occurs across disciplines and between subject areas. "That does not necessarily mean abandoning deep learning in favour of broad learning, but it does mean transcending the limitations of a system where the acquisition of knowledge is split into time-worn subject domains.

"The impacts of global inequalities, global warming and global colonisation, serious as they are, can be mitigated by a new generation of scholars working together to bring balance and sustainability to New Zealand and the globe."

Professor Durie is of Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata and Ngāti Raukawa descent. He grew up in Feilding, attended Te Aute College and graduated from Otago with the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and ChB in 1963. Following his medical studies he took up a two-year internship at Palmerston North Hospital, after which he gained a postgraduate qualification in psychiatry at McGill University in Canada.

He then returned to become Director of Psychiatry at Palmerston North Hospital. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Social Policy from 1986 to 1988.

In 1988, he was appointed to the Chair in Māori Studies at Massey University and is the acting Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In June this year, he received the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' Mark Sheldon prize for meritorious work in service provision and research to advance knowledge and understanding of indigenous mental health.

He was named Public Health Champion of 2003 by the Public Health Association of New Zealand and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1995 and, in 2001, was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Date: 19/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



Professor Margaret Tennant, Associate Professor Mike O'Brien and Professor Lester Salamon, director of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-profit Sector Project at the Parliamentary launch.

Beehive launch for international study of New Zealand's non-profit sector

Community and Voluntary Sector Minister Ruth Dyson launched two publications by Massey University researchers this month.

Dr Mike O'Brien and Dr Jackie Sanders from the social work programme, and Professor Margaret Tennant, Dean of the Graduate Research School, contributed to *The New Zealand Non-profit Sector in Comparative Perspective* and *The History of the Non-profit Sector in New Zealand*.

Both stem from the New Zealand leg of an international study of non-profit organisations headed by the Johns Hopkins University centre for civil society studies.

The researchers also worked in collaboration with Statistics New Zealand and with a national committee for the study of the non-profit sector.

Professor Tennant says the national report shows the importance of the non-profit sector to the New Zealand economy.

"It is contributing 4.9 per cent of New Zealand's gross domestic product and has a workforce of paid staff and volunteers, which is proportionately one of the largest in the world - equivalent to one in 10 of the working-age population," she says.

"While about half of New Zealand's non-profit organisations are involved in service delivery, the study reveals New Zealand has an internationally high proportion of organisations providing opportunities for citizen participation - especially sporting organisations."

The History of the Non-profit Sector in New Zealand canvasses the development of the sector over time, showing the early importance of sporting activities, New Zealand's openness to international organisational forms and the rise and decline of particular kinds of voluntary organisations and volunteering.

Date: 20/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Study to explore modern meanings of medication

A psychology study on medication use will explore the symbolic significance, rather than the pharmacological function, of drugs and health remedies in the daily lives of New Zealanders.

Psychologists Professor Kerry Chamberlain and Helen Madden, from Massey's School of Psychology in Auckland, will manage the project and head up a team of researchers from Waikato, Otago and Victoria universities to investigate popular understandings of medications and their use.

The study, funded by the Health Research Council, will consider all forms of medications, medical drugs, alternative medicines and dietary supplements in an attempt to determine whether some medication consumption is "life-saving or life-styling", Professor Chamberlain says.

"It aims to develop new knowledge about the meanings of medications, their safety and risk, and the influence of media and social processes in their use and misuse."

The idea for the study arose from Professor Chamberlain's observations that the role of medication in people's lives in the 21st century has become increasingly complex with the advent of direct advertising of pharmacological drugs, the influx of over-the-counter medications, internet-based medical information as well as the profusion of alternative medicines, natural remedies and dietary supplements.

A psychological approach to understanding attitudes and behaviour in relation to taking medication is important given the huge investment by the health system, with government drug funding agency Pharmac's community drug bill at \$563 million for the year to June 2006.

He says the potential for harmful impacts on health through misuse of medication is a key consideration of the study.

"We know little about what happens with medications when taken home, why people do what they do with medications, or how they are understood by people."

Previous studies have shown that overall adherence to medication regimes is only about 50 per cent.

Professor Chamberlain says the need for a study is imperative in an age in which "the boundaries between drugs, food and dietary supplements are blurring", and where "the ingestion of many substances is increasingly considered to be a routine practice, somewhat like eating an apple or having a drink of water, rather than taking a



Massey psychologists Helen Madden and Professor Kerry Chamberlain.

pill in a traditional medical sense".

He says there is a growing concern that the changing nature of medicine, through increased direct marketing of pharmaceuticals such as pain relief, cough mixtures and weight loss medication, has led to "passive medicalisation", whereby consumers seek their own health solutions largely uncontrolled by the medical profession.

The wide range of medical issues frequently covered in the news media, such as the debate over funding for breast cancer drug Herceptin, means consumers often find it hard to make sense of conflicting views, he says.

The research team will gather data from four domains – households where someone suffers a chronic illness, homes with children, community discussion groups and media representations, and will analyse the data in collaboration with two United Kingdom-based professors.

The study, a first for New Zealand, recognises that "medications have 'social lives' as well as pharmacological lives", says Professor Chamberlain. "Once in the hands of people, they represent not only relief from suffering or the maintenance of health, but also represent identity, morality, relationships, care, healing and hope, amongst other things."

Date: 20/08/2008

Type: Research

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



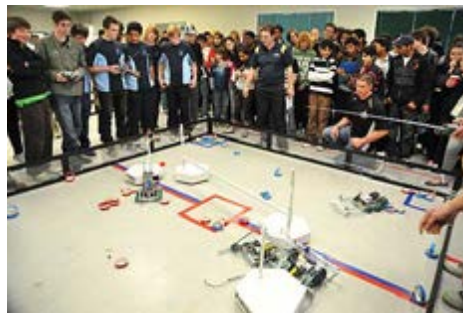
A Kapa Haka performance at Open Day in Auckland.

Open Day showcases versatile, vibrant Auckland campus

An exceptional day of sunshine meant the 3500-plus visitors to Massey's Auckland campus Open Day on Saturday stayed dry as they enjoyed numerous outdoor events, from kapa haka, Pasifika and jazz performances to a sausage sizzle and rock band gig.

Indoors, every corner of the campus was humming with activity as crowds of prospective students and their families visited displays and demonstrations from the five colleges.

The noise and excitement of an engineering school workshop packed with over 200 secondary school pupils and their nifty technological creations exemplified what was the most popular event of the day.



Secondary school pupils compete in a robotics competition at the School of Engineering during Open Day.

Food sampling, a dolphin dissection by a marine biologist and test tube demonstrations by microbiologists of how to isolate DNA cells appealed to visitors with scientific interests.

Elsewhere, the chance to play an investment board game under development by a College of Business lecturer, undergo a memory test or hear about how design school graduates have succeeded in fashion, transport and industrial design fields provided insights into the other study options.

Secondary school pupils from throughout the wider Auckland region made up the bulk of visitor numbers, but two buses brought people from Kaitaia in the Far North and other visitors came from as far south as Palmerston North.

Staff from the Colleges of Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Creative Arts gave short seminars on some of the University's popular courses, including a history paper on how Hollywood blockbusters present the past.

A competition titled Be a journalist for the Day invited prospective students interested in a career in media and communications to submit a 400-word promotional article about Open Day, to be judged by North Shore Times editor Peter Eley, with the first prize of a laptop computer.

Date: 20/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Open day Auckland

Instant graduate display too good to resist

Prospective students get the lowdown on life at the University's Wellington campus tomorrow, but if it's anything like last year it will not be the fashion, film, robotics or music that captures the imagination most.

What the young people really flocked to was a cut-out display that enables them to be photographed as they might look in three or four years time when they graduate in gown and mortarboard.

Last year's display was so popular it went missing before the day was finished.

"We had our backs turned for a few minutes," events coordinator Christine McGonigal recalls. "One moment it was there, the next it was gone. We think it might have ended up in someone's student flat."

The open day runs from 8.30am to 4pm with year-13 pupils from schools throughout the lower North Island and upper South Island expected to attend. For further information, check the massey.ac.nz website or phone 0800-MASSEY.



Date: 21/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington



Dr Cheyne's project steering group: Malcolm Thomas (Thomas Consulting), Associate Professor Christine Cheyne (Massey), Anne Redgrave (Horizons Regional Council), Dr Imran Muhammad, Dr Jonathan Godfrey, Liezel Bobadilla (Massey), Roger Boulter (Boulter Consulting), Phil Hendon, Dave Gennard, Emma Hardgrave (NZ Transport Agency).

Research projects to investigate public transport use

Two significant research contracts funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency's 2008-09 research programme have been awarded to staff in Massey's School for People, Environment and Planning.

Associate Professor Christine Cheyne and Dr Imran Muhammad, of the school's resource and environmental planning programme, are each leading a project.

Dr Cheyne will gather data on transport implications of population shifts in non-metropolitan regions, including a survey and interviews with residents in those regions about their use or non-use of public transport.

"This research seeks to fill a gap in research about public transport attitudes and behaviour," she says. "Existing research has been conducted mainly in metropolitan areas or large urban centres."

With environmental and economic factors now influencing a shift away from private transport, there are some challenges for parts of New Zealand that have smaller populations, Dr Cheyne says.

"They cannot support conventional mass volume public transport. But there is a lot of scope for shared transport or what is known as demand responsive transport. Our research will focus on the potential for expansion of such options."

The second project, led by Dr Muhammed, will prepare a best-practice guide for public transport planning in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

"The strength of this project lies in its international research team and this project will draw directly on expertise from Australian and northern European universities," Dr Muhammad says.

"This research project will investigate ways to maximise public transport performance – through improved network planning with limited resources – in the specific conditions found in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch."

Date: 21/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Massey at the Olympics update

Day 13

Middle-distance runner Adrian Blincoe was the only Massey athlete competing in Beijing yesterday. He placed seventh in a heat of the 5000m. His time of 13 minutes 55.27 seconds was not good enough to progress to the final.

Today, the men's hockey team plays Pakistan in the play-off for seventh and eighth, while Erin Taylor lines up in the semi-final of the K1 500m kayak event.

Day 12

Massey's Erin Taylor is through to the semi-finals of the K1 500m flat-water kayak event after finishing sixth in her heat yesterday. She will compete in her semi-final race tomorrow, where a top three finish will put her in the final.

The men's hockey team suffered another loss, 3-1 to Germany, ending their medal hopes.

Today in Beijing, Massey student Adrian Blincoe lines up in round one of the 5000m event on the track.

Day 11

Massey's James Dolphin had a disappointing day on the track at Beijing, finishing sixth in his heat of the 200m sprint event. His time of 20.98s was not good enough to move through to the next round.

Cyclist Catherine Cheatley also found the going tough at the velodrome, finishing 17th in the points race after failing to score during the 100 lap race.

The women's hockey team suffered another loss, 3-2 to Argentina. The team, featuring six Massey students and graduates, has not made it through to the medal rounds.

The men's hockey team has a must-win game against Germany today if it hopes to contend for a medal.

Paddler Erin Taylor will make her first appearance in Beijing, lining up in the heats of the K1 500m kayak event.

Weekend wrap

Massey shooter Rob Eastham finished 14th in the 50m prone rifle event at the Olympic Games in Beijing on Friday. He missed out on shooting in the final round by one point.

Swimmer Corney Swanepoel was sixth in his semi-final of the 100m butterfly event.

Juliet Haigh's women's coxless pair finished fifth in its final, as did the men's double sculls featuring Nathan Cohen.

The lightweight double sculls team featuring Storm Uru finished fourth in its semi-final. The pair then went on to win the B final.

Single sculler Emma Twigg was third in the B final, while the men's coxless four won its B final.

The men's hockey team, featuring Simon Child, Gareth Brooks and David Kosoof, beat Belgium 4-2 at the weekend but drew 2-2 with China last night.

The women's team, which includes Massey's Jaimee Claxton, Kayla Sharland, Emily Naylor, Stacey Carr, Caryn Paewai and Sheree Horvath, lost 4-1 to the US.

Today in Beijing, sprinter James Dolphin lines up in the heats of the men's 200m, and cyclist Catherine Cheatley competes in the points race.

The women's hockey team plays Argentina this evening.

Day seven

Swimmer Corney Swanepoel bettered the New Zealand record in the heats of the 100m butterfly event in Beijing last night to progress to the semi-finals of the event today. His time of 51.78s took 0.43s off his previous best time. Moss Burmester finished sixth in his heat in the same event and failed to progress.

The women's hockey team featuring six Massey students lost 2-1 to Great Britain, ending its campaign.

Today, shooter Robert Eastham will compete in the 50m rifle prone event at the Beijing shooting range.

The lightweight double sculls pair featuring Storm Uru will also race its semi-final, which was postponed yesterday.

The men's hockey team plays Belgium, while William Benson is also in action in the pool as part of the 4x100m freestyle relay team.

Day six

Five New Zealand crews have qualified for Saturday's finals at the Olympic rowing regatta, including Massey's Nathan Cohen, who with partner Rob Waddell, finished third in a semi-final of the double sculls yesterday. However the men's coxless four, featuring a number of students, failed to make the final.

The men's hockey team lost 1-0 to Spain in its second match, meaning the team featuring Simon Child, David Kosoof and Gareth Brooks must win its final two games to have a chance of reaching the semi-finals.

Helen Norfolk's 4x200m freestyle relay team was disqualified in yesterday's heats and after the race she announced her retirement from swimming.

In action today in Beijing is the lightweight double sculls pairing, featuring Storm Uru, competing in its semi-final.

Moss Burmester, who finished fourth in the final of the 200m butterfly final yesterday, lines up in the heats of the 100m event with another student, Corney Swanepoel, while the women's hockey team plays Great Britain.

Day five

Massey student Moss Burmester recorded the sixth fastest time ever in the final of the 200m butterfly in Beijing today, but was just outside the medals, finishing fourth. His time was 1:54.35m. The race was won by Michael Phelps of the US, who is on track to win an unprecedented eight gold medals in the pool.

Other students in action today include Nathan Cohen, who will row with partner Rob Waddell in the semi-finals of the men's pair; and Hamish Bond and Eric Murray, who make up half of the coxless four, will race in the semi-final.

The men's hockey team, which features Gareth Brooks, Simon Child and David Kosoof, plays Spain in its second match today.

In day four action yesterday Heelan Tompkins placed 51st in the equestrian showjumping event and the women's hockey team lost 2-1 to Germany.

Day four

Moss Burmester cruised into the semi-finals of the 200m butterfly on day three of the Olympic Games yesterday, finishing third in his heat and qualifying 10th fastest of the 16 qualifiers. He will line up in the semi-final race later today. Helen Norfolk produced a personal best in the women's 200m individual medley to finish fifth in her heat, but wasn't good enough to advance in the event.

The men's hockey team, which features three students, David Kosoof, Simon Child and Gareth Brooks, came from behind to beat South Korea 3-1 in its first match.

The New Zealand equestrian team had a disappointing day at the cross-country, ending the day in sixth place as a team. Former Massey student Heelan Tompkins was 56th overall.

Today in Beijing, as well as Burmester's semi-final race, the women's coxless pair, featuring Juliet Haigh, races in its repechage, the equestrian team competes in the show-jumping and the women's hockey team plays Germany.

Day three

In day three of the Olympics, Massey students have figured prominently, with rowers providing the biggest highlights.

The lightweight double sculls pairing of Storm Uru, a Massey student, and Peter Taylor won its heat at the Shunyi Rowing Park. The men's coxless four, featuring Hamish Bond and Eric Murray, was second in its heat. Another student, Juliet Haigh, placed second in the women's coxless pair with partner Nicky Coles.

Swimmer Helen Norfolk was eighth in heat three of the 400m individual medley.

A late call-up to the women's road race, cyclist Catherine Cheatley finished 53rd in yesterday's race. She will also compete in her specialist event, the points race, next Monday.

Six students are in the women's hockey team, which lost 2-1 to Japan in its first match yesterday.

Equestrian Heelan Tompkins was 30th in the individual dressage competition and is competing in the cross-country today.

Other Massey athletes in action today include Moss Burmester and Helen Norfolk in the pool, while the men's hockey team takes on Korea.

Date: 21/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Olympics; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington



Simon Jones from Rongotai College hangs his entry for the lampshade competition.

Creative campus on show at open day

A creative lampshade-making contest, free music, and a chance to ride a Segway scooter were popular options for hundreds of prospective students at the Wellington campus open day.

Future students from as far afield as Stewart Island and Cape Reinga packed the campus from 8.30am. Most were intent on collecting information for study next year, as well as checking out facilities and accommodation options.

Presentations from various colleges and staff were popular throughout the day, and The Thomas Oliver Band provided entertainment at lunchtime, with many of the 1500 visitors stopping for a free meal and a chat in the sun.

Student liaison adviser Marjon Williams says open day is always busy and an important tool in making decisions for students.

"It really helps to see the buildings and get a feel for the campus in person," she says.

The Palmerston North campus open days on 6 to 9 August, and Auckland's last Saturday were also well attended.



Allannah Morpeth, from Havelock North High School test rides a Segway.

Date: 22/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Open day Wellington; Wellington

Palmerston North community heart of new exhibition

He Puna Manawa, is the name of a new exhibition of still images that document the *Aniwaniwa* project filmed in the Manawatu and shown in the Venice Biennale last year.

The new exhibition opens tonight at the Thermostat Gallery in Palmerston North, and has been put together as a thank you by artists Rachael Rakena (Ngāi Tahu, Ngā Puhī) and Dr Brett Graham (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura). “This will be the first time photographs of the exhibition in Venice have been shown. We named this show *He Puna Manawa*, puna as a translation of pool, or spring – where all of the video production took place, and manawa or heart – after Te Manawa Regional Museum and the Manawatu River that is at the heart of the local community,” Ms Rakena says.



See caption below.

She and Dr Graham also wanted to acknowledge the help received from the local community, whānau and friends, including students at Massey University and Monrad Intermediate School who participated as production crew and underwater performers.

“It was about two years ago that we did the filming in the creeks around the University and at the Dive HQ training pool,” she says.

Aniwaniwa was based on the name of the rapids formed at the narrowest part of the Waikato River that were flooded in 1906 creating the Horahora hydro electric power station where Dr Graham's grandfather worked. The area was later flooded in 1947 to create Lake Karapiro.

Dr Graham says the valley and the village were lost underwater and so were historical sites significant to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura. The theme of submersion in the *Aniwaniwa* exhibition is a metaphor for cultural loss.

Ms Rakena teaches video art at the University's Te Pūtahi a Toi (School of Māori Studies) Māori Visual Arts programme in Palmerston North, where Dr Graham was a guest lecturer in 2006 while they developed the project. “Participating in the Venice Biennale was a really big undertaking. We had a short lead in time and there wasn't enough funding available to cover our costs. We decided to pull out all the stops as only a handful of New Zealand artists have ever exhibited there.”

Ms Rakena says she and Dr Graham made a significant personal financial investment to exhibit in Venice, as did their close family and friends who sold artworks and took time out to travel with them and support them. “Four days before we left by my sister Hana, who is a ceramic artist, decided to come with us for five weeks. She was our gofer and cook.

“The people of Venice related to the exhibition and the notion of a town drowning, it connected with them.” Ms Rakena says that while the two Italian curators working with them on *Aniwaniwa* loved the installations it was the opening ceremony that moved them the most. “At these things you usually have wine, nibbles and occasionally speeches – but not often. While we didn't have kaumātua with us we did follow tikanga in the opening ceremony – with karanga, karakia and whaikōrero – the whole ceremony was conducted in Māori and Italian and the experience of that really struck them.”

The full installation of *Aniwaniwa* opens on 27 September at Waikato museum for six weeks and will be part of a festival in Tasmania next year. Framed still images will be sold during the exhibitions, and the large installations are also available for sale.

He Puna Manawa opens at 5.30pm, Friday 22 August at Thermostat Gallery, Palmerston North.

Caption: Still image from the *Aniwaniwa* exhibition shown at the Venice Biennale last year to feature in *He Puna Manawa*, a new exhibition by Rachael Rakena and Brett Graham, opens at Thermostat Galley in Palmerston North on Friday 22 August.

Date: 22/08/2008

Type: Research

Political candidates split over universal student allowance

Introducing a universal student allowance and how to keep university education affordable were among issues discussed during debate between MPs and candidates from Labour, National, NZ First, United Future, Act and the Greens at the Auckland campus on Friday.

The notion of a universal living allowance was firmly rejected by Act leader Rodney Hide and not supported by either National's Wayne Mapp or Labour's Hamish McCracken, but the other candidates all promised some form of non-repayable living allowance.

Mr Hide fell about laughing and muttered "what about flower power?" when NZ First's Dail Jones (candidate for East Coast Bays) admitted the height of his excitement as an Auckland University student in the 1960s was learning to play bridge. The comment was in response to a question put to the panel about what social support services students should expect from the government.

The other debaters were David Hay (Green candidate for Rodney), and United Future president Denise Krum.

The debate was organised by the students' association to celebrate Political Awareness Day, an annual event on the campus.

Date: 22/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Election/Politics



Act leader Rodney Hide.



National's Wayne Mapp.

Latest treaty claims theme of public lecture

A specialist on the Treaty of Waitangi and the history of treaty-based claims will discuss recent settlements in a free public lecture at Auckland campus next Wednesday.

History professor Michael Belgrave will outline the dramatic developments in recent settlements and consider their importance in completing this round of negotiations between Maori and the Crown in his Chancellor's lecture titled *Treaty Settlements: Is there an end in sight?*

Professor Belgrave says Maori claimants have achieved significant progress in reaching settlements in recent months due to the intervention of Finance Minister Dr Michael Cullen.



Professor Belgrave describes Dr Cullen as “the new Doug Graham” – a reference to the former National Government minister who forged a successful role as treaty negotiator relating to the Tainui and Ngai Tahu settlements in the 1990s.

“There's been a revolution in the Crown's approach,” Professor Belgrave says. “It's the first time in eight years that the Labour-led government has made treaty settlement a priority.”

His lecture will include an explanation of the treaty settlement process in which claims can be investigated by the Waitangi Tribunal or dealt with in direct negotiations between claimants and the Crown.

Professor Belgrave teaches history, social policy, public policy and Maori studies. He publishes and researches the history of social policy, customary law, Treaty of Waitangi claims, health history and social service development?

Before joining Massey in 1993, he was the tribunal's research manager and has been actively involved in historical research for the tribunal in many of its regional investigations. Two recent books are: *Historical Fictions: Maori Claims and Reinvented Histories* and the co-edited *Waitangi Revisited: Perspectives on the Treaty of Waitangi*.

**Chancellor's lecture series: *Treaty Settlements: is there an end in sight?*
Massey University Auckland, 27 August, 12-1pm, Neil Waters 200 lecture theatre.**

Date: 22/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Property lecturer Frank Newman (standing) runs through the investment game with Open Day visitors Tony Williams and his son David Williams, a year 13 pupil at Massey High School.

Playing the investor without risk

A new board game developed by a Massey University property lecturer is attracting interest from would-be investors.

The New Zealand Investment Game is the brainchild of Frank Newman, an investment adviser, market commentator and part-time lecturer in the College of Business property group, based at the University's Auckland campus. The game captured a steady stream of punters on its public debut at the campus Open Day recently.

Although the game is played on a board, it interfaces with a computer programme that changes the variables in the share market, property market and money market in response to the moves made by players. It can therefore simulate many investment scenarios, says Mr Newman. It can also give a skill ranking or investment intelligence quotient reading to players, based on their performance in making investment decisions.

Mr Newman says the game simulates five years of real-time investing in two hours' of play.

“Having a simulator is very powerful as the game becomes very dynamic. It really is like investing in the markets.”

The game is intended for the general market but is also a resource for business education. Mr Newman is the author of a series of books on property and general investment, some best sellers in New Zealand. The New Zealand Investment Game is due to be launched early next year.

Date: 25/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business

Strong presence for university at distance education conference

The University was well represented at the Distance Education Association conference in Wellington this month. The three-day conference, held every two years, was co-sponsored by the University, Open Polytechnic and the Correspondence School.

The conference was an opportunity for staff to meet other distance educators and share work, including the University's focus on research-led teaching. Nearly 200 attended, with about a quarter of the papers presented by Massey staff. The University is New Zealand's largest distance learning tertiary provider, with 16,500 extramural students.

Senior lecturer in plant protection Dr Terry Stewart received the association award for innovative work in supporting distance education, while Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey was the representative on a panel discussion on the future of distance education.

Two Palmerston North-based College of Education staff, teaching consultant Anna Weatherstone and senior lecturer in e-learning, Dr Ben Kehrwald, were elected to the association's executive committee.

Date: 26/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Extramural; Teaching; Wellington



Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey.

Gifted teenagers headed for MARS

Twenty-five gifted pupils from the Wellington region are set to embark on a trip to MARS.

The University is about to launch the Massey Robot Society (MARS), with its first intake of gifted teenagers nominated by their schools to take part in six weeks of training from lecturers in electronics, computer systems, mathematics and engineering.

Project head, robotics professor Gurvinder Singh Virk (pictured) has high hopes for the society.



"It's about engagement with young people and with the wider community," Professor Virk says. "It's also about what engineering is, the importance of it, and to simply excite some interest in it."

He wants them to learn proper engineering concepts, and have real hands-on experiences through the society. "We have to make it fun for them but not talk down to them. We want it to be serious fun."

Already 60 are registered and more applications are arriving, meaning a second intake will likely be arranged for October.

"You could say they're on a waiting list for Mars," Professor Virk says.

After six weeks of training the students work on open-ended robot design and building projects – and work to formalise an operating structure for MARS, which will eventually be a student-run society.

Date: 26/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Wellington



Dr Nitha Palakshappa and Dr Gabriel Eweje.

Companies working with non-profit organisations

As more companies worldwide elect to align with non-profit organisations on social and environmental projects, Massey researchers are studying the effectiveness and benefits of these partnerships in New Zealand.

The researchers say there has been a sharp increase in partnerships with non-profit organisations in line with world trends, but many of the companies involved hesitate to shout about being the good guys.

College of Business researchers Dr Gabriel Eweje and Dr Nitha Palakshappa say that although "corporate social responsibility" is now a popular term, theirs is the first empirical study in New Zealand of these partnerships.

"Our findings confirm that social partnerships can be designed, structured, nurtured and maintained in a manner that will enable them to contribute to solving pressing social problems and to fulfilling important strategic objectives for companies and non-profit organisations," they say.

Collaboration is becoming increasingly essential as organisations grow in size and influence and public pressure intensifies to address social and environmental concerns. The study seeks to learn more about how parties in the relationships benefit, based on a series of interviews with senior corporate staff and people from the non-profit organisations.

Internationally, there are companies reaching outside their core business to build hospitals and schools, provide teachers, support health campaigns and much more. In New Zealand, the proliferating partnerships now include a major power company initiating a scheme with a community trust to supply curtains to poorer households.

The researchers say company managers in New Zealand are increasingly aware of the role their businesses play in the wider social community, yet tended not to seek "irresponsible" gain from the relationship or use the partnerships to publicise their goods or services.

"We know that the multinationals talk more than national companies about the good work they are doing in these partnerships - there are various shades of bragging," Dr Eweje says. "But we have noted in New Zealand that there is a uniquely Kiwi way of working with non-profits.

"Our research demonstrates that social partnership in New Zealand is seen as an integral part of corporate strategy and social responsibility to society.

"Our early evidence suggests that factors such as enduring links, shared understanding, longevity of bridging members, alignment with the institutional environment and structure have all contributed to the successful outcome of these collaborations."

Date: 26/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business

Pacific Peoples report welcomed

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington welcomes the review, *Pacific Peoples in New Zealand*, issued today by the Human Rights Commission.

The review, by Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres, considers the controversy that followed publication of a discussion paper on national immigration policy and the economic contribution of migrants to New Zealand. The paper and associated news releases were written and made public three months ago by Dr Greg Clydesdale, a senior lecturer in the Department of Management and International Business.

Professor Warrington says the review appears to be a thorough and thoughtful examination of the issues that arose following publication of reports about Dr Clydesdale's research.

"Massey University is firmly committed to the principles of academic freedom but equally firmly committed to the highest standards of research, professionalism and ethical behaviour," Professor Warrington says.

"The University did not release Dr Clydesdale's material to the media and never endorsed the content of it. It understands and regrets the hurt caused in some communities as a result of what was reported, but also notes the commissioner's finding that many reports were inaccurate."

The University acknowledges receipt of complaints on the matter. They are currently under investigation. It is not appropriate to comment further until the process is complete.

In a statement issued in May, the University's acting Pasifika Director, Sione Tu'itahi, said Dr Clydesdale's report did not recognise the wider contribution of Pacific people.

Mr Tu'itahi says Massey's Pasifika Strategy – a first for any New Zealand tertiary institution and official policy of the University – reflects its commitment to the socio-economic wellbeing of Pasifika peoples.

Mr Tu'itahi will be speaking at the diversity forum in Auckland today, where the commission's report is being made public.

Mr de Bres' full report can be found at www.hrc.co.nz

Date: 26/08/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; Pasifika



Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington.



Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens and Associate Professor Glenn Banks.

Development agency backs Massey research on mining and tourism

Massey development studies staff have won two of the four inaugural research grants awarded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development.

The agency established the international development research fund to conduct and disseminate research likely to improve development policy and practice in the Pacific.

It is particularly interested in projects involving collaborative research with academics from developing countries.

Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens has been awarded \$34,000 to conduct research on Sharing the Riches of Tourism.

Dr Scheyvens will examine how tourism could more effectively contribute to poverty reduction in Fiji and Vanuatu.

“Research up until now has tended to focus on the negative impacts of tourism, but the locals really want to make it work for themselves,” she says. “We’ll study how that can happen in the Pacific and look at models that have worked in the past in places like the Caribbean.”

She will work with Associate Professor Azmat Gani of the University of the South Pacific and two Pacific Island graduate students.

Associate Professor Glenn Banks, also awarded \$34,000, will work with Dr Bill Sagir of the University of Papua New Guinea on mining and community development in Papua New Guinea.

“The mining companies all have community development arms, but evaluation of them hasn’t really happened,” Dr Banks says. “We’ll be going to a number of mines to see how they’re engaging with the local people, investigating the negative impacts mining is having but also the benefits locals gain.”

Dr Scheyvens says the two projects will help build partnerships with other academics in the Pacific.

“Worked into the grants is funding for students in the countries where the research is focused, so they’ll have the opportunity to be involved in international research and get experience and mentoring.”

Date: 26/08/2008

Type: Research



Top science prize winner Anna Palmer.

College makes connection with young scientists

Topics ranging from fibre in breakfast foods to keeping pets warm were explored at this year's Fonterra Manawatu Science and Technology Fair, sponsored by the College of Sciences.

More than 230 school pupils entered the fair, with their work showcased last weekend at Palmerston North's Te Manawa gallery. Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey addressed the prize giving.

The Institute of Fundamental Sciences awarded 10 statistics prizes, one in physics and biophysics and one in chemistry. The School of Engineering and Advanced Technology prize, the Institute of Molecular Biosciences microbiology and genetics prize, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health prizes in dairy science and in understanding good nutrition, the Institute of Natural Resources prizes for soil, plant and animal exhibits and a prize for both land-based industries and ecology work were also awarded.

Naming sponsor Fonterra awarded the prizes for best exhibits in the fair. Anna Palmer of Palmerston North Girls' High School received the science award for her work Warning Lights while Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School pupils Jamie Morgan-Ward and Luke Cheng received the technology prize for their FIS Flight Information Systems work. Anna's parents Julie and Alan are both Massey staff members, working in the Institute of Natural Resources.

Miss Palmer's project investigated the bioluminescent mucous produced by the native worm *O. multiporus*. Working at ESR in Wellington, she found that this mucous was toxic to *E. coli* but not toxic to the mammalian cell line tested. The mucous may provide antibacterial protection for kiwi, which are thought to eat these worms.

Luke Cheng and Jaime Morgan-Ward developed Flight Information Systems, a pre-flight paging and check-in system that eliminates departure cards and the need to contact passengers via intercom and flight information boards. A pager carried by the passenger can receive messages involving departures, gates, check-in time, baggage, cancellations and delays anywhere in the terminal. It is handed in as a boarding pass and can display in several languages. This could eliminate passengers missing announcements and getting up to the minute information at their fingertips.



Supreme Technology prize winners Luke Cheng (left) and Jamie Morgan-Ward.

Date: 27/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North

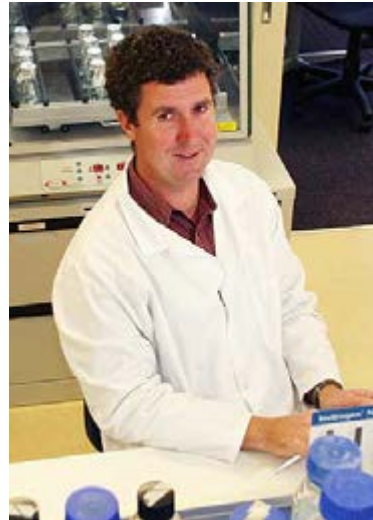
New director for evolutionary research centre

Professor of evolutionary genetics Paul Rainey has been appointed director of the Allan Wilson Centre.

The Government-funded centre of research excellence, hosted by the University investigates New Zealand's unique molecular ecology and evolution.

College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson says he is delighted Professor Rainey will take up the role of director from October.

"I wish to congratulate Professor Rainey, and also to place on record genuine appreciation to Professors Mike Hendy and David Penny for their leadership of the Allan Wilson Centre as its co-directors since its inception," Professor Anderson says. "The centre is well positioned to build upon an already impressive research record."



Professor Paul Rainey in his lab at Massey's Auckland campus.

Professor Rainey joined the University's New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study last year. He is also visiting professor at Stanford, where he is co-director of the Hopkins Microbial Diversity Programme, and senior adjunct researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science & Technology.

He completed his PhD at Canterbury University and in 1989 went to Cambridge where he worked as a post doctoral fellow. In 1991 he moved to a government-funded research institute in Oxford. In 1994 he was awarded an advanced research fellowship, which he took to Oxford's Department of Plant Sciences. In 1996 he was appointed to a faculty position at Oxford, a fellowship at St Cross College, and a stipendiary lectureship at Wadham. He returned to New Zealand in 2003 as chair of ecology and evolution at Auckland University, retaining a fractional professorial position at Oxford. Last year he was elected to the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The Allan Wilson Centre has members from Victoria, Auckland, Canterbury and Otago universities and Hort Research, and facilities at Massey University's Auckland and Palmerston North campuses. It comprises world class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians working to unlock the secrets of New Zealand's plants, animals, and microbes. Questions include how species came to be in New Zealand, how fast evolution happens and how might these processes affect the future. The late Allan Wilson was regarded as the most influential New Zealand figure in the empirical study of molecular evolution.

Date: 27/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences



Professor Anne Noble.

Professor of Fine Arts wins prestigious award

A quest to document the unique qualities of Antarctic light, space and atmospheric phenomena, has seen Professor of Fine Arts Anne Noble granted a United States National Science Foundation artists and writers award.

For Professor Noble, Director of Research for the University's College of Creative Arts, the award plays a critical role in her completion of a major photographic project, *WHITE LANTERN*, which has already attracted international critical acclaim and is to be published in book form as well as exhibited widely around the world.

Professor Noble says she is “absolutely delighted” with the award. “There were 90 applicants and only seven awards granted and only one to an applicant from outside the United States.

“It means I will have six weeks in Antarctica in November and December, and all the logistical support necessary to complete *WHITE LANTERN* in regions as diverse as the Ross Sea region, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, Siple Dome and the South Pole.”

Professor Noble leaves for Antarctica on 31 October. She was first there for two weeks in 2002 as a New Zealand Antarctic Arts Fellow and returned in 2005 with funding from Creative New Zealand to photograph tourist sites on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Already well known in New Zealand and collected by major galleries nationally and internationally, Professor Noble is achieving an international reputation for her Antarctic work. Bill Fox, a world expert on Antarctica, cited her photography as one of the most original representations of Antarctica globally. He published her Antarctic work in his book *Terra Antarctica* (2004) alongside eminent United States photographers Stuart Klipper and Ty Milford.

Professor Noble's work exploring the representation of Antarctica features in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia and Te Papa Tongarewa, as well as other national and regional museums. It is regularly sought by curators internationally for inclusion in exhibitions related to art and climate change.

Last year Professor Noble was accorded a major solo exhibition at the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris. Her work *Ruby's Room* was sought as the keynote exhibition of a new international photographic biennale instigated by Musee du Quai Branly to coincide with Paris Photo, the largest photographic event in Europe. Audiences for her



Christchurch Antarctic centre (2003).



Photographs of Deception Island (2005).

work in this context were significant, with visitor numbers in excess of 200,000.

The book and exhibition *WHITE LANTERN* is similarly destined for international audiences. The book will be published in 2010 and exhibitions are planned for New Zealand, Australia, Germany and the United States.

Date: 27/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Small businesses under spotlight at symposium

The centre for research into small and medium-sized businesses will host a research symposium at the University's Wellington campus on Wednesday, 27 August. About 100 researchers in the rapidly-growing field of study will look at challenges the sector poses for policy-makers.

Professor Claire Massey, director of the New Zealand Centre for SME Research, has been leading a longitudinal study in the sector and says some of the key issues are succession, growth and collaboration.

The centre's flagship survey, "BusinessSMEasure", began five years ago with questionnaires directed at approximately 1300 firms. A research team has visited more than 300 of these and interviewed owners.

In one of the latest legs of the surveys, the succession plans and exit strategies of small business owners were analysed. The researchers found that although 34 per cent of owners wanted to exit their businesses within the next five years, few had a formal succession strategy and many have difficulties working out an exit strategy.

The researchers have also been studying collaboration between SMEs. They found that some of the SMEs working together saw collaboration as an opportunity for business development and growth. They also found that business owners had to overcome three distinct barriers before working with others. These included the perception that collaboration involves high risk; the wish to maintain their independence and the lack of information on suitable firms with whom to collaborate.

The researchers say policy-makers need to take these concerns into account when promoting SME collaboration.

Date: 27/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Conference/Seminar; Wellington

Shortage of Māori psychologists focus of hui in Auckland

Māori psychology students from several universities will gather at Massey's Auckland campus tomorrow for a hui where the main item for discussion will be how to motivate students to complete research, finish their courses and increase numbers in the profession.

Masters student and undergraduate support tutor Taumata Maunsell-Petersen says there is a need for more Māori psychologists and clinical psychologists. "Historically, our students have given up their study for one reason or another, Mrs Maunsell-Petersen says. "Isolation has been a key factor, and the further they go with their study, the less brown faces they see."

Three years ago Te Waka Rangahau Hinengaro was formed as a vehicle for Māori psychology students at Massey and other universities, including Auckland, AUT and Waikato, to share research ideas and help motivate and focus students to complete their degrees.

Te Puawaitanga, the Māori psychology support group at Massey's Auckland School of Psychology, has organised three annual hui. Te Puawaitanga members Mrs Maunsell-Peterson and Bryon Perkins say the main focus is to help Māori students get through to the next stage.

This year there will be two presenters at the hui, both from Massey, who have been through to doctorate level and have an understanding of the issues. They are Dr Te Kani Kingi, Director of Te Mata o Te Tau (the Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship) and Dr Rangī Mataamua, a researcher at Te Pūtahi-a-Toi, Māori Studies.

"There are far more Māori students studying psychology now, even though it is not an easy area to get into. The hui will provide an opportunity for whakawhanaungatanga [relationship building], and networking with peers from other universities. Everybody who attends the hui takes something from it," Mrs Maunsell-Peterson says.

"It's important also for us to be in tune with our community and take what we learn in theory integrate those concepts and develop our own assessment tools to benefit and work within our Māori communities."

Date: 28/08/2008

Type: Research

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



Associate Professor Peter Lineham, head of the School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland, with writing competition winner Monique Fischer (left) and runner-up Leah Chamberlin.

Secondary school writers praise Auckland Open Day

The Epsom Girls' Grammar School year-13 pupil who won first prize in a competition to write a promotional article about Auckland's recent Open Day described the event as “truly unforgettable”, picking rock climbing, live bands, a sausage sizzle and the friendly atmosphere as highlights.

Monique Fischer won a laptop computer for her 400-word article describing details of the events and campus atmosphere that impressed her.

The competition was organised by the School of Social and Cultural Studies to promote Massey's Bachelor of Communication degree. Contestants were asked to write a promotional article about Open Day and were given guidelines regarding angles, content and the need for stylistic fluency and grammatical accuracy. Judge was North Shore Times editor Peter Eley.

Miss Fischer's article, Massey University sets Open Day standard, included quotes from others attending Open Day on 16 August, including a current student who told her the campus was “not just a great working place but a truly comfortable, positive, open-minded community”.

Leah Chamberlin, also from Epsom Girls' Grammar, was second with an article titled A Real Community: Massey opens it up. She won a \$100 Westfield vouchers.

[View Miss Fisher's article here](#)

Date: 29/08/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland



Professor Robert Anderson.

Graduates will build a sustainable future

Future-focused graduates in AgriScience, AgriCommerce and Environmental Management will meet the needs of industry and provide the skills needed to develop New Zealand's economy.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson says the three new bachelors degrees underline the University's commitment to building a sustainable New Zealand.

“The new degrees are in effect future-proofing our agricultural graduates - we are drawing on the strengths Massey has across many disciplines and developing partnerships across developing disciplines to provide the skills needed by industry now and in the future,” Professor Anderson says.

“The BAgriScience is targeted at students planning careers at the interface of science, technology and management in agriculture, horticulture or equine studies - technicians, farm or horticultural managers, fertiliser or seed company representatives.

“The BAgriCommerce, developed in partnership with the College of Business, is for those students aiming at business related to primary production - agricommerce, banking, farming, exporting, rural valuation, rural financing, logistics and supply chain management.

“The Bachelor of Environmental Management will provide the career foundation for managers in resources, environments, catchments and parks, as well as for regional planners and policy analysts.”

The new programmes update the Bachelor of Applied Science that has been run since 1994, and have been developed over two years after extensive consultation with industry, academics, recent graduates and current students. The comprehensive assessment undergone by Massey in response to the Ministry of Education request that all universities define their distinctive contribution to New Zealand education has underpinned the re-alignment.

“There was no doubt that Massey's distinctive future would be built on its long-standing strengths,” Professor Anderson says. “Massey is well-known for agriculture, veterinary and life sciences; land, water and the environment; and business and enterprise. Leadership in these areas has provided the foundation for the distinctive future.

“Massey has a proud tradition in agriculturally-related education,” Professor Anderson says. “It led the development of the 'Applied Science' label when agriculture was seen as a sunset industry and student numbers dwindled. The new BAgriScience label has been deliberately chosen to highlight the new era.”

Support for the new programmes has come from across the University, with the College of Business playing a key role in supporting the BAgriCommerce programme, enabling quality researchers and senior lecturers their input. Associate Professor John Holland, an expert in environmental economics, will lead the Environmental Management programme.

Date: 29/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Still image from *Pacific Washup*.

***Pacific Washup* to show at Busan Biennale**

New Zealand will be represented at South Korea's Busan Biennale 2008 by a work featuring the iconic striped plastic holdall bags used around the world.

The sea art festival component of the biennale entitled *Voyage Without Boundaries* is being held at Gwangalli Beach, Busan and will feature *Pacific Washup*, a work created by Massey Māori visual arts lecturer Rachael Rakena and two New Zealand-born Samoan performance artists, Fes Fa'anana and Brian Fuata, during a collaborative residency in Sydney in 2003. The biennale opens on 6 September and includes 200 artworks by artists from more than 40 countries.

Ms Rakena says *Pacific Washup* (a six-minute video installation) is in DVD format and so is the easiest artwork to transport. She says once it has been shown in Korea it will have travelled to 10 countries, and been to more places than she has. It's been on show in Australia and New Zealand, Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Thailand, Lithuania and Poland.

"It travels easy, unlike a painting or installation that can take a week to install, with this all you need is a DVD player and screen," she says. "It features people washing up on Bondi Beach wearing the striped bags and was a collaboration with Mr Fa'anana and Mr Fuata."

Brisbane-based Mr Fa'anana is the director of Australia's only Pacific Islanders' festival, which is being held this week in Brisbane. Mr Fuata is a writer and theatre-maker, currently working as a drama tutor in London.

Voyage Without Boundaries are tales about harbours as first contact points. All stories indicate that historical consequences can be reinterpreted through artistic imagination and possible reconstruction of events.

"There is a mix of Māori and Pacific people who feature in the bags on the beach," Ms Rakena says. "We were trying to portray the notion of migration across the Pacific, arriving in new lands and having to learn a different language and culture."

"The plastic bags are iconic all over the world; Australians associate them with refugees, Samoan people use them to transport food, Māori use them to take their bedding to the marae, others for storage and in Venice last year, I saw them used for collecting rubbish."

"At the time of making this work, Australia was dealing with immigration issues. Boat people were landing on beaches in north Australia and had been sent away unprocessed as refugees, contrary to international law."

"Back then there were about 26,000 Māori and 43,000 Pacific people living in Sydney. We incorporated themes of cultural alienation, dislocation, and displacement experienced by immigrants into the work as well as a vision of a brighter future and survival of their cultures and communities."

Ms Rakena leaves for the biennale on Monday and will be accompanied by Māori visual arts masters student Kylie Tiuka. “I have invited Kylie to attend as I am at the stage where I think it is important to share the experience of exhibiting at international events with others.”

Expenditure is the overarching theme of the biennale – a major concept of the philosopher George Bataille – meaning consumption, discharge and emission. The biennale will highlight the aspect of expenditure and consumption, rather than excessive production. As well as the sea art festival, there will also be a contemporary art festival based at the Busan Museum of Modern Art and a sculpture project at Naru Park.

Date: 29/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Maori



Aimee-Rose Stephenson appraises an IVF composition that was part of her winning Te Waka Toi scholarship application.

Artist puts human hair under the spotlight

A visual artist who uses human hair in her compositions opens her first solo exhibition in Hastings next month.

Aimee-Rose Stephenson received one of two \$4000 Te Waka Toi scholarships at a ceremony in Wellington on Saturday.

Ms Stephenson, 23, says some people feel uncomfortable when they see her work.

She is in her second year of a Masters of Māori Visual Arts at the Palmerston North campus and is due to complete her degree in February. She joins a long line of Te Waka Toi scholars including Massey graduates Ngaahina Hohaia, Israel Birch, Glen Skipper, Aimee Ratana, Hemi MacGregor and Kelcy Taratoa.

"I'm humbled that my work was considered up to the standard of previous winners," she says. "You apply to scholarships and you're never sure how far you will get with it. I'm stoked to have won. The money will go towards my fees and help with course costs."

She says there is a lot to consider, particularly from a Māori perspective, when using a medium that is body matter. "There are many issues for Māori in relation to dealing with hair. Hair is regarded as tapu or sacred, and the head is an important and significant part of the body. Considerations include where you place it, what you hold it in and how you dispose of it.

"Hair is a potent material; I'm interested and inspired by the way the work is received. People feel uncomfortable."

She consults two of her uncles about tikanga (protocol) issues and says they are her major critics and were apprehensive about the use of hair.

"While they did not initially understand, they realise that I am using hair in my work to challenge my own tikanga. Art should challenge boundaries.

"I have put my own hair out there in a public place and gifted pieces to people. My hair is going into another person's space, I no longer have control over where it is placed."

She says she explored stitching with hair, and developed a microscopic composition depicting the in-vitro fertilisation process. "Some people consider it to be an ineffable or taboo topic. I'm interested in how doctors consider hair from a scientific approach, as a code for an individual's DNA and researched the ideas about hair from Māori and Pākehā cultures in New Zealand."

The work submitted for her scholarship application contained images from her *A Nice White Space* exhibition.⁵⁴⁵

shown in 2006 at Te Manawa Museum, Gallery and Science Centre in Palmerston North. "The submission included a wheelchair lined - and mattresses made - with human hair."

Ms Stephenson grew up in Palmerston North and is of Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Pahauwera ki Mohaka, Rangitāne ki Tāmaki nui a Rua descent. Her parents are from Waipukurau and Waipawa in central Hawke's Bay.

Her first solo exhibition Neither hair nor there, opens on 15 September at the Hastings Community Arts Centre.

"I decided to go home to where my whānau are from. I'm nervous, as it will be my first solo show. I've moved away from ovarian and scientific images to stitching indicative kupu [words] with and about hair, its removal and its bodily location."

Date: 31/08/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Maori; Wellington

Massey hosts Deloitte Business Case League finals

New Zealand's top young business brains are competing in the final of the Deloitte's Business Case League at the University's Auckland campus this week.

The student teams have already pitched their commercial wits in the preliminary rounds of the competition. In each leg of the competition the teams are presented with problematic business scenarios and, using a range of business skills, they are challenged to develop a solution within a tight timeframe. Last year, Massey fielded the winning teams in two categories, including the Deloitte-sponsored event.

The competition is organised by the Student Development Society of New Zealand. Massey's Dr Jonathan Matheny has led the event and the Massey team has been coached by Bill Kirkley. Both are lecturers in the Department of Management in Auckland.

The championship week at Massey University will be attended by visiting secondary schools from across the region and from Northland.

During the competition week, the University's the e-centre business incubator will host a development day, working with the six tertiary teams of business students on a range of business cases.

The Deloitte Business Case League is the premier New Zealand competition for business students.

Date: 01/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



Associate Professor Jeroen Douwes.

Farm kids breathe easier

[Read the BBC News item](#)

Pre-natal exposure to farm animals and plants helps protect children from asthma, allergies and eczema.

Researchers from the Centre for Public Health Research discovered farmers' children had a lower incidence of allergic diseases than children not exposed to animals, grain and hay products. The findings have been published in the *European Respiratory Journal*.

Associate Professor Jeroen Douwes says it is the first study to show a direct link between exposures in utero and a significant reduction in asthma symptoms, hay fever and eczema.

“The risk is further reduced if children are currently exposed to farm conditions and that suggests that current exposures play a role in the continued protection against disease later in life.”

The research team surveyed 1,333 farmers' children and a reference group of 566 children aged from five to 17 years for the study.

It found that children with both pre-natal and current exposure to farm animals were 50 per cent less likely to have asthma than the reference group. Similar results were found for other allergic diseases such as eczema and hay fever.

Dr Douwes says a more detailed study of infants is needed to fully understand the link between exposure and reduction of disease.

“We need more information from pregnant women and their children, so we are continuing to recruit participants to the study,” Dr Douwes says. “In future, we may be able to develop a vaccine that could mimic exposure, or outline how people could make lifestyle changes to reduce the risk of allergic disease.”

The team is looking for pregnant women, mothers and children from both rural and urban areas 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 0800-000-544.

Date: 01/09/2008

Type: Research

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



Ripe rimu fruit (photo courtesy of Department of Conservation).

Geometric model could mean breakthrough in saving endangered kakapo

A mathematical model used to assess the nutrient balance of the kakapo diet has the potential to help solve one of the main challenges to saving the endangered native parrot.

Nutritional ecologist Associate Professor David Raubenheimer may have found a way to get kakapo to breed more often.

While conservationists working to save the species are thrilled the kakapo population has been boosted from 86 to 91 this year, female kakapo tend to lay eggs only every three or four years.

Because of a phenomenon known as "masting", the world's largest and rarest parrot breeds only when rimu trees fruit heavily, which occurs only every three to five years.

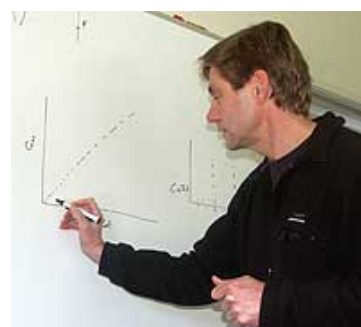
Dr Raubenheimer, who recently joined the College of Sciences' Institute of Natural Resources at the Auckland campus, has been working with the Conservation Department's kakapo recovery team for the past three years on a project to supplement the birds' diet.

Department scientist Ron Moorhouse says Dr Raubenheimer's tool "provides a potential for a breakthrough" in understanding kakapo diet and nutrition. "It could help us understand something we've been puzzled about for a long time."

The mathematical tool, called the geometric framework for nutrition, is being used to try to determine the best food for kakapo in years when rimu trees do not fruit. The tool compares - through graph representation - the balance of nutrients needed by animals and the balance of nutrients in foods. It has been used to analyse dietary components and their consequences for other birds as well as humans, spiders, insects and fish.

Until now, the conservationists have favoured protein-enriched food supplements for kakapo, on the basis that protein is known to be an important nutrient for breeding in many species. But Mr Moorhouse says 25 years of experimenting with a variety of nutritional supplements has not led to a marked improvement in kakapo breeding.

Dr Raubenheimer's analyses suggest that it is unlikely that protein is the limiting nutrient for kakapo breeding, but rather that calcium is.



Professor David Raubenheimer with a kakapo and demonstrating how the geometric model for analysing nutrients works.

"Calcium is needed in high levels during breeding, for the development of egg shells and for bone growth," Dr Raubenheimer says. "It is also significant that kakapo have an unusually large skeleton and hence a high demand for calcium."

Rimu fruit contains high levels of calcium, which might be the reason that kakapo breed only when these are abundant.

Using the tool, scientists will try to work out the correct balance of calcium to introduce to the diet and hope that will lead to more regular breeding and hasten population growth.

Mr Moorhouse says the department hopes to test a new, carefully-refined supplement based on Dr Raubenheimer's analyses as soon as next February if the anticipated rimu fruit masting in this period fails. Otherwise, they will have to wait another season before finding out whether they can trigger breeding with a duplicate of the rimu fruit's unique nutritional blend, or whether kakapo are simply "hard-wired" to breed only when they can feed on ripe rimu fruit.

Kakapo live on two predator-free islands - Codfish Island, off the west coast of Stewart Island, and Anchor Island, in Dusky Sound, Fiordland.

Date: 01/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Artist Keila Martin with her work, *Inhaler Pile*.

Artwork celebrates life-saving asthma research

A tribute to life-saving asthma research captured in a painting by a final-year Massey student was officially launched yesterday at Otago University's Wellington School of Medicine library.

Keila Martin's work, *Inhaler Pile*, celebrates the determination of four researchers who worked to prove asthma drug fenoterol was the cause of increased asthma mortality in New Zealand in the 1980s. The researchers involved were Professor Richard Beasley (NZ Medical Research Institute director), Professor Julian Crane and Professor Carl Burgess (both department of medicine at Otago's school of medicine in Wellington), and Professor Neil Pearce, who now heads up Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research.



Professor Richard Beasley, Professor Julian Crane, Professor Neil Pearce, and Professor Carl Burgess with the artwork commissioned to honour their research.

Wellington's Schaverien family commissioned the painting. Jane Schaverien, whose daughter Polly was severely affected through the use of fenoterol, described the researchers as "four heroes who fought a dragon".

Mrs Schaverien believes the work saved her daughter's life, as well as the lives of many others. She hopes the painting will inspire future researchers.

The four researchers formed the Wellington Asthma Research Group at the school of medicine in 1988. Their work forced the eventual withdrawal of fenoterol, despite strong opposition from the pharmaceutical company manufacturing it, and many medical professionals.

Ms Martin, who is set to finish her Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in painting at Massey's Wellington campus this year, says *Inhaler Pile* reflects her admiration of the researchers' work.

"The intense research process was quite a key idea for me," Ms Martin says. "It was my first commissioned work and quite challenging. I am quietly pleased with it."

The head of Massey University's School of Fine Arts, Professor Jeremy Diggle, who coordinated the competition to find an artist to work on Mrs Schaverian's commission, was also at the launch.

Professor Pearce wrote a book, *Adverse Reactions: The Fenoterol Story*, about the research.

Date: 01/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington



Maddie Leach, Perigee # 11 (detail), Wellington, 28 August, 2008. Photos: Steve Rowe.

Diversity and quality of temporary artworks proving popular

Two weeks and three displays into the year-long nationwide series of temporary artworks called One Day Sculpture, project director Associate Professor David Cross is already delighted with the diversity and quality of what has been on show.

Dr Cross, an associate professor in fine arts at the College of Creative Arts in Wellington, says the first three works have been thought-provoking and popular. "Each has a different focus, but that is the nature of the One Day Sculpture series," he says. "Some we've had and others that are coming up have been – and will be – spectacular; some subtle. It is about difference and diversity."

One Day Sculpture is coordinated by Litmus, the School of Fine Arts' research centre. The event involves 21 artworks across five New Zealand centres. Six of the 21 were commissioned by Litmus. A book about the series is also planned.

Dr Cross says the work by Aucklanders Kate Newby and Nick Austin on 30 August, *Hold Still*, was funny but also had depth. "It was quite a subtle and humorous work. You can see these fake birds, which are pretty humorous, but they speak of colonialism and post-colonialism through their presence in a very English park in a very New Zealand environment."

A Wellington work by Kah Bee Chow on 31 August was more overt in its social and political statements, Dr Cross says. *Golden Slumbers* was set in Haining St, central Wellington, an industrial area that was once the centre of Chinatown and the location of a racially-motivated murder in 1905, when Lionel Terry shot Joe Kum Yung as a protest against Chinese immigration.

The work is partly an imagined narrative of the victim's afterlife, acting as an antidote to his invisibility after his killer gained notoriety from the murder, while he was largely forgotten.

Dr Cross says the work was hugely popular with a wide variety of people coming to view it.

Golden Slumbers and *Hold Still* followed an adventurous work by Massey University fine arts senior lecturer Maddie Leach that launched One Day Sculpture.

Miss Leach created *Perigee #11*; the first of 21 works in the series. It involved three key parts: a renovated



Kate Newby & Nick Austin, Hold Still, Auckland, 30 August, 2008. Photos: Steve Rowe.



Maddie Leach, Perigee # 11, Wellington, August 28, 2008. Photos: Steve Rowe.

cedar-lined boatshed in Wellington's Breaker Bay (shown right), the specified 24-hour time period, and weather forecasts made a year ago by forecaster Ken Ring for a huge storm on 28 August. The forecasts were published in newspapers as part of the work.

Miss Leach says the fact the weather on the day was fine rather than stormy added to the exhibit. "My work often has a sense of expectation of what people bring to the work," she says. "If the storm had turned up, it would have been a very different work."

Dr Cross says One Day Sculpture is about "showing art is beyond big metal objects being dropped in a plaza somewhere. We are trying to build audiences but get people engaging too."

It continues until June next year, with the next commissions including works by Amy Howden-Chapman (commissioned by City Gallery) in Wellington early next month and this year's Govett-Brewster New Zealand Artist in Residence Liz Allan, whose work *Came a Hot Sundae: A Ronald Hugh Morrieson Festival* on 26 October in Hawera.

For up to date information on the project: www.onedaysculpture.org.nz

Date: 02/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Design students tackle online banking project

The chance to create a prototype for an on-line banking security device for IBM gave final-year students at the Auckland School of Design a taste of international banking's most challenging issues recently.

The project was part of a seminar and studio workshop series run by visiting Swiss integrated design consultant Alexandre Robert (pictured).

Mr Robert spent three weeks bringing the fourth-year design students at Massey's design school in Auckland up to date with the latest international developments in integrated design – the industry buzz-word for a new approach towards more holistic design and product development. He says integrated design, including "interface" or "interactive" design, requires an understanding of all the design components, from visual, branding and marketing to technical, functional and sustainable features.

School regional director Azhar Mohamed says the design workshop demonstrated the importance of integrated design. "Designers work not only on hardware and interface solutions, but also question and propose the way we interact with products and systems," Mr Mohamed says. "Mr Robert's visit is very timely as we are currently working to establish research co-operations with local and international partners."



Alexandre Robert holding a mock-up of a desktop banking device designed by one of the Auckland design school students.

As a product/interaction designer working as vice-president for customer experience for financial services company Credit Suisse, Mr Robert set students the task of applying integrated design theory to the creation of a device that IBM laboratory research technicians had been struggling with. He says IBM's model, a hand-held gadget plugged into the user's computer for additional security to protect customers from online hackers, was technically proficient but not easy to operate.

He also teaches interaction design at the Lucerne University of Applied Art and Design and plans to return to Zurich, Switzerland, with the students' designs to see if IBM is interested.

The school, part of Massey's College of Creative Arts, recently launched a new Integrated Design Research Centre to undertake research and teaching focused on the merging of two-dimensional and three-dimensional design disciplines. It will offer an Integrated Design programme from 2010 as a new major within the Bachelor of Design (Honours).

Date: 03/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts

'Isolate Aids' view not shared by Massey

Comments made by Professor Sitaleki Finau regarding people with HIV/Aids do not represent the views of Massey University, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says.

A statement attributed to Professor Finau, that Pacific Islanders with Aids should be isolated from the rest of society, was not made in his previous capacity as Massey's Director Pasifika. Professor Finau is currently on leave until February 2010 while he holds the role of Niue's Acting Director of Health.

"I do not know the context in which Professor Finau made the comments attributed to him by Television New Zealand but note that the veracity of the report has not been challenged by him to date," Professor Warrington says. "More importantly, I wish to assure the public and members of the Pacific Island community that those views are his own and not endorsed by myself or other management of the University."

[The text of the TVNZ article referred to may be viewed here.](#)

Date: 04/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Pasifika

Businesses sign up for entrepreneurship course

North Shore businesses were quick to sign up for the first of a series of workshops on entrepreneurship.

The five-week course is the first of its kind in New Zealand, run by the University's business incubator the e-centre and lecturer Dr Marco van Gelderen. It is designed for those wanting to start a business and for existing business owners wanting to boost their entrepreneurial skills.

Dr van Gelderen, who is based in the Department of Management and International Business, specialises in the psychology of enterprising behaviour. He says the critical factors for enterprise and success that make up the framework of his course are: convincing others, networking, taking action, developing a vision, recognising opportunities, taking risks and persevering

Dr van Gelderen says there is a wealth of research on the behaviour that relates to enterprise that can be easily understood by people who want to set up a successful business.

"I am showing business people how to apply state-of-the-art research to their own context and how to study and practice the soft skills that underlie entrepreneurship."

The workshops are part of the e-centre's management series, supported by Enterprise North Shore, the Tindall Foundation and the David Levene Charitable Trust. The next course will start in November.

Date: 04/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

AUS to host 'long lunches' celebrating general staff

[Download the PDF posters \(1.4mb\)](#)

Massey University's general staff from all campuses have been invited by the Association of University Staff to attend events celebrating and recognising their contribution next Wednesday, 10 September, from noon until 2pm.

The University has agreed to all general staff having a two-hour lunch break to enable them to attend the events, which are part of a national campaign by the association. The association is also encouraging academics and non-union members to participate.

In its Massey branch August newsletter, the association says there has been a push – "and deservedly so" – over the past three years to improve the pay and conditions of academics to improve the international competitiveness of New Zealand universities.

"It is now time to highlight the contribution that general staff make to the life of a vibrant and competitive university," the association says.

The campaign has involved the production of posters, profiling several general staff from each university.

Massey's feature David Feek, a technician in the School of People, Environment and Planning and Caroline Tew, a veterinary nurse at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, both from the at Palmerston North campus; Esther Low, an executive administrator in the Auckland School of Design and; and Martin McMorrow, a learning adviser at the Student Learning Centre, from the Auckland campus; and Kirsty McNeill, an information services and college liaison librarian, and Alan Batson, a workshop manager in the College of Creative Arts, both based at Wellington campus.

At Auckland, the venue is the Atrium; at Palmerston North the Ag-Hort Lecture Block foyer; and Wellington staff will meet on the paved area outside the library. Lunches, refreshments and activities will be provided.

Date: 04/09/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any

Professorial lecture probes the emotional impact of language learning

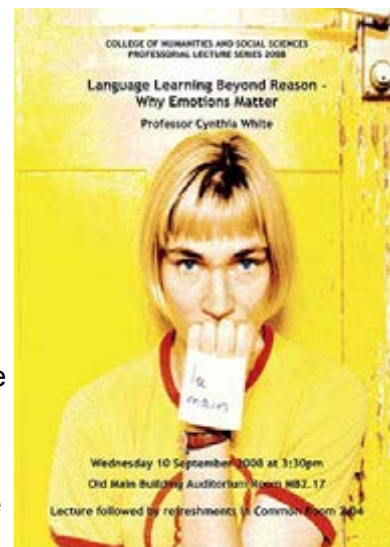
The “emotion revolution” that has taken place in language learning is the focus of this month’s professorial lecture, presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Professor Cynthia White's lecture, entitled Language Learning Beyond Reason - Why Emotions Matter, will discuss why emotion is important when understanding how a person learns a language.

“While learners have made reference to the fact that it’s an intensely emotional experience, the significance has largely been ignored,” Professor White says.

The importance of understanding the emotional journey when learning a language will be put in three different contexts: distance learning, one-on-one learning and the experiences of refugees in a new country.

“Learning a new language is a profoundly unsettling proposition,” Professor White says. “So understanding those emotions will help make it easier to do.”



The lecture will be held on Wednesday 10 September at 3.30pm in the auditorium in the Old Main Building, Palmerston North campus. It is open to the public and refreshments will be served after the lecture.

The remaining speakers in the Professorial Lecture Series are:

10 September

Professor Cynthia White - Language Learning Beyond Reason - Why Emotions Matter.

8 October

Professor Richard Corballis with Alan Sanson - The Race for Relativity: How the Hero of James Joyce's Ulysses almost Forestalled Albert Einstein's Theories.

5 November

Associate Professor Glyn Harper - New Zealand and the First World War in (unpublished) photographs.

Date: 05/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North

Samuel Beckett exhibit on campus

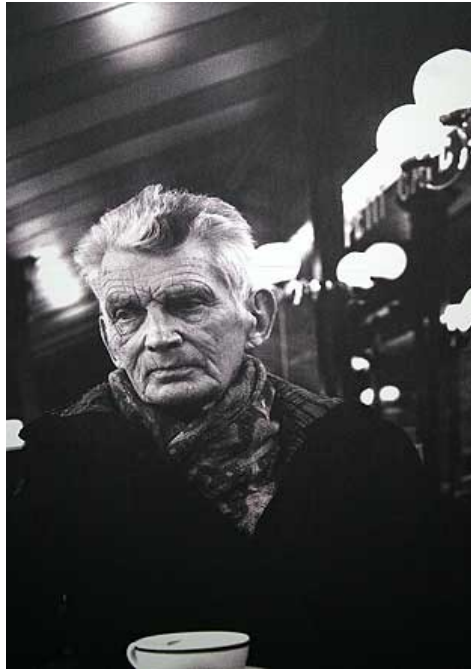
Excerpts from two plays by novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett will be performed next week to celebrate the installation of an exhibit devoted to his life, currently on display at the Palmerston North campus.

Samuel Beckett won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1969, and the exhibit was devised to celebrate the centenary of his birth in 1906.

It has taken two years to get to New Zealand because of the demand elsewhere - in libraries, universities, and cultural centres such as London's Barbican.

The exhibit was displayed in the Wellington Public Library before coming to Massey, where it is on display on the upper floor of the Social Science Lecture block for the next three weeks.

It may be viewed at any time during weekdays and on Tuesday, September 9, at 5pm members of the School of English and Media Studies will host a tour.



An image of Samuel Beckett from one of the display panels.

Professor Dick Corballis will conduct the tour and read a short passage from *Waiting for Godot*. Students will then perform *Come and Go* and there will be a video clip from *Rockaby*.

The display will be replaced by a similar set devoted to novelist James Joyce, who was a close friend of Beckett's.

Date: 05/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North

e-centre business nets innovation award

The University's business accelerator unit, the e-centre, chalked up another success when a company under its wing scooped the Telecommunications Users Association's Innovator of the Year Award.

The awards are presented annually at a gala event for both the largest and smallest players in the telecommunications sector. Less than a year after coming into the e-centre with her on-line budgeting system, Grace Xue has won the inaugural innovator award for her unique business, Who Stole My Money.

Ms Xue believes she is one of the smallest enterprises ever to be among the association's winners. She was also runner-up in the commerce category of the awards, behind Kiwibank's mobile internet banking scheme.

Ms Xue's www.whostolemymoney.com was founded just over a year ago and has 4000 members. Believed to be the world's first on-line personal money management system, it tracks data from the user's bank transactions to sort into spending categories.

Subscribers to the award-winning budgeting system can see their personal spending in several categories including groceries, entertainment and accommodation. They can also set up a spending plan and receive an on-line warning if they are close to the budget limit.

Ms Xue says bringing her product to the e-centre and having the centre's chief executive Steve Corbett as a mentor has been very significant in accelerating the development of her company.

"Although the product was well developed when I came to the e-centre, I have been very lucky to have the people here working alongside me," she says. Now it is very nice to have recognition from the industry experts."

Date: 08/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business



Grace Xue, founder of the award-winning business Who Stole My Money, and her mentor, e-centre chief executive Steve Corbett.

Decision closer on major food tech centre

A Massey University-led proposal for a major food technology centre in Manukau City that could reap \$3.5 billion in new added-value food products is under consideration by the Government's Fast Forward Board.

Food Technology Professor Ray Winger says he is "very excited" that a decision on government funding of \$9 million to create a state-of-the-art innovation centre to provide leading-edge research and commercialisation facilities to the 562 food manufacturers in the area has just been referred to the board after consideration by a team of government officials last week.



Professor Ray Winger.

Professor Winger, Director of Massey's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, has been pushing for the creation of the centre for the past five years. The long-term project is part of a national initiative involving food innovation centres in Waikato and Canterbury, as well as drawing on Massey's food science and technology expertise in Palmerston North and Auckland.

In a presentation to the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology recently, he reiterated the purpose of the centre in Manukau as a means of enabling food manufacturers to develop new products for the national and international markets.

"The current lack of innovation centres is the biggest constraint to commercialisation and added-value production of foods in New Zealand," Professor Winger says.

"We have companies in Auckland collectively generating more than \$8 billion in revenue who have to go overseas to do their development work - giving away their intellectual property and speed to market. It's a fundamental market failure and one that ideally suits government intervention."

The board will be briefed on the project on 6 October, and would be likely to announce its decision early next year. New Zealand Fast Forward is an initiative set up to distribute \$700 million in government funds to boost food and pastoral agricultural sectors. Its board is made up of seven industry representatives. The government contribution, to be allocated over a 10-15 year period, is to be matched by private sector investment.

Professor Winger says a centre in Manukau would provide the Auckland region with an unparalleled opportunity to show the world how innovative New Zealanders are and to accentuate Auckland's place as the "food bowl of the Pacific".

The potential spin-offs for the region in terms of employment, economic benefits and the food and beverage industry transformation are enormous, he says.

Date: 08/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences



Donald Ripia, Massey University's Kaiwahakahaere – senior manager for Maori (Auckland), Inter City Couriers directors Nick Kershaw and Cheree Finlay, and Andrea Davies, Regional Registrar, Auckland, who presented the Massey University Excellence in Technology Award.

University's technology excellence award to courier company

Courier company Inter City Urgent was winner of the Massey University Excellence in Technology Award at the recent Westpac Enterprise North Shore Business Excellence Awards.

The North Shore-based company has implemented a simple-to-use GPS tracking system for client identification of shipped goods throughout New Zealand.

The judging panel said Inter City Urgent has created a near real time dispatch and fleet management system to provide more accurate and current information to its clients.

“This is a great example of Kiwi innovation and can-do attitude to problem solving,” the judges said.

The courier operation ranges from urgent deliveries to large freight jobs and moves items from single envelopes to tonnes of goods. Last year the company won the service delivery category, and was a finalist in the innovation category.

Date: 08/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business



Tevita Funaki with Niue Premier and Massey alumnus Toke Talagi at the recent Pacific Islands Forum in Niue.

Taking Massey to the Pacific

While Pacific leaders discussed climate change and its threat to Oceanic communities at the 39th Pacific Islands Forum in Niue recently, Massey Pasifika representatives were on hand to encourage more Pacific Islanders to undertake study that could provide solutions to the issue.

Tevita Funaki, Pasifika students' liaison adviser for the University and its Pasifika@Massey strategy, attended the annual get-together of Pacific Rim heads of state last month as an observer and ambassador for the University.

He says being at the forum was a fantastic opportunity to network with Pacific leaders from diverse fields and to showcase specific educational opportunities of interest to prospective students. He also came across a number of high-profile Massey alumni from around the Pacific, including the Premier of Niue, Toke Talagi.

Agriculture, aviation, health and environmental planning were among knowledge areas of key importance to Pacificans, says Mr Funaki, but access to tertiary education was often problematic because of cost and distance.

Mr Funaki says one of his key concerns in talking to education leaders at the forum was ensuring they knew about the range of study scholarships available to Pacific Islanders so they could promote them at home. Without such scholarships – provided by government, Commonwealth and aid schemes – the cost of tertiary education was prohibitive to many.

Another concern for Pacific Island parents was pastoral care for their young people while studying in New Zealand.

Mr Funaki says Massey offers a “double layer of support” through its International Office as well as its Pasifika@Massey strategy. Study support centres on each of its three campuses for Pasifika students, mentoring and research seminars for people undertaking Pacific research were among services provided by Massey as part of its unique strategy.

Launched two years ago, the strategy aims to encourage more Pacific Islanders to enrol in tertiary education, as well as to promote more Pacific-oriented research and collaboration between academics and community, business and government organisations.

Date: 08/09/2008

Type: Research

Pregnant women sought for study of childhood diseases

Pregnant women are being sought for new and innovative research that will look at factors during pregnancy and early life that play a role in the development of allergies and diseases such as cancer, diabetes and asthma.

The Centre for Public Health Research is carrying out the study, which will begin in the Wellington region next week, and run for five years, led by post-doctoral research fellow Ridvan Firestone.

“We want to identify what factors can protect people from developing these diseases, and which factors can increase the risk of developing them,” Dr Firestone says. “The most accurate way of finding out this type of information is by following babies from womb and throughout life.”

She says completing the user-friendly questionnaire online once a year requires a degree of commitment, but is not as hard as it may seem.



“The online questionnaire may take up to an hour to complete in one sitting, and there's no other requirements. The website will provide updated information about the study and preliminary findings as it progresses over time. The internet is a fantastic tool to maintain contact with participants, so that follow-up surveys over the next five years won't be difficult or expensive.”

The pilot study, funded by the Health Research Council, will be run in the Wellington region for a year before it is rolled out around the country.

Women aged 16 or over, in their second or third trimester, are sought from throughout the greater Wellington.

The online questionnaire will go live from 8 September.

To find out more about The ELF Study, or to register: Go to www.elfs.org.nz, or Telephone 0800 2 INFANT (0800 2 463 268) to speak to a research team member, or Email us at: elf@massey.ac.nz

Date: 08/09/2008

Type: Research

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

Culturally-inspired creativity puts three Design students in Pasifika fashion finals

Colourful creative garments with a difference have netted high honours for three students who were finalists at Westfield Style Pasifika fashion awards show in Auckland on Friday.

Stephanie Schilderink made the finals of the Asia Pasifika section with a dress (pictured, right) made of organza and bamboo, inspired by her Filipino heritage.

Miss Schilderink, originally from Waihi, is in her third year of a Bachelor of Design, majoring in fashion design at the Wellington campus. This was her first major competition entry.

"I'm half Filipino, half Dutch so I really looked into the Filipino culture for this design," she says. "A lot of people there have to stand on their own two feet from an early age. Life's tough and the people have to be tough, just like the traditional Filipino huts.

"I based my design on the hut, using bamboo strips and light see-through copper organza to reflect communal living and the hut's structure."

All three students who were finalists are taking a fashion competition paper this year.

For her entry in the Traditionally Inspired section, Morgan Cotton of Wellington, took her cues from traditional Maori clothing. Her design (left) is three pieces - a bodice, piupiu (skirt), and cloak. Cut-out and stencilled lettering of Miss Cotton's whakapapa make up the bodice and are printed on the cloak.

She says her first major competition entry was "time-consuming but worth it", having spent "hours and hours" threading red tubing for the piupiu.

Philippa Lake, also a third-year Bachelor of Design student from Wellington, was a finalist in the Urban Pasifika Street Wear category with a black and white geometric dress (right) she made during a holiday break.

"When it was finished, mum said it looked like a Pasifika tattoo so I entered at the last minute."

Lilian Mutsaers, who teaches the fashion competition paper, says the students are asked to design their own brief, based on conceptual inspiration, to translate into fashion designs. She says the finalists' work demonstrated "incredible strength of conceptual development, cultural sensitivity and stage presence".

Fashion programme leader Deb Cumming says the fashion competition paper will become compulsory next year for all third-year fashion design students and she is looking forward to the outcomes. "It is fantastic to see the diversity and strength of design from Massey University being profiled on a national platform such as the Westfield Style Pasifika awards."



Entry by Stephanie Schilderink.



Entry by Morgan Cotton.



Entry by Philippa Lake.

Date: 09/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts



Visiting artist Daniel Belton.

Visiting artist brings internationally acclaimed work to city

Visiting artist Daniel Belton's work has won over festivals in Europe and looks set to do the same in Palmerston North during the coming months.

The Dunedin-based dancer, choreographer and filmmaker has taken up a residency in the School of English and Media Studies until the end of October.

Mr Belton is a graduate from The New Zealand School of Dance. He has performed with many New Zealand and overseas companies. His dance films have been shown at more than 70 major international festivals.

His work *After Durer* recently won the prize for most innovative work at the Festival Internazionale di Videodanza in Naples, Italy, while a more recent work, *Matchbox*, has been accepted by a number of other festivals.

He says finishing the editing of *Matchbox* is a priority while at the Palmerston North campus.

"But I'm also doing some research, using the fantastic library here, on a new piece about the archetypal clown and storyboarding another short film about a robot toy."

Mr Belton says the artist in residence post gives him both the time and money to work intensively on new projects.

"It's also good to have other creative writers around the school to work through ideas with," he says. "Having the opportunity to contribute to the drama papers run by Dr Angie Farrow is also very rewarding."

A screening of his recent work will be held at the Palmerston North City Library on Wednesday, September 24. His work is also being screened at the Film Archive in Wellington throughout September.

Mr Belton will be involved in the Festival of New Arts, which begins in early October and features drama, music, poetry and visual art at venues throughout Palmerston North.

Date: 10/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North

Students primed for day at the races

The racing set will have some competition in the fashion stakes at Awapuni on Saturday when students go trackside.

Tickets are on sale for the student day at the races, an event being organised by sports management student Zandra Turner as part of her practicum paper.

Ms Turner is working with the Awapuni racecourse for the year and says Saturday's event should be a fun day out for students.

"Sponsors have been very generous, so there are lots of prizes to give away in categories such as best dressed and best hat."

The event is being held in the Eulogy Room at the racecourse with a \$30 ticket giving the buyer a buffet lunch and four free drinks.

"There's also a goodie bag with each ticket and, of course, students can have a flutter on the horses if they miss out on our prizes," Ms Turner says.

Working with the racecourse company has provided many opportunities.

"My phone book has probably tripled in size since I started my practicum and working here has helped prepare me for the transition from student to professional," she says.

Tickets are being sold on concourse today and can also be purchased from the students' association office.

Buses will run to and from the racecourse from the University on the day.



Zandra Turner sells tickets to the student day at the races at the Palmerston North campus.

Date: 10/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Feeding time: Wildlife vet Dr Roberto Aguilar takes care not to get his fingers munched.

Hoiho on mend after a little R&R at wildlife ward

One of the world's rarest penguins has enjoyed a three-week stay at the University's wildlife ward. After almost doubling its arrival weight, a young adult hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) is to return to Otago tomorrow and, hopefully, find a mate.

Wildlife vet Dr Roberto Aguilar says the penguin was found extremely emaciated on the Wellington coast. It was initially cared for by the Native Bird Rescue Wellington Trust and was then moved to Massey's specialist wildlife facility.

"It was a young adult and whether it had swum or followed a wrong current, it was very thin and extremely dehydrated. It was doing what we call hock-sitting, where it is unable to stand up properly," Dr Aguilar says.

Yellow-eyed penguins are a true sub-Antarctic species, Dr Aguilar says, and the penguin was either lost or at the very least wandering to have arrived at the North Island. Staff at the wildlife ward, which is sponsored by Shell New Zealand, did the usual medical tests but found nothing other than some parasites.

"We treated those and short of being debilitated there was nothing else wrong," Dr Aguilar says. "It may just have had what we call mal-adaption, that is he just didn't know how to survive properly without access to proper food.

"We started feeding it, making sure it got enough energy and it started coming around pretty fast. It has gone from 3.5kg to 5.3kg and it's gaining about 100g a day. It now looks pudgy, which is good because it's the fat store



The hoiho takes a shower at it's last medical check in the wildlife ward.



that protects them from the environment.”

Although it is not known whether the penguin is male or female, it is being sent back to the Otago Peninsula early tomorrow, so that it will be able to find a mate.

Department of Conservation programme manager David Agnew says the penguin will be taken straight to a site where there are no dogs and the area is bordered by public conservation land.

“We will just let it go on the edge of the vegetation and allow it find its feet - find its way into the sea to fish when it is ready,” Mr Agnew says.

He says there are about 470 breeding pairs in the South Island, with the rest of the 6000-7000 population on Stewart and the sub-Antarctic islands. The penguin will be tagged so that if it is picked up again by the department its history will be available.

The penguin is named for its distinctive yellow headband and yellow iris, with the Maori name hoiho referring to its shrill call. Some hoiho can live until their 20s, with the birds reaching 65cm and 5.5kg.

Date: 11/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science

New vet tech graduates will boost vet workforce

A new degree in veterinary technology will help address New Zealand's vet shortage.

Veterinary science programme director Professor Norm Williamson says the three-year Bachelor in Veterinary Technology will be both applied and academic, providing graduates who can give hands-on and management support for vets.

“There is a recognised vet shortage within New Zealand and this will help reduce the person-power issue. By rationalising vet activity and having well-trained support people we can free up vets' time. Work for veterinary technologists could include radiology, it could be on-farm work like ultrasound scanning or blood sampling, and even record collection, collation and analysis.”

Vet technology graduates are already well accepted internationally, with established courses in the United States, Canada and Australia.

“It's part of an international trend and it's analogous to having paramedical and para-dental professionals,” Professor Williamson says. “There is also an opportunity for the veterinary technologists to focus their studies, completing their final year in a large animal, equine, small animal or business and management tracks.”

The first students will begin study at Massey's Palmerston North campus in February. Open entry allows all students who qualify for university entrance to undertake a pre-selection first semester, the same procedure and pre-selection semester as is used for Bachelor of Veterinary Science students. Progress into the veterinary technology degree will be dependent on grades, documentation of 10 days of practical work experience and an application essay.

The three-year course includes basic physics, chemistry and biology, progressing to anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, diagnostic procedures animal production, and advanced clinical studies. It is anticipated that around 30 students will graduate each year.

The University has also defined a conversion programme allowing people who have qualified from Massey with a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing to complete the Bachelor of Veterinary Technology in a shorter timeframe. Around 25 vet nurses graduate from Massey each year and about 95 vets.

Date: 11/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science



Historian and writer Bill Oliver with Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Emeritus Professor honoured for literary skill

A vital figure in the formation of the University's history department has been honoured with a 2008 Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement.

Emeritus Professor WH (Bill) Oliver was awarded the prize on Tuesday night for his work in the non-fiction field. The award, worth \$60,000, was presented by Prime Minister Helen Clark at Premier House in Wellington.

Feilding-born Professor Oliver was the foundation professor of history at Massey. He taught at the Palmerston North campus from 1964 until 1983 and now lives in Wellington.

His has written extensively on New Zealand history and his books include *The Story of New Zealand* (1960) and the first volume of the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. He has specialist knowledge of Treaty of Waitangi claims and has published several volumes of poetry.

Professor Oliver received an honorary doctorate in literature from the University in 2000 and last year the WH Oliver Lecture was established by the School of History, Philosophy and Classics in recognition of his contribution to history and the humanities.

Kerry Howe, a Distinguished Professor at the School of Social and Cultural Studies who worked with Professor Oliver for a decade, describes his work as "incisive and important".

"At work he was quietly inspirational, very low key, very understated," Professor Howe says. "But when he spoke it was very elegant. He has a very, very sharp mind."

The awards are administered by Creative New Zealand. Other recipients last night were Elizabeth Smither for her poetry and Lloyd Jones for fiction. They receive \$60,000 each in recognition of their significant contribution to New Zealand literature.

Date: 11/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Marine biology researcher Karen Stockin was one of a team from the University to undertake a post-mortem examination of Kelly this morning.

Stomach cancer likely cause of dolphin death

A tumour the size of a mandarin is the most likely cause of death of Kelly, Marineland's last dolphin.

A team from the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital completed a post-mortem examination of the 38-year-old dolphin this afternoon. Kelly had been unwell for several days and died on Wednesday. She had been at Napier's Marineland since 1974.

Wildlife health centre director Dr Brett Gartrell says the main findings were indicators of Kelly's old age.

“But we also found what we think is cancer at the base of her stomach - the mass is being tested and we will know for sure in a couple of weeks.

“What we do know is that she was in really good body condition, and that she had no parasites or long-standing disease other than the cancer.”

The 95kg common dolphin's body is at the vet teaching facility on the Palmerston North campus.

“Her body being used by researchers studying wild dolphin,” Dr Gartrell says, “so there will be some good to come from her death much like the way a human body left to medical research can contribute. Kelly will go on and provide valuable information for comparing to the wild dolphins.”

Staff at the University's Institute for Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences undertake post mortem examinations many times each year, on wildlife ranging from birds to marine mammals.

Dr Gartrell was assisted by Master's student Jodi Salinsky and marine biologist Karen Stockin. Ms Stockin is a research officer and lecturer in the Coastal Marine Research Group at Massey's Institute of Natural Resources in Auckland. Her just-completed doctoral research on the New Zealand common dolphin provides the first substantial scientific data on the species. Ms Stockin says the species has been overlooked by researchers as a result of false assumptions based on the dolphin's name. Despite being labelled common, it is in fact not nearly as common in terms of its abundance as some other species of dolphin.

Date: 12/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science

Hector Medal for mathematician

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin is this year's recipient of the Hector Medal in Mathematical and Information Sciences, awarded by the Royal Society.

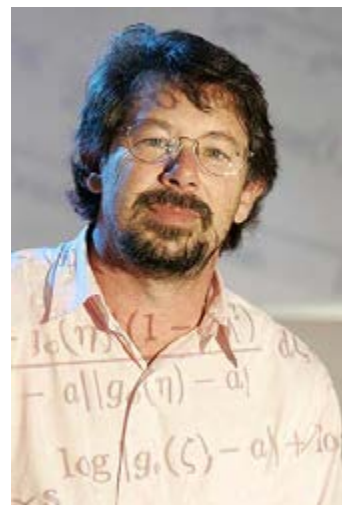
Professor Martin is a founding Professor of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study, a world-leading centre for theoretical research and fundamental scholarship, and is based at the Auckland campus. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

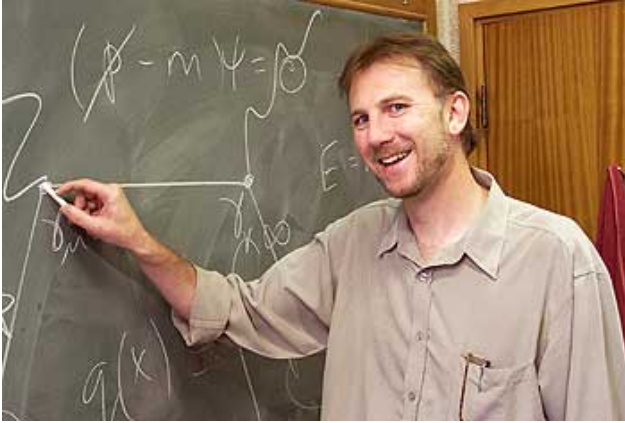
The award is in recognition of Professor Martin's "deep and wide-ranging contributions to the theory of Kleinian groups, geometric function theory and other fundamental parts of modern mathematics, including the solution of a number of difficult and long-standing problems".

Date: 12/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences





Professor Tony Signal.

University physicist on world particle team

Professor of physics Tony Signal is on the international team working to replicate the “big bang” that created the Universe.

Professor Signal says he's been involved with some of the design of the experiment, which will use the world's most powerful particle accelerator, the new Large Hadron Collider, to collide two beams of protons.

“Hopefully we'll see all sorts of new things,” he says. “Obviously the number one thing people are looking for is the Higgs particle which is responsible for the masses of all the other particles. The way we think about mass is really to say how strongly other particles interact with the Higgs, some interaction is very weak and they are not affected while some have very strong interaction. This is really important because it explains the mass of everything and is the last piece of the jigsaw missing in the standard model of physics.”

Professor Signal, who is chairman of the New Zealand group collaborating with the project, says another area of interest is the mysterious “dark matter”.

“What everybody is really hoping is to see something new and unexpected. This could be hopefully be an explanation of dark matter – there's much more in the universe than what we can see. The dark matter is something we can't explain using normal physics.”

The organisation running the collider project is known as CERN, using the French acronym for the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. It has built a 27-kilometre tunnel at its facility on the Swiss-French border. The proton beams have been tested in a clockwise direction, and will now be tested anti-clockwise, with the two beams fired into each other later this year.

“The beams are less than the width of a hair,” Professor Signal says. “They have to enter the tunnel and be precisely aimed to hit each other. When they collide there's lots of energy and that's when we hope to see new particles or phenomena coming out. The energy densities we are looking at are really comparable [to the big bang] but the size is very, very much smaller.”

The New Zealand team was involved in the design of the experiment including part of the central detector, near the collision point. They have also worked on ensuring the beams enter the experimental apparatus correctly so they can collide at the centre.

Professor Signal says he is closely monitoring his computer from the Palmerston North campus to watch the experiment unfold. “Being part of the experiment we have full access to all the data it will churn out and will try and do some analysis of that in New Zealand using our computers connected to the grid.”

He says he hopes to have completed some analysis by the end of the year.

Date: 12/09/2008

Type: Research

Award for iron-boosting kiwifruit and cereal study

An investigation into whether kiwifruit in breakfast cereal could help women overcome iron deficiency has been given a \$5000 grant by the New Horizon for Women Trust.

The author of a doctoral study, dietician Kathryn Beck (pictured) and her supervisor, Dr Cath Conlon, from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, received one of two research grants awarded by the trust this week.

Ms Beck says lack of iron is the world's most common nutritional deficiency and young women are particularly at risk. "Iron deficiency can cause fatigue, decreased cognitive functioning and reduced work capacity," she says.

The grant will enable her to more than double the number of participants in the survey, which is partly funded by Zespri International.

Eighty-nine participants with mild iron deficiency are being provided with a four-month breakfast programme combining cereal with different fruits to assess the impact on iron levels. The grant will enable Ms Beck to screen a further 150 women to take part in the study to identify those with low iron stores. She says dietary intervention is the recommended first treatment for iron deficiency. This can include using iron rich foods or foods high in vitamin C, such as kiwifruit, which increase the absorption of iron. The Wellington-based trust was launched in 1992 to provide grants for women to develop their academic and research potential.

Date: 12/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences



Alumni newsletter: Issue 8, September 14 2008

A bi-monthly newsletter for Alumni and Friends which includes essential information about upcoming Alumni events in New Zealand and around the world.

[Click here to view the latest issue](#)

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- Message from Court of Convocation representatives
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Alumni events

- Auckland Alumni Chapter gathering (Pakuranga)
- Old Rivals dinner – LA Brooks Trophy (Palmerston North)
- LA Brooks Trophy rugby match (Palmerston North)
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- Alumni end of year dinner (Wellington)
- To obtain more details about these events visit our website
- Graduation, Palmerston North 28 November 2008

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Date: 14/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Alumni





Dr Mike Joy.

Whitebait disappearance a 'canary in a coalmine' warning on rivers

▶ VIDEO [Watch the Campbell Live item](#)

Whitebait disappearing from New Zealand's waterways are an indicator of just how polluted our rivers and streams have become, Dr Mike Joy is warning.

“Even if you don't think fish are cool or important, what this is telling us is that the state of the freshwater that we humans depend on is getting pretty bad,” Dr Joy, a senior lecturer in the Institute of Natural Resources, says.

Dr Joy has spent the past 15 years researching whitebait and other freshwater fish, and has found that whitebait have disappeared from about 75 per cent of their expected habitats in Manawatu and Horowhenua. The national group that monitors the fate of the adult whitebait (galaxiids) is reporting a similar level of disappearance.



Dr Mike Joy (right) and Master's student Amber McEwan electrofishing in the Tokomaru River, Manawatu.

“I recently attended a working group meeting in Gisborne and reports from all over the country are saying that the fish that were there 10 years ago cannot be found now. They are disappearing, and very fast.”

Dr Joy says the issue is complex, with the quality of water in rivers being affected both by pollution and hill country erosion, which is sending sediment downstream. His group has tagged 150 galaxiids in the Mangahao Stream, a tributary of the Manawatu River. The Mangahao enjoys pure, clean water from diversion of rainfall from the top of the Tararua ranges into a hydroelectricity power station.

“There is one section of stream up there and adults go there and spawn every year. We have estimated 300 or 400 galaxiids can be sustained in every 200m stretch.”

Impairing the ability of rivers to sustain the fish is sediment. Too much sediment washing into the habitat covers boulders. Galaxiids “hang out” under the boulders and in the semi-dark during the day, Dr Joy says, only emerging at night. “So it's crucial that a stream has boulders and especially, spaces between those boulders because they are a mostly nocturnal fish.”

A key finding from the Mangahao study is that fish definitely prefer the cleaner water.

“We have taken huge 500-litre tanks of water from there and made the water flow through. When we put fish in they make a clear decision on which way to go – they have very good olfactory (smell) senses.

“The analogy is a smoke-filled hallway in a building on fire. If you were trying to run out of the building you'd pick the cleaner hallway, and that's what the stream is like for them.”

The dwindling numbers are further affected by the many New Zealanders catching the juveniles as whitebait and selling them for up to \$150/kg, Dr Joy says.

“Not enough galaxiids are able to return to the streams because of the whitebaiting. Two of those species have the same threat ranking as a kiwi yet selling whitebait is a crucial incentive to get people out there. In the West Coast fishing stands sell for \$60,000. Clearly, it's an industry for some people.

“The Resource Management Act mentions trout specifically – these introduced fish can't be sold and they have so much protection – yet endemic and endangered adult whitebait species have no protection. The trout fishery is probably the most sustainable fishery in New Zealand due to its non-commercial status. If you could get \$150 a kilo for trout, there would be a whole lot more people out there fishing for them – and fishing as hard as they could.”

Dr Joy says his computer modelling, which he has focused on the greater Manawatu catchment, shows him where the galaxiids should be, including the upper Oroua, upper Pohangina and upper Manawatu rivers.

“But they are not there; we have searched and searched for them.”

Four of the five galaxiid species spawn inland in forested areas, at a spring flood. This makes them very susceptible to land use around them, Dr Joy says, while the fifth species spawns on a high spring tide around the tidal zone. In all cases, the spawn hatch and are washed out to sea some weeks later, giving them a head start on their journey in the seas around New Zealand. About six months later, the juveniles are a few centimetres long. Returning to the rivers to the upstream home where they will spend their lives, the whitebait are fished from August to November.

Dr Joy says a few simple measures could protect what is left of the stocks: prohibiting the sale of whitebait in the same way trout is protected, minimising high-country erosion and cleaning up waterways from pollutants including sewage and run-off.

He also believes better monitoring of waterways would provide a clearer picture of their state.

“On a motorway, if you simply measure the cars going through at 11am every morning you would possibly conclude that the motorway is way too big. But you are just measuring at one point in time. In the same way, taking a water quality sample in a flowing river at a set point in time doesn't reflect what may have been discharged over a period.

“If we don't do something quickly we won't have these species any more.”

Date: 15/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Environmental issues; Video Multimedia



Zinzan Deans gets hands-on with his learning.

Trust and security key to pre-schoolers' learning

Flexible learning environments and shared decision-making help create a sense of security for children and teachers that strengthens learning, according to new research findings by the University's Child Care Centre at Palmerston North.

A team of seven researchers, led by centre director Faith Martin and colleague Raewyne Bary, and guided by Dr Barbara Jordan and Cushla Scrivens, the research associates, carried out a study that focused on relationships between teachers, children and families. It questioned the ways in which educational leadership impacted on infants' and toddlers' levels of enquiry – their propensity to try new things and ask questions.

The research investigated a collaborative teaching structure, where such things as the absence of rosters and a hierarchical leadership system allows teachers to create a learning environment based on the needs of the children.

Ms Martin says a sense of security is developed when staff are able to manage and own their teaching environments, and it brings about benefits for the children.

“Children feel secure in a learning environment that is shaped around their needs,” she says. “Consistent, long-term relationships between teachers and children also supported children's individual learning and resilience.”

Ms Bary says the research found that infants and toddlers are more inclined to enquire if they feel secure.

“Children are researchers,” she says. “They flourish when they are allowed to develop their own working theories and step outside the status quo.”

The research also found that when infants and toddlers were not feeling secure (for reasons to do with health, family circumstances or relationships) their level of enquiry diminished.

It found that an indication of this is shown in the way that the children have displayed a strengthened disposition to enquire, which has endured over time and into new situations.

The research concluded that the development of an organisational culture which supports shared knowledge and leadership among staff, has fostered a climate of trust enabling teachers to work collaboratively and develop ways of working with infants and toddlers that supports their learning.

The three-year project was commissioned by the Ministry of Education as part of the Centre of Innovation programme to improve the quality of early childhood services in New Zealand.

Date: 16/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

Extramural Society announces new scholarship

The Extramural Students' Society has announced a new \$3000 annual scholarship to assist tradesmen and women to study at Massey for a tertiary qualification.

Society president Ralph Springett says he will donate the fees he receives as the extramural student representative on the University Council to fund the scholarship.



The society, which represents the University's more than 15,000 extramural students, has also increased its annual scholarship fund from \$5000 to \$10,000 to support disabled students, Maori students and students at risk of withdrawing from study.

Date: 16/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural; Scholarships

Students to muck-in with community groups

A new initiative taking student teachers out of the classroom and into the community got under way this week.

The University's teaching students will now have first-hand knowledge of the communities they will teach in, as a new initiative takes them out of the classroom and involves them with local organisations.

For the first time, more than 100 first-year education students will undertake a community placement as part of their three-week practical teaching experience.

Professor of Teacher Education John O'Neill says students can learn a lot about teaching through hands-on experience within local communities.

"A community placement lets them learn from those who have wisdom and expertise in supporting community development," Professor O'Neill says.

"Community participation gives them another view on teaching and learning.

"We are determined that our students should have at least one significant learning experience based in their local community, to enable them to better contextualise the big issues of globalisation, social justice and environmental sustainability," he says.

Two weeks will be spent, as usual, in a primary school classroom under the guidance of an associate teacher from the school. In the third week, students will be hosted by a community organisation.

Professor O'Neill says the idea is to approach groups and organisations to provide community learning environments for student teachers.

"Community-based groups up and down the country have really come on board with this initiative.

"We would not be able to do this without their willingness to host our students."

Local organisations involved include the Department of Conservation, the Cancer Society, Barnardo's KidStart, the Salvation Army, the Manawatu Ethnic Council, Palmerston North Community Arts Council, the YMCA, SPCA and Special Olympics.

"Some students have already suggested quite ambitious building or restoration projects for next year that would enable them to contribute in a concrete way to their community," Professor O'Neill says.

"That tells us a lot about the value of this placement initiative and about the community-mindedness of the future teachers Massey is preparing."

The University redesigned its primary teaching programme to meet the diverse needs of New Zealand learners and their communities, and the first new graduates will emerge in 2011.

Date: 16/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education

Shooter finds aim in time for championship medal

Standing at the shooting range without a gun was not the start Sam Gregory was hoping for when he lined up at the recent World Clay Target Championships.

His firearm had been lost by the airline on its way to Ireland, but once found, it helped the Massey science Master's student to a silver medal at the event – just two points behind gold medallists England.

Mr Gregory was part of the five-member New Zealand team that lost narrowly to England in the competition, held late last month in Esker.

“When I got to Ireland I discovered the airline had lost both my luggage and firearm so I wasn't able to compete on the first day of pre-world competition,” Mr Gregory says. “It took five days for our guns to arrive.”



Sam Gregory.

Mr Gregory says just qualifying for the open team, which consisted of the top five New Zealand shooters from the pre-world competition, was “a great achievement for me”.

“It was difficult over there because the targets move faster and are lower, so the team probably achieved more than we expected,” he says.

Mr Gregory says he hopes to attend qualifying events for the next Olympic and Commonwealth games in a new event called ISSF Skeet and undertake PhD studies in science at Massey.

Date: 17/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation



Charlie Maling, Dr Cath Conlon and Jack Macpherson at the Tiny Tots early childcare centre for the video launch.

Massey nutritionist spells out healthy infant eating tips on video

A Massey child nutrition specialist teamed up with a Shortland Street star recently to promote a free video for childcare centres aimed at highlighting the need to instil healthy eating habits in infants and toddlers.

Dr Cath Conlon, nutrition lecturer at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Auckland, provided expertise for the video, *Little Sprouts*, developed by international pharmaceutical manufacturer Wyeth Nutrition.

She launched it last Wednesday at the Tiny Tots early childhood centre with Te Kohe Tuhaka – alias Shortland Street bad boy Kingi.

Dr Conlon told parents, caregivers and reporters at the launch that the first two years of life are a real "window of opportunity", and noted the importance of establishing healthy eating and exercise habits that remain for a lifetime.

"In a country like New Zealand, we're fortunate not to see the effects of severe malnutrition very often. But we do see the effects of poor nutrition and we are seeing more children with nutritional deficiencies such as anaemia – due to a lack of iron – and rickets – due to a lack of vitamin D," Dr Conlon says. "We are also seeing more of the effects of over-feeding with even very young children being overweight."

Encouraging mothers of babies in child care to continue breastfeeding by expressing and storing breast milk was another of the key nutritional messages Dr Conlon voiced at the launch of the video, which is being distributed to early childhood centres nationwide.

"The promotion and support of breastfeeding, especially during the first six months of life, is an important foundation for health," she said. "I'm pleased to see that this resource [*Little Sprouts*] supports mothers to continue breastfeeding even if their baby is in day-care by giving mothers good tips on how to transport and store expressed breast milk."

Wyeth Nutrition provided an educational grant for the production of the video to create more awareness among early childhood education providers of the nutritional needs of infants from six to 12 months, as well as toddlers, in their care. Their focus on early childhood centres is in recognition of the increasing numbers of young children attending them.

Mr Tuhaka is a trained chef and presenter of the television show *Cool Kids Cooking*, as well as being a father and passionate "foodie". Dr Conlon says he gave many inspiring tips for parents and carers on getting children to eat healthy foods such as how to include fruit and vegetables in recipes children will enjoy eating and help prepare.

Dr Conlon says there is room for improvement in several areas. Although there are no national data on what children under-two are eating, smaller studies suggest children are not breastfed for long enough, they are introduced to other foods too early (before six months), and given cow's milk too early (before the age of one).

She says it is important breastfeeding mothers are supported, particularly when they return to work.

The current recommendations for infant and toddler feeding can be found in the Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Healthy Infants and Toddlers published by the Ministry of Health, which were recently reviewed and updated by a team led by Massey nutrition specialists Dr Carol Wham and Dr Clare Wall.

Date: 17/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Fashionable graduate on the verge of success

The inaugural winner of a \$10,000 fashion development grant is a former Massey University School of Design student who has already had a taste of success.

Michelle Wilson was yesterday named the winner of Verge's \$10,000 Business Development Grant after showing her Winter 2009 collection at Air New Zealand Fashion Week.

The 25-year-old Auckland-based designer, who shows under the label Michelle Yvette, was one of five to show as part of the Verge Breakthrough Designers Show.

Ms Wilson was inspired by the beauty of Afghanistan and opened the show with models in burqas shipped from the war-torn country.

She was judged the winner by buyers, media and fashion players in the front rows of the show on the basis of whose garments were the most commercially viable.

The Verge Breakthrough Designers Programme offers designers mentoring and support to show at Air New Zealand Fashion Week, including a "boot camp" on topics including marketing and finances. This was the first year a grant has been offered.

Ms Wilson, who completed a Bachelor of Design majoring in fashion design at the Wellington campus in 2004, was asked the previous year to design a shirt for *Lord of the Rings* star Viggo Mortensen to wear at the premier of *Return of the King* after attending his photography exhibition at the university.



*Michelle Wilson, with some of her models, at the Verge Breakthrough Designers Show.
Photo: The New Zealand Herald.*

Date: 18/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Schools struggling to meet literacy standards

An Education Review Office finding that more than half of the pupils struggle to read at a Porirua intermediate school is far from surprising, according to Massey literacy researchers who have found that one in five children have difficulty reading and writing.

College of Education Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor James Chapman says that while Brandon Intermediate's report is concerning, many schools are struggling to meet the literacy needs of their pupils.

"New Zealand has shown poor literacy achievement results in international and local surveys for well over a decade," he says. "It simply reflects that many schools throughout New Zealand have received inadequate support and advice about effective literacy teaching methods."

Professor Chapman says he sympathises with those who see the effort put into improving literacy standards and who have little to show for it, but that different and more appropriate teaching methods would provide different and far more positive results.

"The effective teaching of literacy requires well-trained teachers who are knowledgeable about effective research-based teaching approaches," he says.

"Teacher aides perform a valuable support role for classroom teachers but effective literacy teaching requires highly-trained teachers and specialists."

Professor Chapman says that in order for literacy learning to be more effective, teachers must be up to date on contemporary and research-supported approaches.

"Passing literacy problems off to school support workers who have less training is not an appropriate way to address the very serious challenges of poor literacy achievement in New Zealand."

Date: 18/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Government Policy commentators



Ritchie de Montalk.

It takes more than technical skills to make pilots

There is a need to broaden the base of pilot training beyond the technical skills needed to fly an aircraft, says one of the longest serving staff at Massey's School of Aviation, and a veteran of the industry, Ritchie de Montalk.

Mr de Montalk has just completed his PhD in Aviation which focused on the case for teaching non-technical skills in order to develop greater proficiency in pilots graduating from basic flying training programmes. He found that while the industry perceives training in technical skills to be highly satisfactory, there is less commitment to the value and teaching of non-technical skills like leadership, management and organisational focus.

At Massey, Mr de Montalk is the manager of aviation safety, chief flight examiner and the co-ordinator for a paper on crew resource management that is part of the Bachelor of Aviation programme. He came to the University's School of Aviation with extensive flying experience and has held a number of senior roles internationally within the airline industry.

“Currently training focuses largely on the technical aspects of flying an aircraft. The graduating pilots come out with a licence but at this stage of their careers they are not yet acceptable as employees to a bigger airline. They have to accumulate hours and hours of flying experience in order to be acceptable as pilots to larger airlines.

“But the whole assumption that hours logged means proficiency gained, is questionable. There is a flawed assumption that somehow, something will occur in their overall development just because they have accumulated more flying hours.

“In effect, they have been released into the aviation world, largely unsupervised and expected to somehow become equipped with a broader range of skills and competencies that can in fact take years to acquire.

“In New Zealand standard commercial pilots seeking employment in the airlines receive little education for their future roles. By nature, pilots tend not to be company people. The plane is their office and their working world and they don't necessarily identify with the company they are working for. They don't have much understanding of its strategies and objectives or of the other skills that go into running the organisation.”

Mr de Montalk says that although the subject of 'human factors' is now a curriculum requirement in pilot training, there should be more emphasis on developing non-technical skills from the onset of any pilot training course.

School of Aviation general manager Captain Ashok Poduval says Mr de Montalk's work is very useful for the school.

“We have a unique programme that integrates regulatory flight training requirements with academic papers to build these very non-technical competencies in our students. This is supported by a state-of-the-art flight simulator that is used in conjunction with flight training to create a well rounded programme.”

Date: 18/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation; Palmerston North

Graduate scoops business award

A global aviation tracking company using technology developed by Massey mechatronics graduate James McCarthy has been named the supreme winner at the Manawatu Business Awards.

Spidertracks was named the Emerging Business category winner at the awards dinner, held in Palmerston North last night. Mr McCarthy and former University staff member Don Sandbrook developed the Spidertracks system to combat radar blackspots – areas where no radar coverage exists – meaning planes can now be located at all times.

Mr McCarthy worked with the University's School of Aviation to trial the system in its earlier stages and now, in a significant commitment to safety, the School has bought five units. The palm-sized Spidertracks unit picks up a global positioning systems (GPS) signal giving the plane's position, transmits it to the Iridium satellite network and beams it down to servers in Australia and Wellington. From there the signal travels via the web to the operations base. In real time, the route of the craft is overlaid onto Google Earth maps. Updates on the position of the plane appear every few minutes for as long as there is a power supply to the Spidertrack unit.



James McCarthy.

Spidertracks is different from all other satellite tracking systems because Mr Sandbrook discovered a way to integrate a GPS receiver and satellite transmitter into one unit, without the need for external antennae – the first time this had been done. Spidertracks is now used by helicopter, fixed wing and land-based operations in more than 26 countries.

The University sponsored the Emerging category, with the award presented by Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Dr Sandi Shillington. Convenor of judges was lecturer Dr Shirley Barnett, with Klaus Buhr and Bill Wilson, all from the University's College of Business.

Other award winners were: Focal Point Cinema (Discovering Manawatu Award), Baker No-Tillage (Generating Award), Enable New Zealand (Spirit of the Community Award), Glow Studio (Solo entrepreneur Award) and Steve Lange (Lifetime Service Award).

Date: 19/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North



James George.

Auckland author wraps up Writers Read series

An Auckland writer is the final author to read work in this year's Writers Read series. James George's fourth novel, *Theme from an Imaginary Western*, will be published later this year and he is working on a new novel, *Two Rivers*.

This year's series has been held at the Palmerston North City Library and on the Wellington Massey campus, and is co-sponsored by the School of English and Media Studies and the Palmerston North City Library.

Mr George, who is of Ngapuhi, English and Irish descent, started writing in 1995 after his mother died, and published his first novel, *Wooden Horses*, in 2000.

A more recent novel, *Ocean Roads*, was shortlisted for the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book in the South East Asia and South Pacific region, as well as in the fiction category of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2007.

The Writers Read series has featured authors including Mary McCallum, a creative writing tutor on the Wellington campus, whose first novel *The Blue* won two awards at this year's Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

The Wellington event is being held on the campus on 25 September from 6pm to 7pm at 5D16 followed by refreshments and a question and answer session. RSVP to wgtnevents@massey.ac.nz or 04-801-5799 ext 6696.

The Palmerston North event is scheduled for 26 September at 7pm at the Palmerston North City Library, with refreshments from 6pm. The reading is free and all are welcome.

Date: 19/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; Wellington



Associate Professor Alex Chu, Professor Hugh Blair and Professor Steve Morris.

'Three brothers' will boost lambing output

Enabling New Zealand farmers to produce lamb year-round is the backbone of a tripartite agreement between Massey University and two Chinese institutions, but the benefits will be much greater, Professor Hugh Blair says.

The partnership is between Massey, Peking University and Xinjiang's Shihezi University, with the Chinese Government-funded project enabling collaboration to identify gene markers that allow non-seasonal lambing in selected breeds of Chinese sheep.

Professor Blair says that if New Zealand sheep were able to breed year-round in some areas, it would be a further tool for the industry.

"It's not about changing the industry," he says, "and many farmers wouldn't dream of lambing out of season. But up to about a fifth of sheep farmers do have a suitable climate and providing lambs out of season would mean being paid a premium for them."

The research is focusing on the Chinese Hu-Yang sheep.

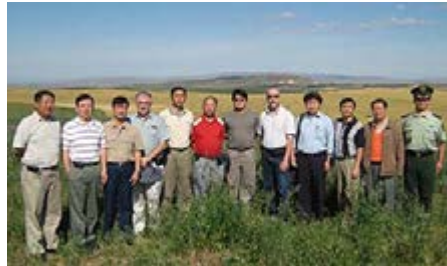
"We know that tropical breeds have a greater chance of breeding year-round because, of course, they don't have a winter," Professor Blair says. "We were in Xinjiang last year in August – our equivalent of February climate and season – and there were lambs on the ground."

In New Zealand, most sheep breed between February and June, with some minor breeds breeding between November and August. "For most of our breeds, as daylight hours are decreasing the animals come into cycle and that means they will drop their offspring in the spring. This is sensible from an evolutionary point of view but for farmers it's a huge spike in supply and the work is also very seasonal," Professor Blair says.

If New Zealand farmers are to adopt an intensive lambing system that requires ewes to get pregnant at any time of the year, we require access to genetics that are not currently in New Zealand, he says.

The Hu-Yang sheep cannot simply be transported to New Zealand because with ewes weighing around 30kg, they are too small to be profitable.

"What we need to do is find the genes that enable the year-round breeding and then move them to any breed we think is suitable," Professor Blair says.



Deputy Commander Yang, Professor Ma, Professor Yan, Professor Morris, Professor Yu, Associate Professor Alex Chu, Professor Gao, Professor Blair, Professor Li, Professor Dai, Professor Zhao, (soldier unknown).

The partnership is working with the International Sheep Genomics Consortium to gain access to their genetic tools, and Professor Blair has been made an Honorary Principal Investigator in the Chinese Academy of Science to enable him to represent the Chinese partners in the consortium.

Professor Blair worked on the agreement with Associate Professor Alex Chu, former Massey international liaison and special projects adviser. Now retired, Associate Professor Chu remains involved in this key Chinese collaboration. The pair, with Professor Steve Morris and Dr Paul Kenyon, have visited China several times, including a visit to remote farms bordering Kazakhstan, where the farmers are in fact soldiers settled on the land by Chairman Mao.

Professor Blair says that by the end of this month, he hopes to have collected DNA samples from several Chinese breeds of sheep for the international consortium as a first step in developing the genetic tools to assist in looking for the DNA markers which correspond to out-of-season breeding. A target date of 2011 has been set for proving the marker genes exist.

“But the work is likely to also find other things of interest,” Professor Blair says. “We may find out about disease resistance or meat quality characteristics for example – there’s always a degree of serendipity when you explore. We’re also seeing opportunities for our staff and students, Master’s and PhD, and for Chinese staff and students to travel to Massey.”

The Chinese Government has funded the project by around \$750,000.

Date: 22/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

Wellington students battle for supremacy in annual apartment versus flats games

Wellington campus students finished a day's competition in Friday's Abode Challenge with a few circuits on a keg-racing track before a prize giving and a spit roast dinner.

The annual challenge sees students from private flats and university-run apartments competing in sports and other activities, including indoor soccer, basketball, netball, and poker.

The overall winners were Team Flats, who took out the basketball and poker, while students from the combined Te Awhina and Basin Reserve apartments team won the indoor soccer.

The day is organised by staff of Events and Accommodation Services, the recreation centre, "BPM", Tussock Bar and Café and the students' association.

Caption: Third-year engineering student Clarke Cameron tests his skills on the keg racing circuit at the university's third annual Abode Challenge.

Date: 22/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Wellington



Home affordability improves again in last quarter

Home affordability has improved for the third consecutive quarter, says the latest report on home affordability from the University's Real Estate Analysis Unit. In the three months to 31 August, eight out of 12 regions showed improved affordability.

Affordability is based on a formula that looks at wages, house prices and mortgage interest rates.

Unit director Professor Bob Hargreaves says the housing cycle is still in the downturn phase, with sales at very low levels and sellers accepting lower prices than they could have achieved 12 months ago.

National affordability has improved by 4.1 per cent over the year to the end of August. The nine regions showing improved affordability on an annual basis were: Northland 10.5 per cent, Canterbury/Westland 4.8 per cent, Auckland 4.3 per cent, Taranaki 0.9 per cent, Waikato 0.7 per cent, Otago and Hawkes Bay each 0.6 per cent, Central Otago Lakes 0.4 per cent and Nelson/Marlborough 0.2 per cent.

In Wellington affordability has not moved over the year. The only regions showing an annual decline in affordability were Manawatu/Wanganui 10.5 per cent and Southland 7.4 per cent.

On a quarterly basis the Northland region showed the greatest lift in affordability at 19 per cent followed by Southland 10.8 per cent, Taranaki 8.1 per cent, Auckland 4.8 per cent, Manawatu/Wanganui 2.6 per cent, Hawkes Bay 2.3 per cent, Canterbury/Westland 2.2 per cent, Nelson/Marlborough 0.6 per cent.

However affordability declined in Waikato 3.1 per cent, Otago 1.1 per cent, Central Otago Lakes 0.4 per cent and Wellington 0.3 per cent. Central Otago Lakes continues to be the least affordable place to buy a home followed by Auckland then Nelson/Marlborough.

For further details: <http://property-group.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 22/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Psychologist leads global task force to tackle poverty

Psychologists throughout the world have responded to an initiative by a Massey academic who wants organisational psychologists to do more to combat poverty.

Professor Stuart Carr, based at the School of Psychology in Auckland, launched a global task force earlier this year to encourage organisational psychologists worldwide to become involved in a United Nations lobby group. One of the UN's millennium development goals is to halve human poverty by 2015.

Professor Carr (pictured) says the group has become truly international, with representatives from low- and high-income economies, diverse cultures and regions of the globe. "Our argument is that organisational psychology can incorporate both a humanistic dimension and promote greater effectiveness and efficiency in a range of approaches designed to tackle poverty – from direct foreign investment to business partnerships and community," he says.



Stuart Carr.

Although poverty reduction tactics commonly revolve around economic development to overcome material deprivation, he says organisational and industrial psychologists have an important role to play in working with aid organisations by highlighting human factors that determine how effectively they reduce poverty.

The global taskforce would bring the benefits of work/industrial/organisational psychology to bear on the reduction of human poverty, by "playing a key role in the consultation, design, delivery and evaluation of international aid", he says in a paper on the venture shortly to be published in the *Journal of Organisational Behaviour*.

Psychologists can also assist in strengthening partnerships on which aid development depends as well as providing "essential human services to health, education and industry".

Organisational psychologists' contribution to poverty reduction could include ensuring "harmonisation" between donor agencies and "alignment" of agencies with local priorities.

The taskforce, which includes members from Uganda, the United States, Italy, Hong Kong, Ireland and New Zealand, arose from the Poverty Research Group Professor Carr founded in 2006. The group's multi-disciplinary team collaborates with leading researchers and policy analysts worldwide to help make a difference in human development and social justice. The group has researched issues such as the impact of salary discrepancies between aid workers from developed nations and those of the donor country they work with.

Prior to coming to Massey, Professor Carr spent four years working at the University of Malawi. He says the experience of witnessing first-hand the tragedy of children dying of preventable diseases such as malaria, or from and lack of access to health care services, haunted him and strongly influenced his subsequent academic focus.

To harness support for the taskforce, Professor Carr is co-editing a Global Special Issue on Psychology and Poverty Reduction, incorporating contributions from 11 international psychology journals on the shared theme of the relationship between psychology and poverty reduction, to be published in 2010.

See link: Poverty Research Group <http://poverty.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 22/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

\$5.4m Marsden funding boost for Massey researchers

Eleven research projects led by Massey staff have been awarded a total of \$5.4 million in funding over the next three years from the Marsden Fund administered by the Royal Society.

The society today announced \$54 million in total funding for leading-edge research projects in the sciences, engineering, maths and information sciences, social sciences and humanities, mostly to universities but also to Crown Research Institutes.

Massey was awarded seven Marsden grants and four Fast Start grants, which are designed to support outstanding researchers early in their careers.

Marsden Fund Council chairman Dr Garth Carnaby says the funded projects have been thoroughly reviewed internationally and are of excellent quality.

“The fund sits at the discovery end of New Zealand's research spectrum, allowing our best researchers freedom to explore their own ideas,” Dr Carnaby says. “It represents a government investment in the creation of cutting-edge knowledge through scholarly research.”

Last year, the University received eight new research projects led by University staff and four Fast Start projects for emerging researchers, with funding totalling \$5.86m over three years.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says Marsden grants are awarded in a highly competitive environment and those receiving these prestigious awards can be very proud of their achievements.

“The significant number of grants awarded both to established and to new staff at Massey reflects very well on the continued high standards of research being undertaken at the University,” Professor Warrington says.

Marsden grants:

Professor Nigel French, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, receives \$740,000 for a project entitled *Cows, Starlings and Campylobacter in New Zealand: unifying phylogeny and epidemiology to gain insight into pathogen evolution*.

“The introduction of European wildlife and livestock into New Zealand has provided a unique opportunity to study the evolution of a globally important human pathogen: *Campylobacter jejuni*. Using analytical tools developed by our research team and detailed laboratory studies including whole genome sequencing, we aim to exploit the newly-discovered host specificity of *C. jejuni* strains and the historical separation of both host and bacterial populations, to improve our understanding of *C. jejuni* evolution. Ultimately we can learn why *C. jejuni* emerged to become such a prominent pathogen, anticipate further evolution and restrict emergence and spread of new strains.”

Professor Paul Rainey, Institute of Molecular Biosciences, receives \$880,000 for *The evolution of multicellularity*.

“The origin of multicellularity is one of the most perplexing and exciting problems in biology. Recent empirical work has led to recognition of shortcomings with existing theory. Together the applicants have formulated a radically new theory, which shows that tension among levels of selection can fuel (rather than impede) transitions in individuality. A key realisation is that the fitness of higher and lower levels is intimately linked so that cells at each level can be considered at different stages of a life cycle. This proposal seeks to extend recent theory, test key predictions and experimentally recreate an evolutionary transition.”

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, receive \$740,000 for the project *The variation of fundamental constants in space-time*.

“Fundamental constants like the speed of light, Planck constant or gravitational constant play defining roles in physics and chemistry. Modern theories attempting to unify all four fundamental forces of nature suggest that all fundamental constants may vary in space and time. The search for such small variations currently constitutes one of the most exciting areas of physics. For further progress in this area it is important to find enhanced effects of the variation of fundamental constants. We therefore want to find suitable molecules, perform calculations and stimulate new searches of the variation effects both in cosmic and laboratory molecular spectra.”

Professor Martin Hazelton, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, receives \$310,000 for his project *New tools for statistical inference for network-based transportation models*.

“Network-based models of road traffic systems underpin a vast array of transport management and planning activities. In practice they must be calibrated for the traffic system under consideration, giving rise to a wide range of statistical inference problems. The most readily available type of data for fitting transport models comprises traffic counts on a set of network links. However, these do not uniquely determine the route flows, leading to a statistical linear inverse problem structure. By focusing on this common structure, our aim is to develop improved tools for inference with wide applicability in transportation science.”

Dr Carlo Laing, Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, receives \$454,000 for his study into *Complexity reduction in neural models*.

“Recent advances have led to increasingly detailed models of neuronal networks. These models are time-consuming to simulate, and understanding their 'essence' is difficult. Recently developed 'equation-free' (EF) methods enable one to analyse and efficiently simulate complex, multi-scale systems. We aim to use EF methods to analyse several neural models, including the complex respiratory neural network. The techniques involved include identification of low-dimensional variable(s) which describe the macroscopic dynamics of the network, and bifurcation analysis in terms of these variables. Our goal is to provide an understanding of such networks that cannot be found in any other way.”

Professor Mick Roberts, Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, receives \$462,000 for his project entitled *Modelling a virus*.

“Viruses multiply and evolve within their hosts. A virus is in conflict with its host's immune system. Transmission of a virus to a new host, even one of the same species, introduces it to a different environment and different selection pressures. Transmission of a virus between hosts of different species may result in unexpected consequences for host or virus. Mathematical models will describe the within-host evolution and between-host transmission of a virus. Thought experiments carried out on the models will reveal how the virus' characteristics and environment determine how it spreads. The results will be related to HIV and influenza.”

Professor Kerry Chamberlain, School of Psychology, receive \$645,000 for his study *Social meanings of medication*.

“Medications abound in contemporary society, and many people believe there is 'a pill for every ill'. This project explores the social meanings of medications and their use within everyday life in domestic settings. Specifically, we will sample three types of households: those containing younger children, people with chronic illness and users of alternative medications. Information will be sought through interviews, discussions, observations, diaries and photographic tasks, and from the contents of first aid kits and medicine cabinets. Our aims are to discern what medications are present, their pathways through such households, their symbolic meanings, and social practices involving their use.”

Fast Start grants:

Dr Wayne Patrick, Institute of Molecular Biosciences, receives \$300,000 for his study *Where do new enzymes come from*.

“All species must adapt to survive in changing environments. However, the molecular mechanisms that underlie adaptation are poorly understood. My goal is to understand a key aspect of adaptation: the origins and evolution of new enzymes. I propose to use the high-throughput tools of functional genomics and in vitro evolution to observe the emergence of hundreds of new enzymes in the model organism, *Escherichia coli*. This work will provide unique genome- and proteome-wide insights into the fundamental biological processes of adaptive molecular evolution, as well as into applied problems such as the evolution of antibiotic resistance.”

Dr Steffen Lippert, Department of Commerce, receives \$300,000 for *Venture capitalists and intellectual property*.

“Venture capitalists (VCs) often finance early stage innovations that are too preliminary for patent protection, and are kept secret instead. This secrecy provides VCs with an information advantage, inducing stronger incentives for them to invest into innovations than for traditional players.

Therefore, the common wisdom suggesting that better intellectual property (IP) protection fosters innovation may be wrong, implying that policy-making could benefit from economic research on the link between IP protection and VC financing. Hence, we propose to use economic modelling to investigate this link and to test our predictions empirically, aiming at sound theory-based policy recommendations for fostering innovation.”

Dr Leigh Signal, Sleep/Wake Research Centre, receives \$300,000 for *Waking up can be hard to do: unravelling the dynamics of sleep inertia*.

“How the brain transitions in and out of sleep remains a fundamental unsolved mystery of neurobiology. On 602

awakening, consciousness returns before full waking function. The poor performance and grogginess experienced in this transitional period is known as sleep inertia. Two studies will be conducted that systematically manipulate the factors affecting the magnitude and time course of sleep inertia after short periods of sleep at different times of the day and night. The proposed research will significantly advance basic scientific understanding of dynamics of sleep inertia and is directly relevant to the issue of workplace napping in safety critical settings.”

Dr Ingrid Horrocks, Department of English and Media Studies, receives \$220,000 for her study *Reluctant wanderers: women re-imagine the margins, 1775-1800*.

“This project will explore how and why the figure of the female wanderer became important in late 18th century British literary culture. There is a significant understudied corpus of literary texts from the last three decades of the 18th century that foreground this figure. Reluctant Wanderers will analyse the uses to which the figure of the wanderer is put in texts by Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Smith, Frances Burney, Ann Radcliffe and other women writers, critically examining their content, context and formal attributes to reveal a uniquely female contribution to wide-ranging debates about the nature of sympathy, community and social exclusion.

Date: 23/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Funding; Palmerston North; Wellington



Dr Ray Kemp, Roly Freaan's daughter Nicola Freaan and Tina Makereti.

Writing prize goes to teacher-turned-student

A change of direction has paid off for a former associate professor in computer science who has been awarded a top undergraduate prize as a student of the School of English and Media Studies.

Dr Ray Kemp, who previously worked in the former Institute of Information Sciences and Technology at Massey, has been awarded the RG Freaan prize for critical or expository work.

The prize is awarded each year to the two best undergraduate works, with one also given in creative writing.

Dr Kemp's essay *Did Hedda Gabler and Miss Julie have to Die* was written for the third-year modern drama paper.

He says studying English has been a great way to keep his mind ticking over in retirement.

"I had always enjoyed English at school but was brought up in an era where you were either specialised in the sciences or the arts with no opportunity to mix and match," he says. "It is said that in cricket, a bowler gets more satisfaction from getting a good score with the bat than by taking a lot of wickets. In a completely different context I can now appreciate that sentiment."

The prize for creative writing was won by Tina Makereti for her work *Kuia*, who says the award has given her confidence as a writer a great boost.

"Feedback in this form is very encouraging, particularly as writing can be such an isolated activity," Ms Makereti (Ngati Tuwharetoa, Te Ati Awa, Ngati Rangatahi and Moriori) says. "Sometimes it is only through affirmation of this kind that you learn whether your work connects with others in a meaningful way."

English lecturer Dr Sarah Ross helped judge the awards.

"The standard of entries was very high this year and the school is delighted to be able to celebrate students' achievements with this award in two vital branches of the programme."

The prize, worth \$1000 to each winner, is named after Professor Roly Freaan who was the University's foundation Professor of English.

Date: 23/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Disaster specialist warns NZ ain't seen nothing in past 70 years

A free public lecture will be given next week by a Massey University disaster researcher who says New Zealanders have become too complacent after 70 relatively benign years.

An intense curiosity about volcanoes at age 13 has turned into a life's work on surviving disasters for Dr David Johnston.

Dr Johnston (right), director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research run by GNS Science and Massey, will give a public lecture titled *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down: Surviving Future Disasters in New Zealand* on 2 October.



Dr David Johnston.

"I was fascinated with the [1980] Mt St Helen's eruption when I was in third form," Dr Johnston says. "And I guess I have continued with that, but now I get paid for my school projects."

As well as supervising six doctoral students and teaching two emergency management papers at the University, he has ongoing national and international collaborative projects on tsunami warning options, and pandemic and earthquake preparedness.

"A lot of people seem to think of hazards and disasters from personal experience but we [New Zealanders] ain't seen nothing yet," Dr Johnston says. "We have had a very benign 70 years. The good thing is it doesn't bring death and destruction but it has lured people into a false sense of security. Sooner or later we will be hit by something beyond the experience of most New Zealanders.

"We all think we have more immediate things to deal with. We know what we need to do but assume we can always do it tomorrow. I want to make disaster preparedness part of mainstream activities, not an add-on. If people think about it, engage in it and discuss it, they are more likely to prepare. It's actually about the community taking ownership."

In his lecture, he will paint a picture of New Zealand's history, and look at some of the lessons from overseas disasters.

"People talk about natural disasters but there's actually nothing natural in a disaster. It's the consequence of humanity and nature, and the interaction between the two."

The lecture is at 6pm on 2 October at the Wellington campus Museum Building, Tokomaru theatrette. All are welcome but please indicate attendance by emailing s.richards@massey.ac.nz with "[Associate Professor Johnston](#)" in the subject line.

Date: 23/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Wellington

Low cost flight training simulators to aid pilot training

When the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust was looking for a way to cut the high cost of pilot training, the solution came from an expert in flight simulation at the University's School of Aviation, lecturer Savern Reweti.

Mr Reweti has based his PhD thesis on several low-cost flight simulation development projects. Working with the helicopter trust, he has played a key role in the development of a BK117 helicopter procedural simulator. Based in Auckland at Mechanics Bay, the simulator is providing ongoing training for the trust's seven operational pilots who regularly fly on rescue missions across the region.

Trust chief pilot Dave Walley says the high cost of instrument training – almost \$300,000 an hour on a real helicopter – was stretching the operational budget of the charitable trust, and the need for a cost-effective simulator was urgent.

"Because we fly on instruments, our pilots have to practise constantly to keep their skills up," Mr Walley says. "Without this simulator we would have to spend huge amounts of money flying around in helicopters for skills training. Massey and Savern Reweti have been very important in making this happen."

Mr Reweti, who has been involved in the development of simulators for more than a decade, says the project was a perfect fit for him because he is dedicated to developing low-cost simulation devices.

He was responsible for all the software design and the customised scenery and software links with the hardware control modules. He says the next step is to gain Civil Aviation Authority certification, which would give the simulator considerable commercial potential. With private funding now available, he has begun designing a second simulator.

The trailer-mounted simulator will also be an important promotional and marketing tool for the trust.

Date: 24/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; Explore - Aviation



Chief pilot for the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust Dave Walley with Massey flight simulator expert Savern Reweti.



PhD student Ruakere Hond makes his research presentation.

Encouraging more Māori-speaking communities focus of PhD research

Māori language revitalisation advocate Ruakere Hond has begun PhD research into the creation of Māori-speaking communities.

Mr Hond, from Taranaki, was given the go-ahead to complete his thesis after a presentation in reo Māori at Massey's Palmerston North campus last week.

Present were his doctoral supervisor, Professor Taiarahia Black, senior Māori academics involved in teaching and research, fellow PhD students, senior Māori management at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and kaumātua Pani Waru.

Mr Hond is one of nine PhD candidates completing their doctoral theses in reo Māori at Massey.

Professor Black says the attendance by a broad audience added to the vitality and validity of the presentation. He says Mr Hond's presentation was a poignant reminder that the future of reo Māori needs to be planned for, defined by Māori and can also be informed by leading international language revitalisation experts such as Bernard Spolsky (Israel), Joshua Fishman (New York) and Muiris O'Laoire (Ireland).

"Mr Hond's research will investigate two key issues, language revitalisation - community-based language initiatives, especially where language is passed to younger generations - and language reversal - institutional or legal avenues for developing language and its status," Professor Black says. "By emphasising these two areas of activity the thesis will pay particular attention to building communities of speakers."

Mr Hond (Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui and Te Ati Awa) is a long-time kaiako (teacher) with Te Ataarangi, a Māori language learning system developed 30 years ago, and is a prominent member of Te Reo o Taranaki Charitable Trust. He was instrumental in developing the trust's Māori language revitalisation strategy and online initiative. He has a Master of Arts from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi and is a board member of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission).

He says international revitalisation experts strongly advocate intergenerational language transmission and this has been well recognised for many years.

"Supporting positive environmental conditions for community development is less well acknowledged and so my research will focus at the whānau and community level and how initiatives create a supportive social context for speakers.

"Forming Māori language speaker communities has been largely neglected [to date] as attention has tended to be given to institutional and legal approaches. Progress made in those areas now lends itself to return our gaze to a community level of language use, especially localised forms of language."

Mr Hond will conduct his analysis on strategies for the retention and enhancement of local knowledge and study

a number of successful models of learning Māori within a community context. These will include groups such as Te Ataarangi, Māori immersion schools and preschools, iwi and pan-tribal initiatives.

Professor Black says he is excited by the research, which will capture and highlight the language activities of the past 30 years, plot a course for the future and add to academic Māori language writing.

Date: 24/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori



Peter Turner, curator, with Prince Philip at the opening of American Images - Photography 1945-1980, Barbican Art Gallery, London in 1985.

Photographic historian to give first memorial lecture

An esteemed Australian photographic historian, curator and writer will give the inaugural Peter Turner Memorial Lecture next month.

Wellington-born Helen Ennis (right) will give the 9 October lecture on *The Importance of Photography*. Her starting point will be some of the published works of photography enthusiast Peter Turner, for whom the lecture is named.

The annual lecture has been established in the memory of the late author, editor, curator and former teacher at the Wellington School of Design, who died in 2005.

Ms Ennis is a senior lecturer in art theory at the School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra. She says Mr Turner was always engaged with photography. "He was an enthusiast, and mad about photography," Ms Ennis says. "He was very determined to consider photography in a professional way but reach a broad audience."



Helen Ennis.

She says when she first started thinking about her lecture, she did not have to go far for inspiration. "I had three of Turner's books on my own shelves, without even going to the library. He was a very important writer on photography of the 20th century."

The lecture, at which 50 photographs will be shown, will also cover some of Ms Ennis' thoughts on photography, including the potential for photographs to tell a story, and to be considered as more than just a two-dimensional object.

"It's not just about a photo, a 2-D flat object, but about the size of the picture, the condition of it, whether it has writing on it, or has been filed in an album," she says.

"My whole career has been based on the fact photography, more than anything else, is based in our own lives. I will be elaborating on that and trying to extend the way we might talk about and write about photos."

Ms Ennis will present *The Importance of Photography* on 9 October at 6pm in the University's Wellington campus Museum Building Tokomaru theatre. All are welcome but please indicate attendance by emailing s.richards@massey.ac.nz with "Helen Ennis" in the subject line.

Date: 24/09/2008

Type: Research

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



Rhonda Grant.

Massey graduate makes international beauty pageant

Former Massey student Rhonda Grant has been selected to represent New Zealand at the Miss International Beauty Pageant in Japan and Hong Kong next month.

Ms Grant, a health promotion co-ordinator with the National Heart Foundation in Napier, graduated from the Palmerston North campus in May with a Bachelor of Science in human nutrition.

While a student at Massey she was a runner-up in last year's Miss Manawatu beauty pageant and, in April this year, came third in the Miss Universe New Zealand pageant.

"Miss International is rated as one of the top three beauty pageants in the world along with Miss Universe and Miss World," Ms Grant says. "The contest runs over three weeks. We go to Japan first and then to Hong Kong for the pageant. I'm really excited and honoured to be chosen and will do my best to represent New Zealand well and meet some fantastic people."

Date: 25/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North



Recreation Centre staff Laura Anderson, Anita Vertigan, James Price and Sophie Staniforth (below front) work out at the Recreation Centre.

Recreation Centre offers opportunity to gain work-life balance

New equipment at the Palmerston North campus Recreation Centre has made it easier for University staff to fit in a quick workout, says centre manager Terry Rivers.

The equipment, made by Life Fitness and worth more than \$40,000, was installed in May and makes it easier for people of all sizes, shapes and levels of fitness to work out easily and efficiently.

“The equipment is specially engineered to give a wide range of motion and control,” Mr Rivers says. “It’s a user-friendly way of working out, as the equipment has diagrams and explanations on it to increase user confidence.”

The equipment is laid out so all major muscle groups can be worked in a simple circuit.

Mr Rivers says the centre is a cheap and easy way for staff to maintain fitness as University staff receive a 40 per cent discount on a one-year membership, making it the cheapest gym membership in the city.

“The University has a work-life balance policy and the Recreation Centre is ideally placed to offer staff the ability to exercise near their workplace,” he says. “The environment is non-threatening, there are highly qualified staff available to help in any way and a wide variety of fitness programmes on offer.”



Date: 25/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Services; Sport and recreation

New professorial appointment in plant breeding a joint initiative with AgResearch

Professor Warren Williams has been appointed as Professorial Fellow in Plant Breeding at Massey in a new initiative between the Crown Research Institute, AgResearch and the University.

Professor Williams is currently a senior scientist at AgResearch Grasslands in Palmerston North, and has had a long and distinguished career in plant breeding particularly with the important pasture legume, white clover. He is curator of the Margot Forde Forage Germplasm Centre and has an international reputation for expertise in use of exotic germplasm in plant genetic improvement.

His role at Massey will be to organise resources for the delivery of the post-graduate qualification in Plant Breeding as well as conducting collaborative research and joint post-graduate student supervision with plant scientists at the University.

The main impetus for the appointment has been to support the new postgraduate qualification in plant breeding, an area critical to the success of the agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries and for the lucrative international seed markets.

The discipline of Plant Breeding has seen significant changes over the past decade with the advent of gene technologies that have greatly changed the skill base needed by practitioners. Many established breeders are now close to retirement and the industry is in need of both new graduates and retraining of existing personnel.

To meet this capability gap, Massey and Lincoln Universities, together, and in association with the key stakeholding industries, are to offer a one- or two-year post-graduate qualification in Plant Breeding. The new qualification is supported by the Partnerships for Excellence framework involving Massey and Lincoln Universities and the expertise of Professor Williams will be a significant factor in the success of the new programme.

Professor William's appointment is a joint one between AgResearch and the University's Institute of Natural Resources and Institute of Molecular Biosciences. He will work one day a week at the University with the rest of the time spent at AgResearch Grasslands.

The Partnerships for Excellence framework aims to increase private sector investment in tertiary education and foster better links between tertiary education institutions, industry and business.

Date: 26/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Professor Warren Williams.



Tahuri Whenua Society members at a visit to a hop nursery at Motueka in February.

Accessing traditional knowledge key to future exports

The future export potential of natural Māori vegetables like taewa, the Māori potato, and kamokamo (gourd fruit), coupled with the need to capture traditional knowledge, are two issues to be discussed at a meeting in Bulls tomorrow.

About 50 members of the Tahuri Whenua Society, the national collective of Māori vegetable growers, will attend the society's annual meeting at Parewahawaha Marae.

Society chairman Dr Nick Roskruge, a senior lecturer at the University's Institute of Natural Resources, says the collective has more than 250 members from Kaitaia to Invercargill, including growers, individuals, schools, kaumātua, and kōhanga reo.

Dr Roskruge expects to be re-elected as chair and says succession is an issue in general in the horticulture industry and even more of an issue for Māori. "We need to have succession plans to ensure there will be someone to carry the knowledge about traditional practices. In the old days, children who showed an aptitude and interest in horticulture were fostered into it. These days Māori are mostly urban and not doing anything directly on the land."

Dr Roskruge is involved in several other research, government and non-government groups concerned with vegetable production, Māori land utility and soil systems. In 1999 a project was initiated at Massey where varieties of taewa - also known as riwai, peruperu, mahetau or parareka - were grown as a seed bank. Prior to that they were grown only in a backyard environment.

"Taewa are more available today than they were in the past. They are now being grown commercially, with seed available from some plant shops and growers. The intention of the collective is to ensure Māori ownership, management and control of this resource and others aligned to food production."

He says getting horticultural products such as taewa export-ready will take intensive investment of manpower and finance. "In addition there has to be continuity in production, quality and consistency. The marketing opportunity to promote taewa is huge. Their characteristics are the same as they were 200 years ago. Unlike other potatoes, they have not been re-worked or bred for different uses.

"People are also more willing to try new types of foods now and chefs in particular are beginning to use taewa in their dishes for their distinctive flavour, texture and visual appeal. Some of the feedback we have heard is that eating them is like a new food experience."

The last meetings of the society were a regional hui in Blenheim and Motueka, which showcased those regions' horticulture opportunities for Māori. The next hui will be held in Ruatoki in February.

Date: 26/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Maori



Gordon Suddaby, Associate Professor Mark Brown, Minister of Communications and Information Technology David Cunliffe and Richard Wyles of the Flexible Learning Network at the awards ceremony on Wednesday.

Massey-led project wins top prize

An e-portfolio system developed by a Massey-led research team has won the education section in the New Zealand Open Source Awards.

Mahara, which means “thought” or “to think” in Te Reo Maori, is an open source e-portfolio, weblog, resume builder and social networking system, connecting users and creating online learner communities.

A team including Massey staff Associate Professor Mark Brown and Gordon Suddaby, the Auckland University of Technology, the Open Polytechnic, and Victoria University of Wellington developed it.

Dr Brown says the intention was to develop a system to collect digital artefacts and promote critical reflections on them to support self-directed and life-long learning.

“Mahara provides the opportunity for learners to collect, select, reflect, connect and share their goals and accomplishments,” he says. “It helps learners to document their learning journey and showcase their skills and achievements in a rich digital media format.”

Mahara is now being used by institutions throughout the world, including the University of Southern Queensland, the University of London, the University of Glasgow, San Francisco State University and by educators covering the entire state of Georgia, in the United States.

“It has been highly successful in developing a community of educators in a short amount of time,” Dr Brown says. “As an open source platform, it will be further developed by that community.”

At Massey, several pilot Mahara e-portfolio projects are under way or planned, working through an externally hosted site MyPortfolio managed by the Flexible Learning Network.

Dr Eva Heinrich is leading the largest initiative in the College of Sciences, which aims to assist students on their path towards becoming life-long and self-directed learners.

Date: 26/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Extramural; Teaching

Poor communication strategy from ANZ bank

The ANZ bank should have communicated far more openly about the staff cuts announced this week in order to allay rumour and fears about the health of the bank and the sector, says Massey banking expert Dr David Tripe.

He says news that the bank would be cutting staff and services was no surprise but the way the ANZ bank announced this was a "public relations disaster".

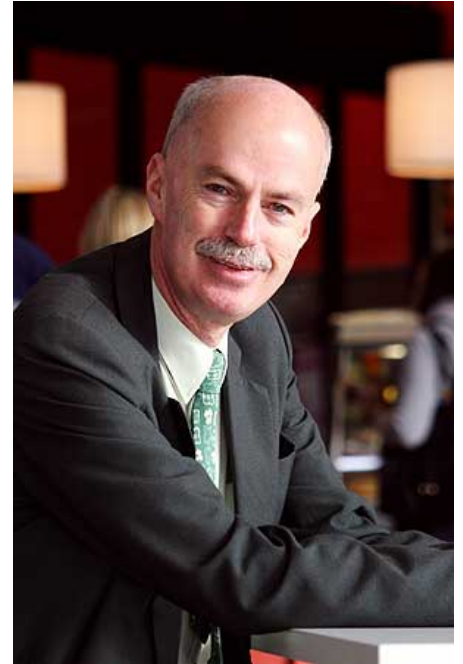
"Public confidence has been undermined because the bank has had so little to say publicly about why it is taking these steps. Consequently people are wondering if the bank is in trouble. By staying silent, the bank has left the way open for rumours to spread," says Dr Tripe. "Without more information customers at the bank could think they should start looking for another bank."

He wants to reassure customers, however, by saying that there is no evidence available to him that suggests that the bank faced any financial difficulties.

"With an issue like this, the ANZ should have been on the front foot with its communication strategy. If the other banks face similar issues, the ANZ has just shown them how to make a real public relations mess."

He believes the ANZ's move this week was not good for the bank because it had only recently started to show an improvement in ratings in customer service surveys, and there is a danger that this improvement will be undermined. He says this means that the resources the bank has applied, at its shareholders' expense, to achieving an improvement in customer satisfaction ratings could go to waste.

"In the long run, banks will need fewer branches as customers make use of banks' services in other ways, but it is surprising that the bank thinks it needs to cut staffing with such urgency. Customers could feel much happier if the bank could tell them about the scale of any cutbacks intended, and whether or how the ways in which they deal with the bank might change. Change could have been sold as a positive story, but the bank has failed to do this."



Dr David Tripe.

Date: 26/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Canadian scholar to head College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Internationally recognised historian Professor Susan Mumm has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Professor Mumm will join Massey in February from Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where she holds the positions of Dean of Arts and Science, and Professor of History.

She was raised on a sheep farm in Saskatchewan, Canada and studied British history at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Sussex, England, where she was a Commonwealth Scholar.

Her academic career began as an Assistant Professor at York University, Toronto, in 1992 and she spent more than a decade at the Open University in England, moving from lecturer to senior lecturer to head of department, before moving to Mount Saint Vincent two years ago.

She has published three books and numerous articles in her area of research and is working on a fourth book on the history of organisations for young working women in 19th century Britain.



Professor Susan Mumm.

Professor Mumm says she is looking forward to the next chapter of her academic career. "I am honoured at having been appointed to this position and am looking forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences," she says. "There is exciting work in front of us as we promote and enhance our contribution to the overall advancement of Massey University."

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says he is delighted to welcome a scholar of Professor Mumm's calibre to the University. "Professor Susan Mumm brings a wealth of experience to the role in terms of both academic achievement and administrative skill," Professor Warrington says. "Her leadership will be vital as the college continues to grow in size and status."

Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey is looking forward to working with Dr Mumm. "Massey has an outstanding tradition in the Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor Mumm shares the University's determination to build on these strengths," he says.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences:

- More than 9300 students across the three campuses, about 5000 of them extramural.
- 250 academic staff.
- Nine teaching and research schools: English and Media Studies; Health and Social Services; History, Philosophy and Classics; Language Studies; Te Putahi-a-Toi (Maori Studies); People, Environment and Planning; Psychology; Social and Cultural Studies and the Centre for Defence Studies.
- Home to the Research School of Public Health, a cluster of centres of public health expertise including the Sleep/Wake Research Centre and the Centre for Public Health Research based in Wellington and the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes and Te Ropu Whariki in Auckland.

Date: 26/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington



Ornitho-Maia, designed by Massey graduate Nadine Jaggi, won the supreme award at the 20th Montana World of WearableArt Awards on Friday. Photo: World of WearableArt Ltd.

Flight of fantasy a winner for Massey graduate

A Massey University graduate says she is still in shock after winning the supreme award at the 20th Montana World of WearableArt Awards on Friday.

Nadine Jaggi's intricate leather creation, *Ornitho-Maia* or bird mother involved more than a year's work, and was created using hand-dyed, hand-sewn, embossed and carved leather to create a unique feathered-look design.

Ms Jaggi, who works as a costume designer for Weta Workshop in Wellington, graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Design with first-class honours majoring in fashion.

She won her first WearableArt award in 2003 in the student category.

"My time at Massey gave me such a good grounding," she says. "It had its stressful times and its fun times, but I enjoyed it. It was a big part of what made me me."

After graduation, Ms Jaggi worked in Switzerland before returning to New Zealand, and has been at Weta Workshop since 2006.

Ornitho-Maia was a real labour of love, she says. "I had been hoping to enter the awards last year but got too busy and when I realised the deadline was getting close this time, I worked late a lot to get it done. It was kept very separate from my work and was my own pet creation."



Nadine Jaggi.

Ms Jaggi says it was a thrill to win the Air New Zealand South Pacific section and she was still “buzzing” about that when her name was called again as supreme winner.

“I was still in a bit of a dream about my section win, and I was totally stunned when I heard my name again. My family was jumping up and down and I realised ‘it’s the big one’,” she says.

Her awards include a trophy, \$15,000 of prize money and \$10,000 worth of travel.

Tanya Marriott was runner-up in the Shell Student Design Award with her garment, *Kanak*. She is working on her masters in Design, and also tutors at the University.

The garment is made of plywood, and demonstrates Ms Marriott’s commitment to testing new techniques to construct her designs – in this case, laser cutting.

She usually enters the awards, often completing three or four garments for each. Her closet is full of past entries, as well as dolls and sculptures she has created over the years.

“I have so many ideas, I just have to get them out,” she says.

Andrea Clinton, who has an advanced diploma in fashion design and technology, was runner-up in the Air New Zealand South Pacific section with her garment, *5 Maarama Crescent*.

She has entered the awards for 12 years, and has nine section wins to her credit. This year’s entry is a stylised moon, and was inspired by the night sky on a drive with her daughter.

“We saw what we refer to as a toenail moon and I just thought ‘What a great shape’,” Ms Clinton says.

A hairdressing tutor, she used some of those skills to tame the nylon fibre her garment is made from. The process of creating a garment for the awards is exciting, she says.

“You have a drawing, and this thing starts to appear in front of you. It’s so rewarding and such a kick to see it up on stage.”



Tanya Marriott's Kanak. Photo: World of WearableArt Ltd.



Andrea Clinton's 5 Maarama Crescent. Photo: World of WearableArt Ltd.

Date: 28/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Professor Harjinder Singh receives his medal from Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey.

Awards recognise outstanding research

Excellence across the University was acknowledged at the annual Research Medals presentation and Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, held in Palmerston North last night.

This year's individual research medal winner went to Professor Harjinder Singh. Professor Singh is an internationally renowned specialist in dairy food research and co-director of the Riddet Institute, one of two government-funded centres for research excellence led by Massey University.

Professor Singh has established a world-class capability in dairy food research and leads a large research programme directed at understanding structure-function relationships of milk proteins in food colloids. His research programme focuses on physical and chemical characteristics of food components, interactions during processing, and functionality in food systems, such as texture, flavour, appearance, shelf-life and nutrition.

Professor Singh has published more than 225 research papers and book chapters. Most of these papers have been published in high-ranking food and dairy journals as well as fundamental physical sciences journals, and a large number of papers have attracted high citation ratings. He has supervised 60 postgraduate students including more than 20 PhDs.

The research medal for supervisor has gone to one of the College of Business' most respected and well-known staff members, Professor Tony Vitalis.

In 25 years at the College of Business, Professor Vitalis has supervised 24 successful PhD completions, 16 as main supervisor. Many of his students have gone on to become heads of department or hold leadership positions at Massey and other universities.

Professor Vitalis has also supervised more than 80 master's projects and several master's theses. Several papers co-authored with students have received accolades including two "best papers" at the New Zealand Ergonomics Conference.

The Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE) and Te Rōpu Whariki were named outstanding research team.



Professor Harjinder Singh.



Professor Tony Vitalis.



Dr Bryan Walpert.



Team Research Award winners The Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE) and Te Rōpu Whariki.

The centre, based in Symonds St, Auckland, collaborates with the World Health Organisation in the field of alcohol and other drugs and sees its principal function as conducting social and public health research of scientific and policy importance, with the aim of contributing to the improvement and protection of public health and well-being nationally and internationally.

Te Rōpu Whariki is involved in a wide range of research projects with a Māori development focus. It is at the forefront of research that supports Māori community development, providing a mix of strategic and applied research from a kaupapa Māori base.

Both SHORE and Te Rōpu Whariki focus on policy-relevant research in public health areas including alcohol and other drug epidemiology and policy, gambling, neighbourhood and health, environmental issues, Māori health and well-being, the evaluation of health promotion programmes and community action research.

Three early career research medals have been awarded, to Dr Vyacheslav Filichev from the College of Sciences, and Dr William Fish and Dr Bryan Walpert from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr Fei Wu receives the early career College of Business award for work in the Department of Economics and Finance, and Dr Ross Flett receives the research supervisor award for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Austen Ganley from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, and David Raubenheimer from the Institute of Advanced Studies, were awarded technicians' awards along with Dr David Rowlands from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Dr Andrew Sutherland-Smith from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Dr Vyacheslav Filichev and Dr Gareth Rowlands from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, and Dr Stephen Marsland from the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology, receive postdoctoral fellowships to aid progress in their research.

Associate Professor Martin Perry receives a College of Business research fellowship.

Eight women's awards were given this year. The recipients are Dr Robyn Andrews, Dr Slavka Antonova, Dr Jenny Coleman, Dr Cathryn Conlon, Dr Ganesharane Ravindran, Dr Ute Walker, Mei Wah Williams, and Dr Liping Zou.

The Vice-Chancellors Awards for Teaching, announced in March, went to six staff: Dr Hamish Anderson, Dr Rosie Bradshaw, Dr Lisa Emerson, Professor Janet Hoek, Dr Heather Kavan and Bill MacIntyre.

At a function in Parliament in July, Dr Emerson was named winner of the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for New Zealand Tertiary Teaching, the first Massey staff member to receive this award, while Dr Anderson also received a national award for sustained excellence in teaching.

New Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey was the speaker at the medals dinner.

Mr Maharey says establishing the research medals was an important achievement of his predecessor, Professor Judith Kinnear, in her five years at Massey.



Dr Vyacheslav Filichev.



Dr William Fish.

It is the fifth year the University has held a function to mark the achievements of its academics.

Date: 29/09/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Palmerston North; Research; School of Health Sciences; Wellington



Lamb, featuring Mark Kilsby and Shannon Lawn.

International flavour to Festival of New Arts

Works penned by international writers will be showcased for the first time in this year's Festival of New Arts, opening in Palmerston North on Saturday.

Senior lecturer Dr Angie Farrow, the festival's artistic director, says the programme features work entered in the Manawatu International One-Act Playwriting Competition.

"The winners were announced earlier in the year and those plays will be premiered at the festival," Dr Farrow says. "We have works from America, the UK, and Australia as well as numerous local artists."



The Thought Experiment, featuring Joy Pratt, Phil Anstis, Sean Sexton and Megan Andrews.

Included in the programme is David Collins' play *The Thought Experiment* which won the one-act playwriting competition. It is the story of a man undergoing counselling and working through his past infidelity.

The festival is a Massey event but it involves more than 60 artists, both professional and emerging, from Manawatu's artistic community.

"Massey staff and students are strongly represented but we've also encouraged members of the Palmerston North community to participate," Dr Farrow says. "Directors and actors from Centrepont Theatre and Ucol are working with our prize-winning plays and the music group Haunt will be presenting their ethnic music."

Dr Farrow says the role of the University is to provide leadership in terms of generating artistic practice and opportunity in the community. "The festival acts as an agent for budding and established musicians, poets, filmmakers, actors, composers, playwrights and directors."

The programme will be staged at venues across the city including Massey's Palmerston North campus, Palmerston North City Library, Square Edge, The Globe Theatre, and Centrepont Theatre.

The festival opens on Saturday 4 October at 7.30pm in the Auditorium of the Old Main Building on the Turitea site.

After the final matinee performance on Sunday 12 October, the Student City Arts Awards ceremony will be held at the Globe Theatre. These awards are open to artists who have studied at a Manawatu tertiary institution this year. Prizes will be given in a variety of categories including literary, visual, media, theatrical and musical arts and an award will also be made to a technical person for work behind the scenes.

For a festival schedule visit: <https://www.massey.ac.nz/?fa4705722s>

Date: 29/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North



Photograph of bulldozers in Ngawi, a Wairarapa fishing village, taken by student Kirsty Woods.

***Iwi Creativity* on show**

Iwi Creativity, an exhibition showcasing the work of 13 Māori students at the College of Creative Arts, begins at the Wellington campus next Friday (10 October).

The exhibition will be held at the Great Hall and begins with an official launch at 6pm. It will run for a week and will return for the college's Blow festival in November.

Iwi Creativity is held annually to celebrate the success of Māori art and design students and highlight the contribution the University makes to the creative arts sector.

Students involved in the exhibition are studying a range of disciplines, from graphic design, spatial design, fashion, sculpture, textile design, performance design, time-based media and photography.

The exhibition was first held in 2006 to provide an opportunity to publicly display students' design work.

The work is put on display during the exhibition and at other official Massey functions. The exhibition was extended last year to include Māori students from the Auckland campus, postgraduate Māori students and a visiting indigenous artist.

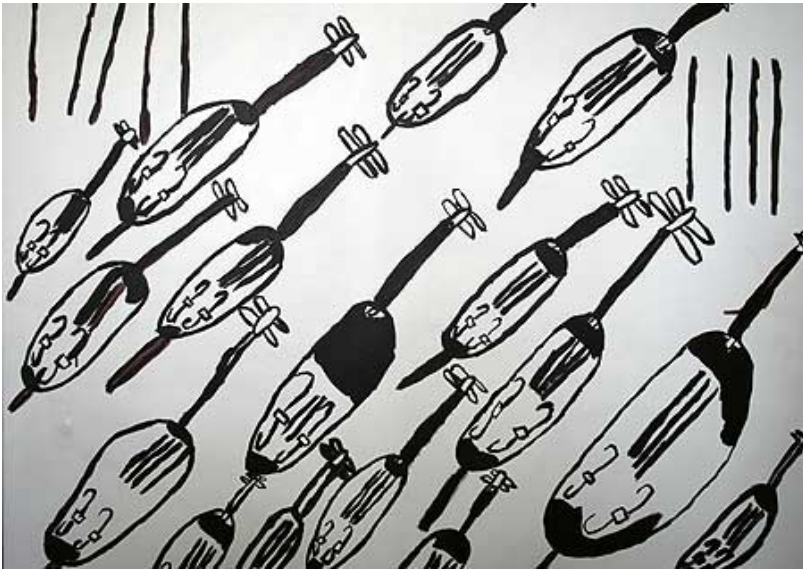
Students taking part in this year's exhibition are:

Ranga Tuhi (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato), Amy Miller (Ngāti Maniapoto, Tainui), Vance Steele (Moriori), Kirsty Woods (Ngāti Hauiti), Khamara Thomson-Baker (Ngāti Mutunga), Waimateo Familton (Te Arawa), Jamaine Fraser (Te Arawa), Casey Schwass (Te Arawa, Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tama), Ruth Browne (Te Atiawa), Lyn Garrett (Te Atiawa), Jessica Sanderson (Te Atiawa, Ngāti Kahungunu) Monica Hall (Turanganui), and Esther Riddell (Ngāti Porou).

Date: 29/09/2008

Type: Research

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



New Zealand artworks headed to New York including this painting, *The Violinists*, by Reece Tong.

Fine arts lecturer takes artwork to New York, Paris

The original artwork of a dozen self-taught New Zealand artists will be showcased in New York, after a university lecturer was invited to host a stand at next year's International Outsider Art Fair in January.

Fine Arts lecturer Stuart Shepherd will also take work by self-taught Australian artists to the New York fair. It will be the first time in the fair's 17-year history that work by Australasian artists has been on show.

"To be invited to have a stand there is really thrilling," Mr Shepherd says. All the work will be for sale, and Mr Shepherd says sales that result will be a real affirmation for the artists, who often struggle financially on the fringes of the art community.

"I want to encourage serious investors to value this stuff. If it's for economic reasons, that's fine. It puts value on the people too."

He plans to show between 10 and 100 works by each artist. The stand at the fair will happen in collaboration with the New Zealand Trade Commission, Lower Hutt's New Dowse Museum, and charitable trust Arts Access Aotearoa.

"I see this as an opportunity to close the gap between self-taught artists and the wider community. Some of my colleagues struggle to see why I'm excited about this work but this is a great opportunity to legitimise a section that has been marginalised."

After the New York fair, Mr Shepherd will also showcase the New Zealand work at a contemporary and outside art show at the Galerie Impaire in Paris.



Stuart Shepherd.

Date: 29/09/2008

Type: Research

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

Hello to staff from Steve Maharey

▶ VIDEO Watch the video in [Windows PC](#) or [Apple Mac/Firefox](#) formats.

Hello, I am Steve Maharey and I will be joining Massey University as Vice-Chancellor this week.

As you will know, I have been at Massey University before. Last time I was here, some eighteen years ago, I was a Senior Lecturer in sociology. I am delighted to be back.

There has been a gap since the departure of Judith Kinnear and my arrival. I want to thank the Council, the Vice Chancellors Executive Council, the staff of the Vice-Chancellors Office, and, in particular, Professor Ian Warrington who has been the Acting Vice-Chancellor for keeping the University moving forward during the year.



I applaud the way that staff have continued to produce great results throughout the year.

Back in April I began a process of talking to staff, students and stakeholders about the future of the University. I want to thank everyone who gave up their time to talk with me.

Those conversations, along with submissions and other work, have provided us with a clear strategic plan that will be in your hands prior to Christmas. I hope you find that the plan reflects your ambitions for the University. We can only move forward together so your support is vital to success.

A good deal of other activity has also been going on. I am confident we can get down to work quickly.

Between now and Christmas, I know there are events planned that will allow me to meet many of you in person. I look forward to those occasions and I look forward to working with you.

I will not promise that the years ahead will be easy. But they will be interesting and important. We have a great deal to achieve and I intend to work very hard for the University.

Massey is New Zealand's defining University. We have helped to shape the future of the country for 81 years. That is what I am committed to ensuring we will continue to do.

All the best. I hope to talk with you soon.

Steve Maharey
Vice-Chancellor Designate

Date: 29/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor

World title for Massey duathlete

Massey athlete Struan Webb has won a gold medal at the world duathlon championships in Rimini, Italy.

Mr Webb won the under-19 event, which features a 10km run, 40km cycle and a 5km run. He says he's delighted to have won and plans to return to Palmerston North soon to finish his studies for the year. He is in the second year of a Bachelor of Business Studies degree.

Mr Webb won the Manawatu triathlon championships this year and the under-19 section of the New Zealand national standard distance triathlon championships in March.

The former Feilding High School student is in his second year as a member of the University's Academy of Sport, which provides a holistic range of services enabling students to study, compete at the elite level and prepare for a future career outside sport.



Date: 30/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

Accounting method helps Contact Energy justify lifting energy prices

The method Contact Energy uses to do its accounting makes it easier to justify increasing power bills to consumers, says accountancy professor Paul Dunmore.

Commenting on this week's announcement from Contact that customers in Wellington and the South Island face 10 per cent increases in their power bills, Professor Dunmore says accepted accounting rules allow Contact to appear only modestly profitable.

Professor Dunmore, from the College of Business' School of Accountancy, says that in fact, Contact Energy has consistently earned rates of return of close to 30 per cent but the profit figures are greatly reduced by the accounting practices used.

"In Contact's latest financial year it reported a profit of \$237 million on shareholders' equity of \$2.9 billion, an 8 per cent return on equity. This is a very low rate of profit, given the risk shareholders bear."

He says Contact Energy chooses to revalue its major assets using the optimised deprival valuation method, which in practice means the value reflects the future cash flows to be expected from using these assets.

Using this method, its property, plant and equipment assets have been re-valued by \$1.9 billion since 1999 to about \$4.4 billion, he says, and he estimates this has increased the reported depreciation expense by some \$50 to \$60 million to \$148 million.

"Based on what Contact's shareholders paid for the assets when they were acquired, Contact's profits would be around \$290 million on shareholders' equity of \$1 billion," Professor Dunmore says. "This is a return on equity of 29 per cent. The average over the last five years has been 27 per cent.

"If Contact increases its prices for any reason, that increases its operating cash flows, and so the optimised deprival value of its assets automatically increases. Under the accounting policies that Contact follows, this offsets what otherwise would have been an increase in reported profits and return on equity, providing justification for further price increases.

"In this way, accepted accounting practice provides cover for Contact and other energy companies to increase prices. Since there is no real profit figure against which the reported numbers can be verified, the choice of accounting methods has important effects on how much consumers are expected to pay for their energy."

Date: 30/09/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business



Final-year Bachelor of Communication student Karlene Van Opdorp did a trial internship at Total Media.

Internships now part of communication degree

The first Bachelor of Communication students to include a workplace internship in their degree will graduate this year.

The internship was trialled with seven high-performing students. Communication, Journalism and Marketing department head Associate Professor Frank Sligo says the trial has been an outstanding success, with students gaining valuable professional experience and a number of workplaces keen to host final-year students.

“Interns have been placed with communication consultancies, a media agency, a regional council and a rugby union and we now have companies making inquiries about joining the programme,” Dr Sligo says.

“There is immense value for students in completing an internship, as it makes them more job-ready and attractive to employers. It is also important that students get academic credit for the hard work they do while in the workplace, hence the decision to make the internships a formal paper offering.

“There are also benefits for the host organisation in having input from an enthusiastic person with a fresh and academically-grounded perspective.”

The first Bachelor of Communication student to complete the internship was Karlene Van Opdorp, who had a placement at media service company Total Media.

“The internship gave me the opportunity to study while simultaneously broadening my career horizons,” she says. “I learned heaps of things – how to deal with real life situations and with workplace stress, how to communicate more effectively and how to make the internship serve my purpose in my study and career development.”

Date: 30/09/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business



Associate Professor Al Rowland.

Students name their lecturer of the year

Associate Professor Al Rowland has been named Lecturer of the Year by students at the Palmerston North campus.

Yesterday's ceremony marks the first time the awards, organised by the Massey University Students' Association, have been held in Palmerston North.

Dr Rowland, a senior lecturer in genetics and plant biology, was described by students as "inspirational" and they noted his willingness to help and encourage them at every opportunity.

Nominations were called for in the student newspaper Chaff, and nomination forms were available at the association's reception.

Students' Association vice-president Cassie Rowe says she is very happy with the response. "It's nice to recognise the positive things lecturers do, from a student perspective," Miss Rowe says. "It gives students a chance to recognise the contributions their lecturers have made to their learning, and celebrate their commitment to high standards and quality education."

As well as a certificate, Dr Rowland was presented with a bottle of wine, flowers, a gym membership to the recreation centre and a double pass to see a show at Centrepont Theatre.

Date: 01/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North



Professor Ian Warrington, Mark Yungnickel, Mike Dawson, Rob Eastham, Samuel Gregory and Olympic hockey player Emily Naylor.

Massey honours its international athletes

Six Massey athletes have been awarded inaugural Elite World Travel Awards at a lunch in Palmerston North today.

The awards provide assistance of up to \$3000 to elite Massey athletes representing New Zealand at international sporting events.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says the University is proud to support its sportspeople.

“2008 has been an incredible year for Massey sport, with 23 of the 185 athletes representing the country at the Olympics this year having ties to the University,” he says. “It’s an achievement which could not be matched by other universities around the world.”

He says the six athletes to receive the Elite World Travel Awards have also achieved some incredible results.

2008 Elite World Travel Award recipients:

Mike Dawson – World University White Water Canoe Championships

Mr Dawson was selected to represent New Zealand at the World University White Water Canoe Championships in Slovenia. He finished 18th overall in the Men’s K1 event.

Rob Eastham – Beijing World Cup (Olympic athlete)

Mr Eastham has had a very successful year shooting at the Beijing, Munich and Milan world cups before heading to the Olympics in Beijing. He placed 8th equal giving him a final placing of 14th in the qualifying round of the 50m rifle.

Samuel Gregory – World Clay Target Shooting Championships

Mr Gregory was a member of the New Zealand team that competed at the World DTL Clay Target Shooting Champs in Ireland, winning a silver medal.

Khord Kopu – World Inline Hockey Championships

Mr Kopu was a member of the New Zealand men’s team that competed at the World Inline Hockey Championships in the United States, where it finished 15th.

Mark Yungnickel – World University Canoe Slalom Championships

Mr Yungnickel was selected to represent New Zealand at the World University White Water Canoe Championships in Slovenia. He finished 16th in the Men’s C1 event.

Struan Webb – World Duathlon Championships

Mr Webb was selected for the New Zealand team to compete at the World Duathlon Champs in Rimini, Italy held this week. He won gold in the under-19 age group.

Date: 01/10/2008

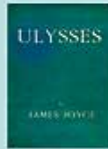
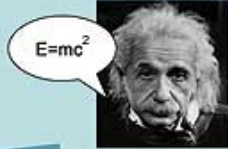
Type: University News

Categories: Academy of Sport; Olympics; Palmerston North; Scholarships; Sport and recreation



The Race for Relativity:
How the Hero of James Joyce's *Ulysses*
almost Forestalled Albert Einstein's Theories

Professor Richard Corballis with Alan Sanson



James Joyce

3:30pm, Wednesday 8 October
Auditorium (MB2.17), Old Main Building
followed by refreshments in the Common Room (MB2.04)

Lecture investigates the science of Joyce

When *Time* magazine decided to nominate the highest flyers of the 20th century, it chose Albert Einstein for science and James Joyce for literature.

Professor Dick Corballis of the School of English and Media Studies says the chosen paths of the two men seem very different on the surface but there are in fact similarities.

"A close analysis of Einstein's *Special Theory of Relativity* published in 1905 and Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, which is set in 1904, suggests that they had much in common," Professor Corballis says. "Indeed Leopold Bloom, the central character of *Ulysses*, might have anticipated Einstein's theory if only Joyce had allowed him to live on for another year."

Professor Corballis and Alan Sanson, PhD student, will investigate this theory in this month's professorial lecture, *The Race for Relativity: How the Hero of James Joyce's Ulysses Almost Forestalled Albert Einstein's Theories*.

The lecture, presented by the School of English and Media Studies, begins at 3.30pm on Wednesday 8 October in the Old Main Building auditorium at Massey's Palmerston North campus. Refreshments will be served in the common room after the lecture.

The final instalment in the professorial lecture series is in early November, when Associate Professor Glyn Harper presents *New Zealand and the First World War in (unpublished) photographs*.

Date: 01/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Palmerston North



Part of the installation from the Tū Te Manu Ora i Te Rangī exhibition.

Tāne and Rehua at centre of new exhibition

Tū Te Manu Ora i Te Rangī is the name of a new exhibition that opens tomorrow at the Thermostat Art Gallery in Palmerston North and runs until 16 October.

The exhibition features work created collectively by three artists from Massey:

- Hemi Macgregor (Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāi Tuhoe) lecturer in Māori Art and Māori Visual and Material in Wellington.
- Ngataiharuru Taepa (Te Arawa, Te Atiawa), lecturer in Māori Visual Arts in Palmerston North.
- Saffronn Te Ratana (Ngāi Tuhoe), Massey graduate and former Māori Visual arts lecturer.

Massey researcher and Māori language, customs and traditions specialist Dr Rangī Mataamua (Ngāi Tuhoe), based in Palmerston North was also involved in the collaboration.

Mr Macgregor says the focus of the exhibition is on Tāne, the deity of the forest, and Rehua, the star of summer, and investigates the deeper layers of ancient knowledge embedded in Māori cosmological narrative.

“These narratives provided the platform for the collaborative relationships between us and how the work has evolved and connected. The exhibition fuses together all four practices to produce another level of dialogue through the contrast and connection of materials.”

Mr Taepa says they have all been mentored by a generation of kaumātua, who have encouraged them to work as a collective. “Our mentors have included Sandy Adsett, Manos Nathan, Kura Te Waru Rewiri, Timoti Karetu, Tairahia Black and Bob Jahnke. We have been working alongside one another for the past 10 years and this is the beginning of us creating work together and exhibiting it within a public forum.

“In this exhibition we have all had a hand in, or some part in, each others' work, together this produced the installation.”

Mr Taepa says they have also been encouraged in their collective approach by Catherine Russ at Thermostat Gallery, who is committed to showing the variety of what art has to offer. “She is an artist herself and has supported and enabled us to playfully explore and exhibit Tū Te Manu Ora i Te Rangī.

Date: 02/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Maori



Artists Brett Graham and Rachael Rakena at the entrance to the Aniwaniwa exhibition that opened last weekend at the Waikato Museum.

Aniwaniwa returns to its ahi kaa

The full installation of *Aniwaniwa*, an exhibition featured in last year's Venice Biennale, returned "home" to its ahi kaa, the Waikato, on Saturday.

Aniwaniwa was conceptualised by artists Brett Graham (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura) and Rachael Rakena (Ngāi Tahu, Ngā Puhi), who say the exhibition was created with a theme of submersion as a metaphor for cultural loss. It will run for six weeks and next year will be part of a festival in Tasmania.

Ms Rakena teaches video art at the University's Te Pūtahi a Toi (School of Māori Studies) Māori Visual Arts programme in Palmerston North, where Mr Graham was a guest lecturer in 2006 while they developed the project.

Mr Graham says the exhibition was based on the name of the rapids formed at the narrowest part of the Waikato River. The rapids disappeared when the river was dammed in 1906 to create the Horahora hydroelectric power station, which was superseded in 1947 when Lake Karapiro was created.

He says the valley and the village were lost underwater and so were historical sites significant to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura.

About 1000 people attended the launch at the museum. Museum art curator Leafa Wilson says it has been well received, with many return visitors already.

"The experience they describe is that it is very emotive," Ms Wilson says. "It begins with a moving soundscape of music by Whirimako Black and then deepens when they find out about the kaupapa [meaning] behind the imagery. It has had a very powerful impact on people's emotions."

Ms Wilson, who is of Samoan descent, says the wairua or spiritual side of the work is a sad story but ends with triumph. "The triumphal part of the narrative is about the ahi kaa [home fires] still being alive for the people and that the connection with the land is something that can't be extinguished.

"The entire work makes reference to the loss of Horahora, Mr Graham's papakainga, and to the development of Lake Karapiro as a hydro lake," she says. "Horahora is now drowned at the bottom of Lake Karapiro. The work is a brilliant collaboration between the work of Mr Graham, whose whakapapa lies with Horahora village, and the wonderful underwater film works of Rachael Rakena.

"Aniwaniwa is a masterpiece because it is multidisciplinary, and crosses many boundaries. It has soundscapes, performance, underwater themes, sculpture and moving images. Despite having to work within a western construct, it remains as a work that comes from a Māori conceptual space. This is a seminal work in New Zealand contemporary art history."

Mr Graham says the local people got it straight away. "It was more meaningful [in Waikato] in a way than Venice or elsewhere because people from home, that the kaupapa was about, could actually see it and relate to it."

Tao Tauroa (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura), the chairman of the Pohara Marae Committee and Pohara Farm at the top end of Lake Karapiro, says the exhibition was moving.

"It is a sad story, well told in a very contemporary way," Mr Tauroa says. "It happened and is still affecting our people; it makes me feel sad for our people. We are going through our Waitangi Tribunal hearings and still striving for mana whenua. When the flooding happened this was taken away from us and we are still fighting to get it back. I saw it in Wellington for the first time [but] when it came home it felt more intimate, like it was still happening."

One part of the exhibition that stands out for Mr Tauroa relates to a scene about ancestral bones. "Horahora, which is now Lake Karapiro, was the centre of the Ngāti Koroki tribal domain. Part of the exhibition shows the river being flooded, and the bones of the ancestors coming out of the burial caves and whānau being kept busy collecting them up.

"The depiction of our tupuna underwater still trying to light their fires to keep the ahi kaa and trying to dig their gardens is quite moving. So sad for our people, the exhibition comes close to showing how they would have felt."

Date: 02/10/2008

Type: Research

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

As the Optimisation of Services' Delivery project enters its final few months, thinking has turned to the issues surrounding the transition of theory and findings into practical action across the University. Issues being considered include the culture of accountability, embracing change and process ownership required to support and embed the ethos of continuous improvement, and ensure that the outcomes from this project become the foundation for further reflection, and ongoing refinement of business processes.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The academic focus groups and ICT staff workshops and interviews have now been completed, winding-up the data collection activity within the Understand phase of this workstream. The resulting recommendations are now being documented, and will be reviewed and verified at a final workshop to be held on 10th November 2008. Further details of the workshop will be available nearer the due date.

Provision of Financial Services

Following the completion of the Improve Phase, the final report for the Financial Services workstream, together with proposals for a series of longer-term initiatives has been submitted for review by the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Committee.

Final amendments are being made to the updated process maps, and will be distributed for verification before being made available to all University staff. The project team are also in the process of clarifying the change management roles and responsibilities with the relevant finance and management staff, to enable the implementation of a number of quick-wins.

Human Resources

The first draft of the "as-is" process maps have now been completed and distributed for verification by those staff who participated in the initial data collection activities. The maps will be finalised once any amendments have been received and actioned. A full report on the "as-is" status of the provision of Human Resources services at Massey University is currently being finalised, and will be handed-over to the Director, Human Resources for further action.

Infrastructure and Capital Asset Planning - NEW

The draft Terms of Reference for this workstream have now been completed, with the scope expanded to include Capital Asset Planning, and have been circulated to relevant staff for review and comment. The Understand stage of the workstream has kicked-off, with an initial review of good practice in relation to Infrastructure and Capital Asset Planning in a University environment.

Student Administration

Following the completion of the Understand phase of the Student Administration workstream, efforts are now focused on the development of future-proofed processes supported by relevant technology to ensure the ongoing efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in this area. The project team are also sharing findings and working alongside the Online Enrolment and Student Programme Management (SPM) project. For further information about this project, please click on the following link:

<http://projectoffice.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/administrative-unit/pmo/current-projects/oe&spm.cfm>

Student Services

The document outlining the initial analysis of Student Services across the University has been completed and submitted to the workstream sponsor for review. The core reference group for this workstream will evaluate the initial analysis to inform decisions about the future direction of activity in this area, and will also consider the findings of the Optimisation Report: Wellington Campus Services.

Marketing and Communications

An audit of the current state of the Marketing and Communications services at Massey University has been completed and distributed for review. Final amendments to the audit findings are now being considered to reflect the feedback received to date. Further activity will be undertaken at the discretion and direction of the Director, External Relations once this appointment has been made.

Date: 03/10/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any

Massey to begin student exchange programme with European Union

Massey has won funding for a project that will see students study climate change in the European Union, and top European students study at Massey.

The Government announced today it would provide \$525,000 over four years for the programme, with a similar contribution coming from the European Commission. The programme will focus on developing better technology to monitor the parameters of climate change such as temperature, gas concentration and water quality.

Massey will lead the programme in New Zealand in partnership with Victoria University. Both universities will work with the lead European university, the University of Limerick in Ireland, and its partner institutions, Universität Rostock in Germany and City University in the United Kingdom.

Project leader Associate Professor Subhas Mukhopadhyay says the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology will send six undergraduate or Master's students each year to the partner institutions.

"Students will be able to study the leading research being carried out in Europe and add it to what they learn here," Dr Mukhopadhyay says. "And, of course, the students coming here as part of the exchange will add what we teach to their knowledge."

Massey's area of expertise concerns sensors for quality inspection of seafood, water quality and control and clothes for the environment, he says. "But the University of Limerick, for example, specialises in optical fibre sensors for environmental monitoring."

The students will have their air travel paid for by a scholarship and receive a \$1500 per month allowance during their stay.

Dr Mukhopadhyay expects the first students will begin the exchange in semester two next year.

"This project will no doubt attract more engineering and computer science students to Massey, as the chance to take up the scholarship and add world-leading research to their study programme is an exciting opportunity."

Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson says the programme will strengthen tertiary education links between New Zealand and Europe.

"New Zealand students will emerge with a better understanding of the issues surrounding climate change," he says. "This knowledge will place them in a strong position to contribute to the ongoing international debate in this area."

Date: 07/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Explore - Engineering; Palmerston North; Scholarships; Wellington

Massey scholars shed light on writer Robin Hyde

A just-launched book of critical essays on Robin Hyde, author of the renowned novel *The Godwits Fly* and a prolific poet, political columnist, travel writer and war correspondent, reflects growing interest in a remarkable writer overlooked in her own lifetime, says its editor Dr Mary Paul.

Titled *Lighted Windows*, the collection of 12 essays by New Zealand and overseas literary scholars is the first book of critical essays on Hyde, who committed suicide in 1939, aged 33.

Dr Paul, English programme coordinator at Massey's School of Social and Cultural Studies in Auckland, argues in her introduction that Hyde's "influential contemporaries were blind to the scope and variety of Hyde's work and its mature development" because "it would have interrupted their version of a national literature".

Hyde is described in the book as having had the most significant output of any New Zealand writer during the 1930s, yet was regarded as of minor interest for many decades after her death. The book extends and complements the reassessment of Hyde that has been taking place more recently, Dr Paul says, particularly the Marsden-funded project she helped to initiate in 1999.



Dr Mary Paul and Dr Nikki Hessell at the launch of *Lighted Windows* at the Women's Bookshop in Ponsonby, Auckland.

Named after an unpublished short story of the same title by Hyde, the collection brings new insights and understandings of Hyde's fiction, poetry and life stories, as well as her travel writing and journalism. It ends with a discussion of Hyde's internationalist outlook and her visions for the future expressed in *Dragon Rampant*, her last book based on her travels in China in 1938 during the Sino-Japanese war.

Several essays deal with the fantasy novel in which "Hyde's early 20th century challenge to contemporary Anglophile and conformist ideas of family and society is enacted in the extraordinary island society she creates in *Wednesday's Children*", writes Dr Paul.

Contributors include Palmerston North-based Massey journalism lecturer Dr Nikki Hessell, who focuses on Hyde's parliamentary writings in her essay *Novitia the Anti-Novice: Robin Hyde's Parliamentary Reports*. Examining her "Peeps at Parliament" columns, Dr Hessell's essay highlights what an intelligent, humorous, perspicacious writer the then Iris Wilkinson was, even at 19 years old, says Dr Paul.

Dr Hessell says Hyde, a budding feminist who was obliged to report from the Lady's Gallery, would not have been impressed by much of today's press gallery reporting and believes there is much contemporary journalists can learn from her insights and style.

Hyde, born Iris Wilkinson in 1906, renamed herself after her first son who died at birth when she was 20 years old.

Dr Paul wrote about Hyde in her previous book, *Her Side of the Story*, which focused on the work of three women writers. She was jointly awarded a Marsden Research Fund grant with poet and academic Michelle Leggott and Dr Pat Sandbrook, a Palmerston North-based Massey administrator who wrote a doctoral thesis on Hyde and edited and wrote the introduction for the latest edition of *The Godwits Fly*. The project has encompassed the production of a biography, *The Book of Iris*, written by Hyde's second son Derek Challis and poet Gloria Rawlinson (2002), and new edition of poems, *Young Knowledge* (2003), edited by Michelle Leggott, as well as research into the autobiographical writings. Dr Paul is currently preparing the autobiographical writings for publication.

Date: 07/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Massey lecturer appointed to ERMA group

Senior lecturer Dr Nick Roskrug (pictured) has been appointed to the Environmental Risk Management Authority's Māori Advisory Group.

Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taio is a statutory committee that advises the authority on Māori issues and applications made to it that raise significant issues for Māori.

Dr Roskrug's appointment will be for a term of three years. "It is a compliment to be appointed to the committee and the work will give me an opportunity to contribute at a higher level on issues of national importance," he says.

"As well as bringing the elements of expertise in horticulture, resource management and genetic technology to the table, I expect it will be knowledge of tikanga [customary knowledge] that is the strength of the group," he says.

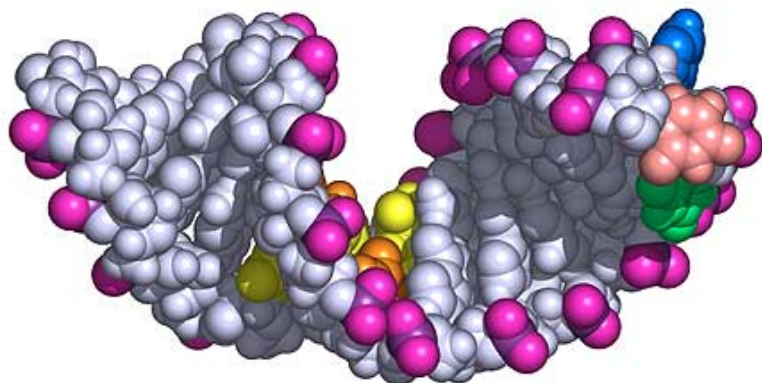
Dr Roskrug, based on the Palmerston North campus in the College of Sciences' Institute of Natural Resources, is also involved in several research, government and non-government groups concerned with vegetable production, Māori land utility and soil systems.



Date: 07/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Maori



A structural model of the results of an NMR experiment.

New book to demystify NMR

Senior lecturer in physics and director of the University's BioNMR Research Centre for Structural Biology Dr Steven Pascal has authored a new book to “demystify the process of an NMR experiment”.

The work, *NMR Primer: An HSQC-Based Approach includes vector animations* by physics tutor Jennie McKelvie.

“NMR is used by biophysicists to study the structure (shape) and dynamics (motions) of the molecules of life, such as DNA, RNA and proteins,” Dr Pascal says. “Unlike a microscope, you can't directly see the molecules. You can infer the shape from the results of a large series of complicated experiments. The scientists doing these experiments need to understand how they are run and what information results in order to put it all together into a structural model.

“Up until now, descriptions of how the experiments work are either very sketchy or have very involved quantum mechanical calculations which younger biophysicists and non-specialists might find difficult to follow,” Dr Pascal says. “We've introduced a new way to understand the experiments using animated cartoons essentially to visually follow the path and orientation of the magnetism on the molecules during the experiment.

“What we hope is that new students entering the field of structural biology will be able to more quickly grasp the physical meaning of the experiment once they can see how the experiment works.”

Target audiences for the book are scientists and students entering the field of structural biophysics and using NMR spectroscopy as a tool.

“There is nothing else like it out there,” Dr Pascal says, “and we are already receiving praise from abroad. It has been ordered for the library at Cambridge University, for instance.”

Date: 07/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Sciences



Juliette Haigh and Michael Bullot after being presented with the Auckland sportswoman and sportsman of the year awards.

Olympians take top sports Blues

Olympians have taken the top awards at the Massey University sports Blues awards. Rower Hamish Bond and cyclist Catherine Cheatley were named the Bank of New Zealand Palmerston North campus sportsman and sportswoman of the year at a ceremony last night.

A collaborative effort between the University and the Massey University Students' Association, the annual event celebrates the sporting and cultural excellence of Massey students. This year 69 students representing 31 sports were presented blues at ceremonies in Auckland and Palmerston North.

Ms Cheatley graduated with a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma in Secondary Teaching in 2005 and is currently completing a Bachelor of Business in accounting. She competed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and placed 17th in the women's points race and 53rd in the road race. In July she won the Fitchburg Longsjø four-day race in Massachusetts, USA.

Third-year business student Hamish Bond also represented New Zealand at the Olympics in the men's coxless four, winning the B final and finishing seventh overall. Mr Bond was unbeaten at the national championships earlier this year, winning in the pair, four and quad titles. Last year, Mr Bond won a gold medal in the men's coxless fours at the world championships in Munich, Germany.



Palmerston North sportsman of the year Hamish Bond.

Yachtsman Michael Bullot was named sportsman of the year for the Auckland campus at a ceremony in Auckland on Monday. Mr Bullot, a business student, is currently ranked sixth in the world laser standings and finished fifth at the world laser championships in March. He also finished fourth at this year's Sydney international regatta, fifth at Sail Melbourne and fourth at the 2008 Asia Pacific championships.

Second-year business student Juliette Haigh was named sportswoman of the year for the Auckland campus for the second year in a row. Ms Haigh was fifth in the women's coxless pair at the Olympics and won silver in the women's pairs at world cup regattas in Poland and Lucerne in June.

Former Olympic swimmer and three-time Massey University Auckland campus sportswoman of the year Alison Fitch entertained guests at both the Auckland and Palmerston North functions with stories of the road to international success and her time as a volunteer administrator at the New Zealand team base in the Beijing

Olympic Village.

The Palmerston North MUSA Awards were made to the top performing men's and women's sports teams at the University. The Massey women's volleyball team won the women's sports team of the year after finishing second in the central zone tournament and fifth at this year's nationals.

The Massey Rams were awarded MUSA men's sports team of the year after winning the Manawatu Rugby Senior II grade championship and the John Clifford Memorial Cup. The team won all 18 competition games this year. The Rams were also awarded the Irish Universities Shield as best overall team at the Massey University Rugby Club awards.

An outstanding contribution award was presented to Warren Smith for his coaching of the Massey University women's volleyball team over the past four years.

Blues awards, North:

ARTISTIC ROLLER SKATING: Freyja Phillips

ATHLETICS: Adrian Blincoe, Nicholas Kalivati, Laura Roozendaal

BAREFOOT WATERSKIING: Kelly O'Donnell

BASKETBALL: Natalie Moore

CANOE POLO: Olivia Spencer-Bower, Joanna Wright

CANOE POLO & CANOE SLALOM: Tania Perrett

CANOE SLALOM: Michael Dawson

CYCLING: Catherine Cheatley, Simon van Velthooven

EQUESTRIAN: Chloe Akers, Hannah Appleton, Caroline Parkes, Sam Taylor

FOOTBALL: Finlay Milne

GOLF: James Betts, Gemma Mathieson

HOCKEY: Stacey Carr, Scott Falconer, Stephen Graham, Wendy Hull, Emily Naylor, Alice Trail, Jesse Workman

INLINE HOCKEY: Khord Kopu, Hayden Nelson, Michelle Webb

MOTORSPORT: Anthony Pedersen

MOUNTAINBIKE: Stuart Houltham

NETBALL: Lauren Burgess, Lana Phipps

ROWING: Hamish Bond, Nathan Cohen, Amy Grundy, Storm Uru

RUGBY: Dan Fitzharris

SAILING (Match Racing): Carl Syman

SHOOTING (Clay Target): Samuel Gregory

SWIMMING: Matt Woodrow

TRIATHLON/DUATHLON: Struan Webb

UNDERWATER HOCKEY: Rebecca Leach

VOLLEYBALL: Matt Quinn, Rebecca Reidy

Blues awards, Auckland:

ATHLETICS: Kate Campbell, Elizabeth Orchard, Aniel Smith

BADMINTON: Melissa Leviana Kartahardja

GOLF: Jenna Hirst

HOCKEY: Simon Child, Amanda Green, Kimberley Green, Shaun Matthews

INDOOR NETBALL: Albertine Gysberts

JUDO: Alister Leat

KAYAKING: Scott Bicknell

ORIENTEERING: Greg Flynn

ROWING: Juliette Haigh

RUGBY: Sam Ward, Shannon Willoughby

SKIING: Emilie Tait-Jamieson, Lucie Tait-Jamieson

SWIMMING: William Benson, Penelope Marshall, John Zulch

WATERPOLO: Kristina Watson

YACHTING: Michael Bullock, Joshua McCormack

Date: 08/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Auckland; Palmerston North; Sport and recreation; Wellington

New director of external relations appointed

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey has made his first new appointment to the University's senior management team, recruiting Sue Foley as director of external relations.

Mr Maharey says he is extremely pleased to have attracted such a highly-skilled and experienced practitioner to the role.

"Sue Foley has an extensive background in journalism and public affairs and is widely acknowledged as one of the best communicators in New Zealand. We look forward to working alongside Sue as we enable more people to see and hear of the University's achievements."

Ms Foley is currently general manager corporate affairs at KiwiRail, formerly Toll New Zealand. Her career has included working as chief of staff for TV3 News, chief of staff for the Leader of the Opposition, overseeing marketing and communications for the 2000 America's Cup Village, time as a senior public affairs consultant at a leading New Zealand agency and as an award-winning television journalist.



Sue Foley.

She takes up the new role at Massey on November 10, where she will lead communications, marketing and alumni activity.

Date: 09/10/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Internal Communications; Uni News; Vice-Chancellor

Rough guide to politics for perplexed voters

Help is at hand for voters struggling to unravel the daily sound bites, slogans and political sermons in the run-up to the November 8 election.

Massey social policy lecturer Dr Grant Duncan is presenting a “rough guide” to New Zealand's political landscape.

“At election time we are asked to think about who to vote for. But underlying that is the more durable question of the fundamental values and ideals that we wish to express through our choices as voters: in other words, what values to vote in favour of,” he says.

Dr Duncan will give a lecture on 14 October at the Albany campus, addressing the traditional values and aspirations that, he says, “give colour and texture to New Zealand's political landscape”.

“New Zealand shares many of the principles and values common to the western democratic world, but it also has its unique history of political events, and a unique mix of core social and political ideals,” says Dr Duncan, author of *Society and Politics: New Zealand Social Policy*.

One of the key areas he will explore is the contemporary clash between our historic socialist ideals dating back to the 1930s, and the market-led deregulation and individualism hatched in 1984 and prevalent today.

Other issues covered in the lecture include Maori self-determination, environmentalism and liberty, individualism and property.

New Zealanders' “cosmopolitan aspirations” represent an area rife with philosophical contradictions, Dr Duncan says.

“On one hand people seek a cohesive, independent society through a jingoistic desire to identify with symbols of national culture, and on the other, we want to be recognised on the world stage, to enjoy the benefits of imported goods and the dismantling of protectionist policies.”

Dr Duncan says he will not dwell on parties and their policies, political personalities and predicting winners in the lecture. Rather, he wants to emphasise that New Zealanders do not share a single vision for a better future, but our disagreements are interesting and healthy in themselves.

Free lecture: What are we voting for? A rough guide to our political landscape – Tuesday 14 October at 7pm, Neil Waters Lecture Theatre Building, Room 200, Albany Campus, Albany Highway.



Dr Grant Duncan.

Date: 09/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Election/Politics



Who Stole My Money's Grace Xue signing a contract with Massey University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Albany and International) Professor John Raine and Regional Registrar Albany Andrea Davies.

Massey signs up for online budgeting for staff

University staff figuring out what to do with their tax cut cash or how to afford Christmas now have free access to the award-winning online budgeting programme www.whostolemymoney.com, after the University signed-up to provide the programme for all employees.

The deal follows the success of the company's operations manager Grace Xue, who recently won the Telecommunications Users Association's Innovator of the Year award.

Who Stole My Money is an online, personal budgeting tool that enables users to consolidate all of their bank accounts and credit cards, set a realistic budget and track spending at the click of a button.

Ms Xue says Massey University is the first major organisation in New Zealand to have signed such a contract.

The programme will be available to the University's 4000 staff, while its 37,000 students, including extramural students, will be able to access the programme early next year.

Who Stole My Money was mentored through the University's business accelerator unit the e-centre, and is believed to be the world's first online personal money management system.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Albany and International) Professor John Raine says the online budgeting programme is a tangible example of a highly innovative enterprise that's benefited from our e-centre expertise. He anticipated staff across the board would be keen to use the programme.

"We are delighted to be able to offer Who Stole My Money to our staff and students to help with personal money management."

Given the pressure on many people's wallets amid the current economic climate, Ms Xue says many could benefit from the programme.

"Companies may think that the personal finances are not their concern. But accredited studies show that up to 12.5 per cent of an employee's time at work is lost due to personal financial problems. What's more, those workers also have more health problems," she says.

Date: 10/10/2008

Type: University News



Alexander Wastney won a bronze award for his sports therapy table.

Massey students sweep BeST Design Awards

Massey designers have dominated the student section of this year's BeST Design Awards winning 29 awards, 10 of them gold.

The annual awards are organised by the Designers Institute of New Zealand to celebrate the country's best product, spatial and graphic designs. The awards were presented at a black-tie event at Auckland's Aotea Centre this evening.

Massey was given the most awards of any tertiary institution in the country, winning more awards than all of the other institutions combined.

Head of the Institute of Creative Design Associate Professor Claire Robinson says it is an incredible result. "We're extremely proud of what our students have achieved," she says. "The results are a testament to the hard work the lecturers have put in to make this a world-class programme."

Convener of the graphic judging Fraser Gardyne says the students' work was of the highest quality. "The students showed that the industry is in for a good time, with very mature design talent coming through."

Massey students were awarded ten gold awards to go with four silver and seven bronze awards. They won three gold, five silver and three bronze awards in the student product category.

The award winners:

Student graphic category gold award winners:

Kylie Phillips, Graeme Offord, Natasha Vermeulen, Emma Bevernage, Sarah Harris, Julian Legge, Stephen Butler.

Student product category gold award winners:

Matthew McKinley, Ash Holwell, Iain Tolladay.

For a full list of winners: www.bestawards.co.nz



Gold award winner Matthew McKinley's Eweview sheep handling system.

Date: 11/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



About to board the Dolphin Explorer are Massey marine biology researcher and student mentor Karen Stockin (front left) with secondary school pupils (from front left) Audrey Setiawan, Merel Kroonenberg, Shaka Ravishankar (all Rangitoto College), and (back row from left) Donald van der Westhuizen (Long Bay College), Hayden Hamilton (Manurewa High School), Craig Parker (Long Bay College), Laura Goudie (Westlake Girls' High School), Laetitia Kench (Rangitoto College), Fiona McMillan (Long Bay College) and Shannon Fraser (Rangitoto College).

Aspiring scientists dazzled by dolphins

The thrill of seeing whales spouting and pods of dolphins swimming at close range on Auckland's Hauraki Gulf gave secondary school science pupils a vivid sense of life as a marine biologist.

Like many Aucklanders the pupils were stunned to find there are whales just kilometres off the North Shore coast between Rangitoto Island and the Coromandel Peninsula.

The pupils won vouchers at a recent course advice day on biological sciences for a day out on the Dolphin Explorer – a tourist and research vessel operated by Auckland's whale and dolphin safari.

The five-hour boat trip was more than a joy ride. Organised by marine biologist Karen Stockin, from the Institute of Natural Resources at Massey's Albany campus, the journey over choppy seas was a unique chance for students to learn about the prolific marine life at their doorstep.

This includes marine birds such as gannets, shearwaters and petrels in addition to five Brydes whales and more than 100 common dolphins.

While some were beginning to wonder if they would spot a single dolphin after more than an hour at sea, the eventual sighting of a frenzied crowd of dive-bombing gannets and other seabirds gave the clue to where dolphins and whales would be feeding. Pupils braved drenching at the bow for a glimpse of Brydes whales – spotted close to the boat.

Ms Stockin, who has recently completed her doctoral thesis on the common dolphin found in the Hauraki Gulf, acted as guide and mentor for the group of 10 students from Rangitoto and Long Bay Colleges, Westlake Girls' High School and Manurewa High School - all aspiring scientists interested in marine biology, zoology and evolution.

She shared fascinating facts and details of the common dolphin's behaviour and biology, including their voracious appetites resulting from their need to maintain their body temperature in temperate seas and their highly competitive mating and sexual antics.



The trip was a follow-up to the course advice day highlighting the extensive biological research being undertaken by New Zealand and international researchers at the institute, as well as the growing opportunities for study and research with the introduction of an undergraduate marine biology paper next year.

Ms Stockin, a research officer for the Coastal Marine Research Group, says she is excited about being involved in the expansion of marine research at Massey's Albany campus. Projects being conducted in both the Coastal Marine and Ecology and Conservation Groups at the campus are growing at an almost exponential rate, she says.

"It's been a privilege to be part of such a multidisciplinary team. Albany's biological science postgraduate students study an array of species from marine leeches to rats, geckos and gannets."

Right: Common dolphins swim with the Dolphin Explorer vessel.

Date: 13/10/2008

Type: University News

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

Free staff access to online budgeting tool

Last week the University signed a two-year agreement with the e-Centre-based company Who Stole My Money.

This contract sponsors all University staff with free, full access to WSMM premium membership.

Who Stole My Money is a New Zealand-developed, online personal budgeting tool that is simple, practical and designed to make managing your money a breeze.

With just clicks of a button, you can:

- Know your money status. Consolidate all your bank accounts and credit cards to know where you are spending and how much.
- Plan to achieve your goals. Set up a realistic and achievable budget that suits you.
- Track your money with ease. Always know what you have left, be in control of your money, stay out of debt and save.

Why should you budget?

- Know what is going on. Personal budgeting allows you to know exactly how much money you have. "Knowledge is King", and knowing your money is the first step towards improving your finances.
- Be in control of your money, and be less stressed. Money is the number one cause of stress for people. Having a budget and sticking to it is the key to enabling you to take charge of your finances.
- Achieve a better financial future. Taking control of your everyday money through budgeting, gives you the freedom to make small, painless changes that can lead to greater comfort in your financial life. Budgeting lets you plan for the expected, cater for the unexpected and save for the future.

Who Stole My Money is award-winning and provides timely support to all their members, by live support or email.

To take advantage of this opportunity, register at www.WhoStoleMyMoney.com. When you register, use your Massey email address and select "premium membership" under the "membership plan" section

Memberships are managed independently by Who Stole My Money. Massey University can not make enquires on any account. The only information provide to Massey University is the number of staff taking up the offer. Please direct any enquires to support@WhoStoleMyMoney.com

You can read the Massey News article here:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/news/article.cfm?mnarticle=massey-signs-up-for-online-budgeting-for-staff-10-10-2008>

Date: 13/10/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any



From left are Massey Agriculture award winners 2008, Fiona Turner, Maren Domke, Joshua Dear, Adam Goldwater and Sophie Stanley.

Smart students set to grow New Zealand

The next generation of farming leaders celebrated success on Friday, at the annual Massey Agriculture awards.

Director of Massey Agriculture Professor Jacqueline Rowarth says the end-of-year dinner is a significant step for final-year students about to graduate and enter the next stage of their lives.

“Agriculture – managing the environment to produce food – is protection and production, and it’s complicated. Massey Agriculture is focused on working with keen and motivated students to prepare them for a great future in New Zealand’s most important industry. Through mentoring and coaching we find the areas in which each student can flourish – and we show that we value their achievements.”

Most awards were based on academic performance, but the popular Massey Agriculture student of the year award recognises contribution to student welfare, social or recreational activity, sport, or other activity that contributes to the well-being of students in the applied sciences.



Massey Agriculctre student of the year 2008 Joshua Dear.

College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson said that this year nominations had been made by staff and students, and the recipient was Joshua Dear.

“He has shown a dedication to his fellow students that has gone beyond the norm, not only this year but throughout his time at Massey.

“Joshua developed a strong interest in agriculture from an early age, no doubt as a result of having grown up in the Taihape district. He is absolutely committed to a career in agriculture and is interested and experienced in both the dairy and sheep and beef industries, so the agriculture major of the Bachelor of Applied Science was a natural choice.”

Mr Dear is a final-year student, whose family now lives in Dannevirke. He had shown considerable leadership skill, Professor Anderson said.

“He was captain of the Massey University Colts team in 2006, a regular player for the Massey Agriculture XV. His academic record is exemplary, consistently achieving high grades. He has also received numerous scholarships. In 2007 he received the Grasslands Trust Levy scholarship, the Hawke's Bay Farm Improvement Club Trust scholarship and the Rongotea Lions Club Student Assistance Award. In 2008 he received the Ingleby Scholarship and the Harwood Farm Trust Scholarship. He also received Meat & Wool undergraduate scholarships in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

“While agriculture and rugby are traditional interests, Mr Dear also enjoys hunting, fishing, water-polo, indoor netball and Young Farmers.”

The William Gerrish Memorial Award was presented to Fiona Turner, a Bachelor of Accounting graduate who is completing a Graduate Diploma in Rural Studies. Mrs Turner is based in Palmerston North.

Professor Anderson said Mrs Turner had excelled in the farm management papers and been an active contributor to discussion and debate both in class and with case study farmers.

“She has consistently demonstrated intellectual curiosity and often has exceeded the requirements of an assignment in the pursuit of knowledge. She has a passion for farming and a desire to make a difference by working with farmers to help them improve their business skills and achieve their goals. Once a farmer, she has come back to farm management through these papers; they will enable her now to fulfil her dream of becoming a specialist farm accountant. Her contribution to New Zealand farm management has only just begun; it is likely to be considerable.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington presented the new Massey horticulture prize to Adam Goldwater.

“Massey University is proud to support the future leaders of the production horticulture industry. Massey invests in industry-related research, and enthusiastic and highly qualified lecturing staff to ensure that production horticulture has leading edge ideas that are then turned into best practice. And we have excellent students.”

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Director-General Murray Sherwin was unable to attend the awards but passed on his congratulations to Massey Agriculture.

“This has been a big year for you and a big year for agriculture and applied sciences generally in New Zealand. I really enjoy the energy and buzz we are seeing from Massey in this field.

“We have seen renewed recognition of the importance of the skills and disciplines you have been developing at Massey. That recognition has been obvious within New Zealand, at the level of our sector leaders, the wider community and within our politicians. It has also been an emerging theme internationally as the need to renew efforts to boost productivity in our food systems is now firmly back on the highest political agendas.”

Top-level German equestrian and third-year Bachelor of Applied Science student Maren Domke was awarded the Equine Student of the Year award for the second year. Dr Chris Rogers of Massey Equine says Maren has consistently achieved high marks across the equine major papers throughout her degree.

“The equine studies degree will be Maren's second equine qualification as she is already a recognised German National Dressage Federation instructor. Maren is an excellent example of a student able to balance the demands of her university study, participation in equestrian sport and development of her interest in barefoot hoof trimming.”

Recipients of the 2008 Massey Agriculture Awards:

Applied sciences and sciences practicum award: Sam Berry (Tauranga) at 100-level, Adam Goldwater (Auckland) at 200-level.

The New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management Award for excellence in farm management: Sophie Stanley (Taupo).

New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Leading Student Award: Sarah Jayne Vincent (Christchurch).

William Gerrish Memorial Award for outstanding performance in farm management: Fiona Turner (Palmerston North).

Massey Equine Student of the Year, to the most proficient student within the equine major of the Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree: Maren Domke.

Massey Agriculture Horticulture student prize: Adam Goldwater.

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: Joshua Dear (Dannevirke).

The Massey Agriculture student of the year award was established in 1992 by Professor Anderson.

Date: 13/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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



Tiritea, Massey University, Palmerston North.

Historic Tiritea open home attracts wide interest

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey opened Tiritea, the traditional Palmerston North residence of the University's vice-chancellors, to staff last Tuesday and Thursday.

The open days attracted large numbers of staff who were interested in seeing the interior of the homestead, built in 1902-03 for businessman Richard Abraham.

Among the visitors were Mr Abraham's grand-daughter Prue and her daughters Philippa and Nicki – a staff member at the Palmerston North campus.

Tiritea was originally situated where the Old Main Building now stands. It had 24 rooms to house the family's seven children and was surrounded by 12ha of mostly bush. Its sweeping driveway entrance is now the main drive.

In 1920, it was sold to Percy McHardy, a sheep farmer from Hawke's Bay, and became known as the McHardy Homestead. Six years later it was purchased by the Palmerston North Borough Council, following a poll of ratepayers, and then donated to the new Massey Agricultural College. Part of the land was set aside as a reserve, which is now Bledisloe Park.

Tiritea was later literally cut in two and moved, the larger section forming what became known as the principal's residence and the rest initially used for teaching space before becoming the College Registry, now Old Registry situated opposite the Old Main Building which opened in 1931.

Mr Maharey says Tiritea is part of the Massey heritage and will remain so, with its central location making it a possible location for part of the University's art collection and other memorabilia. It may also be used for University functions or VIP guest accommodation.



Reminiscing in the dining room at Tiritea is Prue Russell, grand-daughter of Richard Abraham, and her daughters Nicki and Philippa. Below: The entrance foyer and dining room.





Tiritea as it looked in the 1920s, before and after being cut into two buildings and moved.



Date: 13/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Cam Healy at Unilever in Germany.

Food technology grad lands dream job in Europe

Massey food technology graduate Cam Healy has boarded a plane for Germany after landing his dream job as a research and development technician for top Europe-based food manufacturing giant Unilever.

Christchurch-born Mr Healy says he can barely believe that less than a year ago he had his head down preparing for his final exams.

The career coup resulted from a twist of fate last year when a London placement at an international food and flavour company to complete his studies fell through.

“I decided to have a holiday in Switzerland and found a job with a company called Mountain Exposure as a chef for their elite ski resort chalets,” the 30-year-old says.

On a break from preparing special degustation (tasting) dinners and developing a range of gourmet frozen foods for the chalet clients, he went skiing with his boss and the boss' friend, who worked at Unilever, one of the biggest food manufacturers in Europe.

“She (the Unilever human resources person) jokingly asked me if I wanted a job.”

But Mr Healy had already decided to return to New Zealand to complete his degree at Massey's Albany campus.

By the time he had finished the course at the end of 2007, he stepped straight from lecture rooms and labs at Massey's Institute of Food, Health and Human Nutrition to a role as food technician and trainee winemaker for Montana Wineries in Blenheim. There, he applied technical aspects of his food technology training to take a leading role in developing and rolling out a state-of-the-art maintenance programme for the company across its operations in Blenheim, Napier and Gisborne.

Then his past caught up with him. That chance connection with Unilever resulted in a surprise phone call while he was working for Montana. After a two-hour conference call with five German Unilever executives, Mr Healy was flown to Sydney for an interview. Then came an all-expenses paid job offer for a position at Unilever's research and development centre in Heilbronn.

Mr Healy says the job is a great opportunity because of the global scale of Unilever's operations.

“Their strategy is to gather people from different parts of the world, so we work with different cultures and different perspectives. They take a cross-cultural approach to product development and problem solving.

“It's a very exciting offer and will give me global experience,” he says.

Opportunities include work as a food development technician and consultant at research and development 662

centres in Europe, India and Central America.

Mr Healy is not new to cross-cultural experiences however, with a French mother influencing his decision to head to Paris as a 17-year-old school leaver in search of a culinary career. He was accepted into an apprenticeship at the two Michelin star restaurant Lasserre, just off the Champs Elysee, and studied French cooking concurrently at the highly reputed and tough Ecole Ferrandi, the Ecole Superieure de Cuisine Francaise.

He spent the next eight years as a full-time chef in Paris, England and New Caledonia, but the lack of a social life as a chef and fear of becoming a “grumpy old bastard” trapped in the kitchen and losing his passion for food compelled him to study food technology.

While he'd like one day to come full circle and have his own restaurant, returning to cooking, he says inventing new products is, for now, a challenging way of nurturing his love of food.

“The good thing about working for a big company is that they can afford to hire people to think. You're at the forefront of new developments - like organic processed food. It's got to be healthy but have a good shelf life. You've got to strike the balance.”

Date: 14/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Student profiles

Principal's leadership centre disestablished

The New Zealand Principals' Leadership Centre has been disestablished in an agreement between Massey University and the New Zealand Principals' Federation.

The centre was established in 1997 as a partnership between the NZ Principals' Federation and the University. Its main focus was to provide opportunities for current and aspiring school leaders to develop and refine necessary skills for leading effective schools.

College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says the centre has made a productive contribution towards professional development for school principals and aspiring principals.

"An effective relationship between research-based academic roles of the University and the professional development role of the federation has provided considerable benefits to the profession over the years," Professor Chapman says.

"However, changes in the professional development environment have led to the agreement that it should now be disestablished."

The College of Education plans to continue its commitment to fostering the careers of principals through its Centre for Educational Development, and Ministry partnerships through which it provides support and expertise in areas of curriculum, policy and school support.

Date: 15/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education

Multi-campus welcomes for new VC and new HQ

Welcomes will be held for Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey at all three campuses over the coming fortnight, starting at Albany on Friday.

The welcome will be held from 3.30pm to 5pm in the foyer Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres building. It will include a presentation to staff by Mr Maharey.

It will be followed by welcomes and presentations at Palmerston North on Wednesday 29 October and at Wellington on Friday 31 October at 2pm.

The Palmerston North welcome, a luncheon from 12.30pm to 2.30pm, will also mark the official opening of University House, Massey's official new headquarters at the front of the Palmerston North campus and outside the ring road.

University House (Paihereatia) is in the former International Study Centre, where minor modifications are being completed. It marks a deliberate move by Mr Maharey to bring most of the senior management team together under one roof that is distinct from the management of the Palmerston North campus.

"It's a facility that serves the entire University," Mr Maharey says. "As well, it will provide a base for senior managers from Albany and Wellington when they are in Manawatu and mirrors what happens at all multi-campus universities."

Date: 15/10/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Auckland; Open day Palmerston North; Uni News; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington

Massey a proven pathway to design success

More than 40 years after beginning his design career at the School of Design, Mark Pennington says he still works to the principles he learned while studying.

A design director at Formway Design in Wellington, Mr Pennington's team was one of two awarded the supreme product Stringer award at this year's BeST Awards for its work on the HUM workspace system (pictured, right).

The awards, organised by the Design Institute of New Zealand, were presented in Auckland last week.



HUM is an innovative workspace system developed to respond to human behaviour and mirror the way the mind works. The judges described it as groundbreaking work in its field.

It is named to reflect the sound people make when working productively together as a team and is the product of four years of intensive research and development. As well as the supreme award for product design, HUM was also awarded gold in the furniture and sustainable product design categories.

Mr Pennington was part of the school's second intake in 1963. "I was looking to work in the industry, but was thinking about architecture when I was told about the programme run by Jim Coe, who founded the school. I began the course and found myself in nirvana. It's a great programme that stands tall on a world scale. It emphasises the humanitarian aspect of design - designing for people - which are principles I still work to today."

Two other Massey alumni won awards, with ALT Group designer Clem Devine winning the graphic Stringer award for his involvement in the Hudson Gavin Martin campaign. Mark Elsmore from Fisher and Paykel was part of the team that was also awarded the product Stringer for its cook surface.

Head of the Institute for Industry and the Environment Professor Tony Parker was also recognised, winning a silver award in the non-consumer product category for his Smart Reader (pictured, right), a portable handheld electronic identification unit intended for local and international markets in the agricultural sector.



The device, produced for Gallagher, is designed to allow farm workers to automatically identify individual animals by a unique number that is attached to them and stored in a tag or bolus.

Massey students also excelled winning 29 awards, 10 of them gold.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Creative Arts Professor Sally Morgan says it is an outstanding achievement. "CoCA's alumni took the professional awards, including the prestigious Stringer award, our staff were winners, and our students swept the board," she says. "I think we can truly say that we continue to define design in New Zealand."

Date: 16/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Julian Maggin, Tom Buhr and Alex Bevin.

Robolympics put engineers to the test

The School of Engineering and Advanced Technology held its annual “Robolympics” competition at the Palmerston North campus on Wednesday.

The event pitted first-year students' creations against each other in a series of challenges - events designed to test the robots' design and performance.

Eighteen teams competed, with a maximum of three minutes on each challenge to achieve the highest score in the event, which is considered a highlight in the school's academic calendar.

Organiser and lecturer Ralph Ball says the competition is designed to encourage students to think about problem solving and how to build a robot to complete specific tasks.

On Tuesday next week, students will travel to Palmerston North from the Wellington campus for the second-year electronics class “duck competition” with the objective of disabling electronic ducks with a “game-keeper” designed and built by the students. Last year's open season on electronic ducks was held at the Wellington campus.



Mataz Al Kharusi and Mohammed Al Gheilani watch as their robot stays on the “straight and narrow” in the line following event.

Date: 17/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Engineering; Palmerston North

'Knee-jerk' response to crisis only increases danger

By Ben Jacobsen

Both Labour and National are using the current financial crisis for short-term political gain. Just like in the United States, proper action seems to interfere with knee-jerk responses along traditional party lines. The US example shows how dangerous that is.

We are in a state of financial turmoil when the Dow Jones – the world's most famous stock market index – can gain or lose 1000 points during just a commercial break. Contrary to the US and Europe, the waves of this financial mega tsunami have not reached our shores yet. The responses of the US and Europe have been completely different. Europe has responded decisively and fast with all the proper actions. Rather than buying bad loans with only downside potential, European governments have immediately nationalised or taken large stakes in banks so that their citizens might profit from any upside. They provided liquidity when the market asked for liquidity. They offered deposit insurance when "bank runs" needed preventing. When investors asked for global commitment to fight the crisis they collectively dropped the interest rate. In their last collective action they guaranteed inter bank lending when the market needed trust. That action took markets away from the abyss that was looming. And last but not least, when – surprisingly – many Europeans underestimated the risk that their savings accounts might be frozen in Iceland, European countries came to the rescue of a country. This is crisis management at speed, which one would not normally associate with politicians. It seems that Europe has learned from the Swedish banking crisis in the nineties.



The US, on the other hand, let Lehman Brothers fail, which added to the global uncertainty. And at best, after the \$700 billion action plan has been going back and forth between all different political institutions, there now seems a probability that this plan might be implemented at some point in the future. The unwillingness of Republicans to act and to hold on too long to the belief that markets can sort themselves out caused huge damage. On top of that the economy and therefore the crisis has become "issue number 1" in the election campaign. Any plan of the opposition is obviously no good. As a consequence the only stores that see any turnover grow in the US are the so-called "Goodwill" stores.

The New Zealand situation resembles the US situation. It seems this crisis is too important to leave to politicians when there is an election around the corner. Voters looking for some leadership during the debate saw two politicians rudely interrupting each other, which resulted in unbearable noise. Other policymakers want us to stay calm and dare not make any comparison with 1929. It would be good if politicians and policy makers would listen a bit more closely to what economists have to say. We face a serious crisis. Paul Krugman, who won the Nobel Prize last Tuesday, pointed out he never expected to see something that resembled the 1930s in his lifetime. Professor Krugman is not alone. Politicians looking for the usually rare "one handed" economists can these days have their pick. Not even in 1929 have so many economists agreed. People who claim this crisis differs from 1929 – when governments did not act fast enough – should realise this might be a consequence of actions of policy makers who were willing to believe that the current situation resembles 1929.

To date, New Zealand responses are too little too late. European policymakers seem aware that markets cannot always be trusted to generate the right outcome. If a bank cannot trust another bank to be around tomorrow, it will not lend the other bank money and vice versa. It does not matter how liquid the market is. Even if both banks are solid, the market fails. If banks do not lend to each other they will not lend to us and the real economy comes to a grinding halt. Not only is this already affecting mortgages but fears are that it will start to affect credit card loans too. The main issue now is trust. Trust that you will get your money back.

Europe has taken the right steps and responded speedily. The US is lagging behind and pays a huge price. When the dust has settled they may no longer have a financial sector. New Zealand policymakers should consider Europe's approach. Offering deposit insurance is a first step. It means that we need to monitor financial institutions carefully, especially because these institutions now have an incentive to start taking on too much risk. But regulation is long overdue. Let's face it, New Zealand looked like a financial Wild West without proper regulation of finance companies. But we need more – a large drop of more than 1 per cent in the interest rate sooner rather than later. While we are too late to show global commitment there is no need to wait until 23 October. A large interest rate drop now can reduce that impact on the real economy substantially and even create opportunities because of a lower Kiwi dollar. Inflation should not be a worry as most of the inflation is oil related and imported and thus beyond our control.

We should also go beyond deposit insurance and guarantee wholesale lending. Again sooner rather than later. Banks in New Zealand are not likely to get in trouble, which should make this a relatively cheap guarantee. But it will also prevent us from getting in trouble as international banks may now bypass our financial institutions. More importantly New Zealand politicians should show real leadership and work together during this election to fight the crisis. It would be good if they spoke with one voice, rather than as they did during the debate last Tuesday.

Professor Ben Jacobsen (pictured) is Professor of Finance based at Massey's Albany campus.

Date: 17/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Election/Politics



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey hongis with Gary Pratt having accepted a toki (adze) as a symbol of his new badge of office.

New VC warmly welcomed at Albany campus

An electrifying Maori wero (challenge) set the scene for a colourful welcome for new Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey at Albany on Friday.

In the first of three official welcomes held at each of the campuses over the coming month, Mr Maharey accepted the carved toki (adze) offered to him as a badge of office during the traditional Maori challenge.

Flanked by a dozen members of the Albany Waiata Group composed of staff members from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Egypt and Iran, kapa haka and waiata tutor Gary Pratt (Tuhoë) performed the wero as Mr Maharey and his official party entered the Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre foyer.

Mr Maharey told a staff in a packed lecture theatre that “by 2020 Massey will be acknowledged as New Zealand’s defining university and as a world centre of tertiary learning”.

Elaborating on the defining qualities he ascribes to Massey, he listed “excellence, [being] first, innovative, connected, New Zealand [oriented], opportunity, collegial and autonomous” as the key themes underlying the word “defining” – the term synonymous with his new leadership.

Expressing his desire to see the Albany campus expand and flourish in the near future to become the university of choice for North Shore tertiary students, he said “repeated in research and scholarship we will provide the highest standards of research and scholarship and be world leaders in our areas of specialisation”.



Gary Pratt performs a wero – a traditional challenge to Mr Maharey as an introduction to his new position.



Mr Maharey (second from right) and (from left) Albany Students’ Association president Brad Heap, Chancellor Nigel Gould and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Albany and International) Professor John Raine entertained by Associated Professor Peter Lineham presenting a quirky induction pack.

Associate Professor Peter Lineham, head of the School of Social and Cultural Studies, had earlier offered Mr Maharey his own quirky Albany induction pack. Items included a spare brain "in the event you require boosted capacity on our innovative campus", and PRP goals such as "increasing all staff happiness levels by no less than 50 per cent – almost to a state of constant ecstasy", along with "increasing all budgetary increase requests from the Albany campus by no less than 50 per cent".

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Albany and International) Professor John Raine said the Albany campus was delighted that Mr Maharey had returned to Massey University from the world of politics. "The Labour Government's loss of one of its most senior ministers is Massey's gain."

He said Mr Maharey has "already engaged extensively with Massey staff of this campus and with external stakeholders, and begins his tenure as Vice-Chancellor extremely well-briefed on the great opportunity that Massey has here in the north".

Albany Students' Association president Brad Heap gave a welcome speech to Mr Maharey along with a special induction pack, and Kaiwhakahaere, Maori manager Donald Ripia was master of ceremonies.

Date: 20/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Palmerston North; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington



Massey staff attending the symposium last week, from left: Dr Hamish Anderson, Dr Julia Mansvelt, Dr Richard Shaw, Dr Terry Stewart, Associate Professor Tracy Riley, Associate Professor Regina Scheyvens and Associate Professor Mark Brown – who serves on the Ako Aotearoa reference group. Dr Lisa Emerson was also in attendance.

Top tertiary teachers gather for symposium

Ako Aotearoa's new Academy for Tertiary Teaching Excellence hosted its inaugural symposium for New Zealand's top tertiary teachers in Wellington last week, and College of Education senior lecturer Associate Professor Tracy Riley was one of eight members elected to the academy's executive committee.

Dr Riley is a senior lecturer in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy and specialises in gifted and talented education. She teaches undergraduate and postgraduate papers in the field as well as supervising postgraduate research. Last year she was one of two Massey staff who received national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

More than 50 academy members, all recipients of Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, attended the two-day symposium, which aimed to build educational leadership within the tertiary sector.

Associate Tertiary Education Minister Maryan Street opened the symposium, saying the academy's goal of fostering excellent teaching and learning is vital to New Zealand's ongoing economic and social development. "The Government has committed \$20 million to Ako Aotearoa, and I look forward to continuing this support by launching the academy's inaugural symposium."

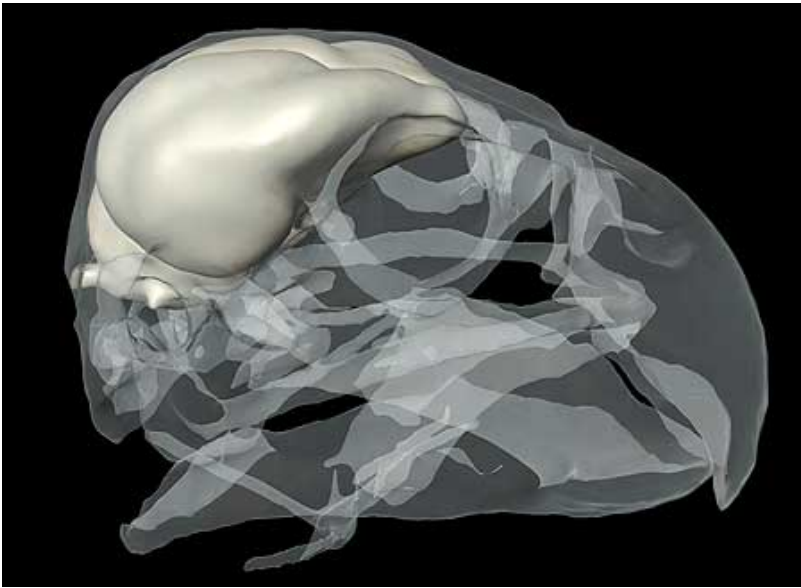
Ako Aotearoa national director Dr Peter Coolbear says the academy has the potential to make a major contribution to Ako Aotearoa's mission of achieving the best possible outcomes for tertiary students.

"The recipients of the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards over the past seven years are brilliant, inspirational people," Dr Coolbear says. "They are nationally recognised as leading practitioners in tertiary teaching and together constitute a wonderful resource for New Zealand."

Date: 20/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Teaching



A digital image of a kakapo brain.

Quest to sniff out kakapo fragrance spans centuries and continents

Feathers of the flightless kakapo are being flown around the world as part of a Massey biologist's quest to understand the role of the critically endangered native parrot's sense of smell and the power of male feather fragrance on breeding behaviour.

Drawing on scientific expertise from Austria and the United States and using kakapo specimens collected in the 1880s now stored in Vienna's Museum of Natural History, Associate Professor Dianne Brunton along with PhD student Anna Gsell are pursuing a series of research objectives being carried out across the globe to analyse kakapo skulls, bodies and the erotic scent of the males' feathers.

Dr Brunton, who heads the Institute of Natural Resources' Ecology and Conservation group at Albany, says it is likely that bird body odour plays a significant role in female kakapo mate choice.

"Although we know males smell strongly, the unique characteristics of the scents are not understood," she says. "Because they are nocturnal, kakapo are thought to have a more sophisticated sense of smell than other diurnal parrots."

About 60 feathers clipped off live kakapo during transmitter changes and health checks by Department of Conservation staff are being sent for analysis to animal olfactory chemist Professor Tom Goodwin at the Hendrix College in Arkansas. He will analyse the samples using a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer, a machine that can measure the volatile chemicals of kakapo feathers relating to scent. Dr Brunton and Ms Gsell will compare these results to the feathery fragrances of other native



Kakapo skull dating back to the 1880s stored at the Vienna Museum of Natural History, which was scanned for a study of the brain.



Kakapo specimens held at the museum collected by Austrian naturalist and collector Andreas Reischek in the late 19th century.

parrots such as kaka, kea and kakariki in order to try and identify the unique characteristics of male kakapo feather odour.

Having a better understanding of the unique chemistry of kakapo feather fragrance, which they describe as “sweetish and vegetative” – and how it influences mating behaviour could provide clues as to why female kakapo queue up to mate with certain “popular” males when other males are available.

While “a bit of a long shot”, she says, the research could pave the way to creating a synthetic kakapo “perfume” to encourage more diverse breeding which in turn would help expand the kakapo gene pool and its immune competency – an important issue considering the total kakapo population stands at just 91.



Doctoral student Anna Gsell with a kakapo she is studying.

With funding from a Claude McCarthy Fellowship, Professor Brunton this year also recruited University of California scientists at Berkeley to do stable isotope analysis of the chemical compounds of historic feather samples of kakapo in a separate project to find out more about kakapo diet and how this has changed over time. Kakapo, now only found in two protected offshore islands near Stewart Island, feed on rimu and pink pine fruit when available and supplementary food developed by Massey's veterinary department and distributed by the Department of Conservation's Kakapo Recovery Team.

Dr Brunton obtained feather samples from Vienna's Museum of Natural History during a recent trip. The museum has an extensive collection of skins and skeletons of New Zealand bird species collected by Austrian taxidermist, naturalist and collector Andreas Reischek between 1877 and 1889.

In yet another aspect of this study, the researchers have organised CT scans of the historic kakapo skulls from the Vienna museum's collection. These are being digitally analysed to study the kakapo brain. By observing the contours of the kakapo brain they hope to be able to find out more about the brain region associated with smell.

“The more we understand about the many aspects of kakapo behaviour and biology, the better equipped we will be to ensure its survival,” Dr Brunton says.

Date: 20/10/2008

Type: Research

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

Gifted education specialist on steering panel for new national association

Massey University Associate Professor Tracy Riley is on the steering committee of a new national association set up to support professionals working with gifted and talented pupils as well as raise awareness and advocate for those pupils.

Dr Riley says schools are recognising more and more that they need quality programmes for gifted and talented pupils. "But there is still a fair way to go to ensure all pupils with exceptional talents receive the help they need to reach their potential – and for teachers and other professionals to develop the skills that are necessary to support this group of learners."

The association, called giftEDnz, will support those who work with pupils who have exceptional abilities in a wide range of fields, for example, in science or technology, art, writing, drama, music, sport or social leadership.

"It's so important to recognise and nurture gifted and talented students," Dr Riley says. "There are children like this in all schools and early childhood services in New Zealand. They are young people who may go on to change the world – perhaps find a cure for cancer, break all previous sporting records, or bring us art and music that enriches all of society." She says some gifted and talented pupils may get into conflict at school because of their tendency to challenge the rules. They can also be at risk of underachievement, due to boredom or frustration with the slow pace of their learning.

The impetus for a national organisation specifically for professionals came from the Rising Tides: Nurturing our Gifted Culture national conference in Wellington in 2006, which brought together more than 700 educators and other professionals.

Dr Riley says the association aims to assist gifted education professionals to network, advocate for the diverse needs of gifted and talented children, make links with international and national organisations, and offer a shared voice to government and other groups.

Goals include raising awareness and understanding about gifted and talented pupils, and advocating for equitable educational opportunities.

The association is expected to be particularly valuable for teachers, principals, counsellors, resource teachers for learning and behaviour, educational psychologists, teacher educators, professional development providers, researchers, postgraduate students, and others with a professional interest in gifted and talented education.

Date: 21/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education; Teaching



International PhD network to be discussed

Ways in which Massey PhD students can gain ground in their research communities internationally will be discussed at a seminar at the Manawatu campus on Friday.

The Garnet PhD school, funded by the European Union, organises biannual one-week PhD schools and online follow-up activities. Garnet is a Network of Excellence on Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation comprising 42 leading research centres and universities.

The coordinator for the virtual network in the Garnet PhD school, Christina vom Brocke, will introduce the concept and its benefits and challenges will be discussed.

The school is based on active student participation and the aim of creating a network of PhD students and researchers that will allow research fellows across the globe to combine research ventures and promote academic exchange.

The seminar begins at 12pm on Friday 24 October at the Manawatu campus Old Main Building, room 3.25.

Date: 21/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Palmerston North

VC's symposium to focus on teaching for tomorrow – today

The annual Vice Chancellor's symposium is to be held next month at each campus and will focus on the future of learning, as well as celebrating the University's commitment to excellence and innovation in research-based teaching.

The symposium is an opportunity for staff to engage in what will be an ongoing conversation about what and how the University teaches, how assessments are carried out and identifying Massey's strengths, distinctive features, and challenges.

The theme, Teaching tomorrow, today, reflects Vice Chancellor Steve Maharey's vision for Massey as New Zealand's defining university and is of major importance to the University.

Four workshop streams will feature innovation, future-focus, excellence in teaching and tackling the big teaching questions.

Keynote speaker for the symposium is Diana Laurillard, Professor of Learning with Digital Technologies at the London Knowledge Lab, part of Britain's Institute of Education.

Professor Laurillard's current research is in two related areas: developing an interactive learning design tool to support teachers moving to blended learning, and working with teachers to investigate the design of software interventions for learners with mathematic and numeracy difficulties.

Professor Laurillard's previous appointments include Head of the e-Learning Strategy Unit at the British Government's Department for Education and Skills, the Visiting Committee on Information Technology at Harvard University, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for learning technologies and teaching at The Open University. The Vice-Chancellor's symposium will also host a debate to feature some of the Massey's best known raconteurs. This year's debate topic is that lectures have no place in 21st century university education.

The symposium will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 12 November, 9am – 4pm, Study Centre Auditorium - Albany

Thursday 13 November, 9am – 4pm, 4B06 - Wellington

Friday 14 November, 9am – 4pm, SSLB1 - Manawatu

For more information visit: <http://vcsymposium.massey.ac.nz>

Date: 21/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Teaching; Wellington



Associate Professor Christian Fischer (centre in brown jacket) with students at the Agricultural University of Ashgabat in Turkmenistan and a picture of the Turkmen president behind them.

Taking modern marketing to Soviet-style Turkmenistan

Expanding the latest agribusiness marketing theories in Turkmenistan, a remote Central Asian country with an old Soviet-style economy, rates as one of Associate Professor Christian Fischer's more unusual academic experiences.

Dr Fischer's six-day trip to deliver seminars and workshops to 20 students and professors at the Agricultural University of Ashgabat was organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), an international organisation engaging in economic capability-building projects in its 56 member states spanning Vladivostok to Vancouver.

Dr Fischer, who specialises in supply and value chain management, says despite being cut off from modern western economic and marketing theories and practices because of information restrictions and lack of access to the internet, the Turkmen students were eager to hear of developments that could help boost their country's economic growth.

A Soviet Union constituent until 1991, Turkmenistan has little in common with New Zealand's agricultural realities. The secular Muslim nation of just over five million shares its borders with Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. About 80 per cent of the country is desert, and its key industries are cotton, natural gas and oil and horticultural crops such as melons and pomegranates.

Dr Fischer says the main challenge for economic development in Turkmenistan is to move beyond the inherited Soviet approach to production.

"They haven't had much exposure to Western-style marketing theories and strategies," says Dr Fischer, from the Agribusiness, Logistics and Supply Chain Management Division at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Albany.

"Their approach is administration-driven, with a Soviet-style ministry deciding on how much should be produced."

In his seminar series Dr Fischer focused on management decision-support techniques with regard to markets, prices, customers and consumers, competitors and suppliers as well as explaining the use of quantitative tools such as market and customer segmentation, price forecasting and demand analysis.

"I basically talked to them in detail about what marketing is and what it can do."

In a separate meeting with journalists and farmers' organisations, locals asked him about exporting goods to New Zealand. However farmers and producers in Turkmenistan need export licences, which can be hard to obtain, he says.

Dr Fischer, who is from Germany and joined Massey University earlier this year, says single party-run Turkmenistan accepts help provided by international bodies such as the OSCE, which brings in international

experts in the areas of human rights, parliament building and police training. This follows the adoption recently of a new constitution paving the way to increasing the size of the Turkmen parliament and allowing multiple parties.

He described the capital city of Ashgabat as a safe place to walk around with no obvious signs of political or religious oppression, and noted images of Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov in numerous public places.

Date: 21/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Preoccupation with 'big questions' subject of lecture

The pursuit of answers to life's great questions will be discussed and satirised by Professor Jeremy Diggle at next month's Deputy Vice-Chancellor's lecture series in Wellington.

Professor Diggle, the head of the University's School of Fine Arts, is interested in the creative process, particularly the fictitious characters artists create to carry out internal conversations.

"I'm fascinated by the absurdity of everyday life when compared to scientific experiment. It seems we're trying to understand life's big questions by looking outwards into space, when in fact we can do it by looking around at our immediate surroundings."

His lecture will focus on two of his current internet narrative projects – Apoll8 and Narvik's Complaint, which detail two of those conversations.

"The first project runs parallel to an exhibition of artefacts from the Apollo 8 spacecraft, while the second relates to the Large Hadron Collider currently being constructed and tested in Europe."

Professor Diggle says the lecture will be a piece of art in itself as both internet projects are ongoing and will be referred to.

The lecture is at 6pm on 14 November at the Wellington campus Museum Building theatrette.

Date: 21/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Conference/Seminar; Wellington



BLOW.08

Nga hau e wha

Blow.08 celebrates creative art success

Fashion, dance, music and art feature in a packed programme for the *Blow.08* festival hosted by the University's College of Creative Arts in Wellington and Albany next month.

Blow.08 runs from 7-22 November and includes contributions from the New Zealand School of Music, Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School, the New Zealand School of Dance and the School of English and Media Studies.

Highlights of the programme include a fashion show by final-year students, a seminar on adapting literature for animation and a dynamic collaboration between final-year photography students and dancers from the New Zealand School of Dance.

The College of Creative Arts will also welcome three new inductees into its Hall of Fame: industrial designer Mark Pennington, fashion designer Kate Sylvester and (posthumously) artist and printmaker Gordon Walters.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Creative Arts Professor Sally Morgan says she is incredibly humbled by the achievements of this year's inductees.

"All three are internationally recognised and respected," Professor Morgan says. "All have pursued excellence in their artistic and design endeavours and all demonstrate the contribution that an art and design education can make to the stamping of New Zealand's mark on the world."

Mr Pennington was a student at the former Wellington Polytechnic School of Design from 1963-66 and a staff member from 1974-88, including 10 years as Head of Industrial Design. He is now design director and consultant for Formway Design, a Petone business respected as a major global player in the design of inspirational, high performance office seating and furniture. His design accomplishments with Formway Furniture include the *ZAF* and *LIFE* chairs and the *FREE* system workstation, which have all won prestigious awards both in Australasia and internationally.

Ms Sylvester was a student at Wellington Polytechnic (which Massey took over in 1999) from 1985-86. She is one of New Zealand's most commercially successful and respected fashion designers.

Her collections are highly anticipated at both New Zealand and Australian fashion weeks and her shows are received with acclaim, featuring as highlights for local and international media.

Mr Walters (1919-1995) was a part-time student at Wellington Technical College between 1935-40, while he was employed as a commercial artist. He also taught part-time at the college in 1945.

Mr Walters' iconic, and at times controversial, contribution to New Zealand culture is largely due to his synthesis of Maori and European symbols through geometric abstraction. His investigation of the koru motif began in 1956 and, combined with hard edge modernist abstraction, formed the basis of his life's work.



A collaboration between final-year photography students and dancers from the New Zealand School of Dance is to feature at Blow 08.

The Hall of Fame was established last year to recognise past students and staff of the college and its forerunner institutions (the School of Art, Wellington Technical College, and the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design), who have made outstanding contributions to New Zealand's economy, reputation and national identity through art and design.

The first inductees welcomed into the Hall of Fame last year were Weta Workshop's director Richard Taylor, New York-based fashion designer Rebecca Taylor and (posthumously) sculptor and filmmaker Len Lye.

This year's inductees will be honoured at an invitation-only black tie dinner in the Museum Building's Tea Gardens at the Wellington campus on Friday 21 November.

For more details about *Blow.08* visit: <http://blow.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 22/10/2008

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Palmerston North; Wellington

New post for public health director

Director of the Centre for Public Health Research Professor Neil Pearce has assumed the presidency of the International Epidemiological Association.

Professor Pearce was elected to the position three years ago and, after a term as president-elect, took over the role at the recent World Congress of Epidemiology in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The association is the only global organisation of epidemiologists and has members in more than 100 countries. It publishes the *International Journal of Epidemiology* and has also published the *Dictionary of Epidemiology*.

Professor Pearce is the first president of the association from the Southern Hemisphere.

He says his focus will be on training, in particular, epidemiologists in developing countries.. “We will start an IEA international education programme in epidemiology, which will run training courses,” he says.

The first of those courses, on epidemiological methods, takes place in Jaipur, India in April next year.

Date: 22/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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





Candidates choose the pecking order for the political debate at Massey Wellington. From left: Mike Collins, Georgina Te Heuheu, Rahui Katene, Metiria Turei, Pita Paraone and Mahara Okeroa.

Wellington campus hosts pre-election Māori debate

Candidates representing six political parties took part in a debate about Māori issues at Massey University's Wellington campus yesterday.

The candidates were: Georgina Te Heuheu (National), Mahara Okeroa (Labour), Metiria Turei (Greens), Mike Collins (ACT), Pita Paraone (NZ First) and Rahui Katene (Māori Party).

Debate topics included the laws relating to foreshore and seabed, terrorism, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and retention of tikanga.

The campus senior manager Māori, Te Tumatakuru O'Connell, says the event was organised by Te Muka Tangata, a network of Māori service providers based in Wellington. "Te Muka Tangata is a key organisation we work with and the debate is one of a series of engagement activities at the University."

Mr O'Connell says the debate was a key community engagement event as part of the University's Māori investment strategy, Key Initiatives for A Māori Academic Investment Agenda (Kia Maia). "The debate was an important opportunity for Māori to participate in the political process. More than 50 people attended including students, news reporters, Te Muka Tangata members and representatives of non-government organisations.

The next Māori alumni and stakeholder engagement event will be held at the campus at the end of next month and is targeted at Māori graduates.

Date: 22/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Election/Politics; Maori; Wellington



Farmer Keith Riley (second left) and agriculture students (from left) Kevin Argyle, Fraser Matthews, Aleesha Legg, Xiaobao Du and Sarah Payne discuss the group's recommendation for a feed pad and two loaf pads.

Students provide sound 'agri-vice' in Woodville dairy farmer case study

Woodville dairy farmer Keith Riley says final-year agriculture students using his farm as a case study made him stop and think with perceptive questions and sensible suggestions. And, with production ahead of budget and stock condition scores up, he rates the advice highly.

"The students are motivated, they challenge you, with good questions on why you are doing things - or not doing things," Mr Riley says.

"It's also a challenge to communicate with a younger generation, and useful to keep relevant to their aspirations and thoughts."

The case study is the output from the agricultural production paper, run at the end of the degree, says applied sciences programme director Ewen Cameron. "It allows students to hone the skills gathered over three years and apply them in real-time on a real farm.

"As well as producing a paper on the study, the students present to their peers and local farmers at a series of field days," Mr Cameron says. "Feedback from farmers has been hugely positive throughout the 15 years we have run this option - there is real value in students applying their learning."

Mr Riley and his wife Kim this month hosted a field day on their 300ha farm, Auroam Rima, attracting industry spectators and neighbouring farmers.

Mr Riley told visitors that a key area the students had challenged him on was the environment. He already had a goal to reduce the farm's environmental impact, and the farm had invested \$100,000 in a prototype effluent pond with 100 days' storage. But the students had identified effluent management as an area that could be further improved, recommending a system to accommodate the seasonal



Farmer Keith Riley joined final-year agriculture students assembled at his Auroam Rima Farm, near Woodville, for a field day on the students' case study on Auroam Rima.



Student Fraser Matthews presents on a need for off-paddock cow management, with group member

needs of off-paddock cow management, using a feed pad and two loaf pads.

Xiaobao Du about to speak on options and cost analyses.

“We're certainly considering it. The thing that impresses me with the students is they have identified the challenge between being economical and financially viable and something that will keep the cows fed and off-paddock when it's wet. What they have suggested is a very good middle-of-the-road option for us.

“The ultimate would be to house the cows while it's raining but can we remain financially viable and outlay all that money to only use it once every three years? New Zealand's advantage over our global competitors is that in general we can keep cows in the paddock.”

The farm became famous during the 2004 floods when Mrs Riley was swept into the flooded Manawatu River and survived by clinging to cow 569 as it swam to shore. The property is also known for hosting international motocross championships, so challenges for the Rileys include both the natural river floods and incorporating into the farm calendar the man-made event that keeps 10 per cent of the farm out of action for more than a month each year.

As part of the case study, student Sarah Payne gave an overview of the farm's current situation, including key strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. The farm is staffed by the Rileys and three full-time workers, with two casual staff as required. The herd is 830 predominantly Friesian-cross cows, producing 283,220kg MS/year.

Student group spokesman Kevin Argyle said that in consultancy projects such as this, it is important to understand the clients' goals and aspirations when providing what the group calls "agri-vice".

Student Aleesha Legg gave a comparison of planned measures developed by the students and the actual outcomes, noting that many quantitative measures were ahead of those forecast this spring. Calving has started earlier than anticipated and milk supply is ahead of schedule.

“Condition score is up by 0.15 and production is 15 per cent ahead up on season to date,” Miss Legg said.

Mr Argyle added that heavy rain causing flooding meant the group had to adapt quickly. “We went from a point where there was surplus pasture cover to a feed deficit situation overnight. Dairy farming is dramatic!”

Challenges notwithstanding, Mr Riley says dairying had been a good career.

“We started off with a lot less financial resources, just owning some of the cows and have worked our way up to a 50-50 equity. That's the uniqueness of dairy farming. I am no sure of any other industry where you can work up like that. I think there's even more opportunity now as farms get bigger there is huge opportunity for people to progress through.”

Date: 22/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture



Professor Ray Winger (right) at the awards ceremony with St Kentigern College food technologists, from left: Esther Kim, Ceri McVinnie, Neala Ye and Megan Coetzer, with their teacher Carolyn Norquay.

Roast chicken the big winner at Massey Food Awards

Hot roasted takeaway chicken developed by Tegel won this year's Massey University Food Awards supreme award announced in Auckland last night.

The awards, sponsored by the University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, celebrate innovation.

The University is the only one in Australasia to offer a degree in food technology.

Tegel Foods' Deluxe Roasted Chicken won the Premier Award by overcoming cost and health issues to perfect a process for cooking, packaging and sealing its low-fat chicken and enabling it to be sold in small convenience stores throughout the country. Previously hot roasted chicken was sold only through large supermarkets because the cost of producing it was too high if sales volumes were not sufficient to avoid waste.



Tegel's Deluxe Roasted Chicken.

The Tegel product also won the Food Safety Award. Other award winners were 3six9 dressings from Functional Whole Foods New Zealand, which won the Massey University Enterprise Award, and Hubbard's Berry Berry Good Cereal, which won the Heart Foundation Tick Programme Healthier Choice Award for a cereal designed specifically to tackle the problem of childhood obesity by providing healthy high fibre for children.

Chief judge Allyson Gofton said the entries showed that food technologists were "the home cooks of today. The reality is that in a world that runs at an ever-increasing pace, food preparation takes a back seat," Ms Gofton said.

"We need food technologists and marketers to produce foods with a conscience."

Massey's Professor of Food Technology and IFNHH Albany campus director Ray Winger says Massey's food technology programme was "considered the gold standard professional degree", focusing on product development and innovation.

"Massey graduates are leaders of the industry and their alumni network reaches throughout the world," Professor Winger says. "We are proud to celebrate outstanding examples of innovation and added value within the food industry as this is a reflection of the excellent skills and commercial acumen that exists in New Zealand."

He was pleased to see a new generation of food technologists at the awards, such as the four year-12 St Kentigern College pupils who worked with Massey experts on a food technology project making sophisticated sandwich spreads. They won a Royal Society Creativity in Science and Technology award earlier this year and last night received a plaque for their innovative product range.

Also meeting the requirements of the Pick the Tick programme, Cookie Time Ltd won the Markem-Image Bakery Products Award for its Smart Cookie, a healthy cookie alternative designed for school tuck shops.

Other winners were New Zealand Natural, which won the BOC Dairy or Dairy Replacement Foods Award for its Zilch! no added sugar frozen desserts; Green Monkey Ltd, which won the Crop and Food Research Fruit and Vegetable Products Award and the FMCG Magazine Meal Solutions Award for its Green Monkey Premium Organic Baby Food; and NZ Bakels Ltd, which won the Progressive Food for Life Award for its Gluten Free Health Baking Ingredients.

New Zealand Natural also won the Massey University Export Award with its Kiwi Pavlova Ice-Cream, developed specifically for export markets that said they wanted an identifiably New Zealand flavour.

Date: 22/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Sociologist elected to World Values Survey Association board

Dr Paul Perry was elected to the scientific advisory board of the World Values Survey Association at its conference and general assembly in Istanbul recently.

Dr Perry, a senior lecturer in Sociology in the School of People, Environment and Planning, has been a principal investigator in the New Zealand study of values since 1985.

The World Values Survey Association is an international network of social scientists studying changing values and their impact on society.

Large-scale national surveys are carried out across the world simultaneously. Surveys have been undertaken at least once in 97 countries, over five different rounds, since the 1980s.

The most recent round, 2005-07, saw surveys carried out in 60 countries including New Zealand.

The scientific advisory board is comprised of individuals from 12 countries. It will have a key role in developing the questionnaire for the next round of the World Values Survey.

Dr Perry says his being part of the scientific advisory board will lift the profile of New Zealand within the international organisation and allow greater involvement in the shape of the next survey round.

World Values Association president Professor Ronald Inglehart will visit Massey on 20 November, when he will give a public lecture on Changing Mass Attitudes and Democracy.

Professor Inglehart is Research Professor at the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan.

His visit is part of a series of speaking engagements in November, part of Fulbright New Zealand's 60th anniversary celebrations.

The Massey lecture will be in the Japan Lecture Theatre at the Manawatu campus at 11am.

Date: 23/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences





Ben Barr (above) with a chevron skink.

Lizard researchers win ecology awards

Students from the Ecology and Conservation group in Albany won first and second prizes for the best student research presentations at the New Zealand Ecological Society's annual conference recently.

The University had 15 postgraduate students from Albany and Manawatu campuses presenting their research - the largest contingent ever to attend the conference from a single tertiary institution, according to Associate Professor Dianne Brunton, who heads the Institute of Natural Resources' Ecology and Conservation group in Albany.

"We are very proud of the high standard of our Ecology postgraduate students at Albany campus," says Dr Brunton.

Master's student Ben Barr won first place for his talk titled Investigating Chevron Skink (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) Ecology, and the Impacts of Rat Control. The chevron skink is of New Zealand's rarest lizards and listed as nationally endangered. Mr Barr is investigating the effects of rat control on skink populations on Great Barrier Island.

Second place was won by Master's student Dylan van Winkel for his presentation Monitoring Post-Translocation Responses of Cryptic Geckos and Investigation of Avian Predation on Island Lizards. His research is examining the impact of native predators, such as birds, on the Duvaucel's geckos on Tiritiri Matangi and Moturoa Islands in the Hauraki Gulf. Mr Barr also won the Conservation Biology prize.



Dylan van Winkel holds a Duvaucel's gecko.

Date: 23/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

Ice-cream better licked than spooned says food expert

Does ice-cream actually taste better when it is licked from a cone than when eaten from a spoon?

Massey food technology senior lecturer Kay McMath thinks so. Although she is not aware of any specific scientific evidence to prove it, she says “there are some physical and physiological reasons why there are likely to be differences in flavour”.

“Flavour in ice cream is only released when the fat content – which carries the flavour – is warmed in the mouth to at least body temperature,” she says.

“During licking, the tongue is coated with a thin layer of ice-cream which is more quickly warmed and the flavour is detected by the large surface area of the taste buds present on the tongue.”



Ice-cream judge Kay McMath tasting gelato made by her award-winning food technology students earlier this year.

By comparison, the spoon provides insulation to keep the sample colder when put into the mouth. Once in the mouth the tongue pushes the ice cream to the roof of the mouth to melt before swallowing. A smaller surface area is therefore involved in warming the ice cream to release the flavours.

Another factor influencing the perception of taste is the quantity of ice cream in each mouthful. The bigger the mouthful, (as with a spoon) the more likely it is that it will be chewed before swallowing.

“When licking, it takes longer to eat the same amount so that the flavour is savoured and more likely to be enjoyed. Remember as a kid trying to make that ice cream last longer than anyone else’s?”

However Mrs McMath acknowledges “it’s a difficult hypothesis to prove as it involves such different procedures. The consumer will psychologically believe there are likely to be differences – whether real or not”.

She was asked by manufacturer Tip Top for her opinion to help promote the company’s \$1-a-scoop promotion on Labour Day.

Mrs McMath, based at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Albany, is well known as chief judge at the New Zealand Ice-Cream awards held every year. Six of her students won the Open Creative category of the awards this year for their range of gelatos.

Date: 24/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

Researcher begins major retirement study

A Massey University PhD student is beginning research that will shape social policy aimed at improving the lives of the next generation of retirees.

The New Zealand Retirement Planning Survey will make up the major part of Jack Noone's Doctoral research. The survey is funded by the School of Psychology, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Retirement Commission. His research will be supervised by Dr Christine Stephens and Dr Fiona Alpass.

Early next month, 3000 people aged between 50 and 60 will receive a questionnaire which Mr Noone says will examine their attitudes towards retirement and retirement planning.

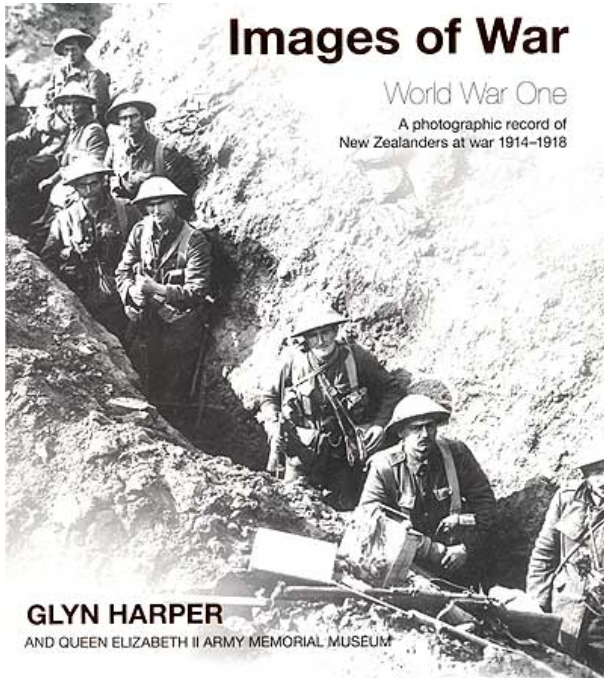
“The survey looks at how they are preparing in terms of their future lifestyle, health, finances and their psychological preparations,” Mr Noone says. “The project goes beyond financial planning – it looks at all the different ways people are planning for retirement.”

He says the results of this study will uncover more information about how and why people plan for the future. “It will inform social policy aimed at increasing the well-being of the next generation of retirees, the baby boomers.”

Date: 28/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Lecture showcases war images

The year's final professorial lecture from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences features Associate Professor Glyn Harper, director of the Centre for Defence Studies.

New Zealand and the First World War in (unpublished) Photographs will showcase his forthcoming book *Images of War*.

The book collects together photographs taken by New Zealand soldiers during WWI. It will be released early next month, 90 years after the end of the war.

Images were initially sourced from the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum and the Kippenberger Military Archive, but Dr Harper says thousands more photographs from private collections were sent to him after a nationwide appeal.

"It was a real privilege to be able to work on this project," Dr Harper says. "As it progressed I came to realise what an important but much-neglected historical source these photographs were. I think this is one of the most important books I have worked on and I am so glad it will be released in time for the 90th commemoration of the Armistice."



Professor Glyn Harper.

The lecture begins at 3.30pm on Wednesday 5 November in the Old Main Building's auditorium at the Manawatu campus. Refreshments will be served following the lecture. Lecture showcases war images

Date: 28/10/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Sleep-deprived sought for group therapy study

People with sleeping difficulties are being sought for a Massey University group therapy service aimed at helping insomnia sufferers.

The treatment targets insomnia and anxiety as these two conditions can often be linked and treatment can be more effective when both are targeted.

Clinical psychology student Fernanda Mottin is working with the University's Psychology Clinic in Wellington and will examine the service as part of her Doctoral research.

"My research will examine the components and outcomes of the treatment by looking at the direct effects, such as improvement in sleep and reduction in anxiety symptoms, as well as the broader repercussions, such as improvement in quality of life," she says. "Research participants will be asked to fill in an additional questionnaire and will be contacted three months after the group finishes for a follow-up assessment of about one hour."

The group therapy is a paid service, as it will be delivered by a registered clinical psychologist, but there is a subsidy available for those who are also willing to take part in Ms Mottin's research project.

The clinic is currently recruiting people who have longstanding difficulties with sleep - either falling asleep or staying asleep - and who might also worry too much. A free assessment is provided to determine whether a person fits the group criteria.

For more information, or to book an interview, please contact the clinic on 04-801-0492 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/5o3prq>

Date: 28/10/2008

Type: Research

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



Fernanda Mottin.



Massey welcomes decision on Hokowhitu and Blair Tennant

The decision by the Government to agree to a process that will allow the sale of Blair Tennant Hall and Massey University to take full ownership of the College of Education's campus at Hokowhitu site is exciting news, says Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey.

Mr Maharey says Massey has been asking for the ability to be allowed to determine the future use of these assets for some time.

“Our understanding is that we will now move to sell Blair Tennant Hall and reinvest the proceeds in the University.

“We will continue to occupy the Hokowhitu site but having ownership transferred to the University will allow us to determine its long-term future.

Mr Maharey thanked the Minister Minister, Pete Hodgson Hodgson, for his decision, which will be received positively by the whole tertiary sector.

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/proposal+crown+asset+use+massey+university>

Date: 29/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Palmerston North



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey outlines his vision for Massey University.

University House heralds new era for Massey

▶ VIDEO Massey staff can view the opening ceremony and Vice-Chancellor's presentation here: [Windows PC](#) or [Apple and Firefox](#)

Massey University officially opened the new University head office, University House, yesterday. New Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey was also officially welcomed to the Manawatu campus, with tangata whenua, Ministers and MPs, Emeritus Professors and more than 300 staff on-hand for the celebration.

Mr Maharey said University House drew all the senior managers together and created a base for the University's national operations.

"What we have done is to distinguish between roles with a national responsibility and those with a responsibility for this campus. Massey is a national university with multiple campuses. Providing leadership at University House more clearly delineates the fact those management roles cover the whole University, not just Manawatu, by providing a front door to the University that is distinct from the front door to the campus," Mr Maharey says. "It's also good for the Manawatu that Massey has a multi-campus university with its head office in Palmerston North and it sends a message to the community of long-term commitment to the region."

The launch and welcome started with a blessing by Reverend Wiremu Te Awe Awe, before Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington spoke of Mr Maharey's return to Massey as a "local boy made good". After graduating with a BA and later an MA in the 1970s, Mr Maharey taught both sociology and business administration at Massey before embarking in a career in politics. A spell on Palmerston North City Council was followed by 18 years as MP for Palmerston North, with portfolios including social development, broadcasting, tertiary education and research, science and technology.

Education Minister Pete Hodgson, a long-time Cabinet colleague of Mr Maharey and a Massey veterinary science graduate, also spoke.

"He is besotted with Massey and is a person with a tremendous amount of energy but he can't do everything," Mr Hodgson said. "So work with him, help him. To the Massey community, to the council and right to the bones of this place, good luck."

Mr Maharey acknowledged the many guests including Dr Tumu Te Heuheu, Paramount chief of Tuwharetoa, and noted the strong relationship the two had forged over many years of shared interest in education.

Mr Maharey outlined his vision for Massey as New Zealand's defining university, echoing the University's first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Allan Stewart, and his assertion that Massey was change-embracing, innovative and forward-looking. This would continue, Mr Maharey said, with Massey continuing New Zealand's transformation. Qualities Massey would embrace included excellent, first, innovative, connected, opportunity, collegial and autonomy. One area to be addressed first was that of responsibility, with Massey leading in sustainable development.

Mr Maharey also outlined the vision for each of the University's campuses: Albany would have a comprehensive range of courses with a focus on innovation and the new economy; Wellington would continue as a more niche

education provider with strengths in creativity and design; while Manawatu would draw from its roots in agriculture and science to maximise its role at the centre of New Zealand's food industry.

“This is a stunning university,” Mr Maharey said. “It has the most wonderful staff and I have not stopped being amazed at the quality of people and the quality of the things they are doing. We are going to make it even better.”

Mr Maharey was gifted two rimu trees by the University, one to be planted on the Manawatu campus and one on his property. He received a carved toki (adze) after a Maori wero at his welcome to the Albany campus last week. He will be welcomed at the Wellington campus tomorrow.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Ian Warrington); Assistant Vice-Chancellors with responsibilities for Maori and Pacific (Professor Mason Durie), Research (Professor Nigel Long), Academic (to be appointed), Finance, IT, Strategy and Commercial (Dr John Griffiths), People and Organisational Development (Alan Davis), External Relations (Sue Foley), and the University Registrar (Stuart Morriss); the Pro Vice-Chancellors for the College of Business (Professor Lawrence Rose), College of Creative Arts (Professor Sally Morgan), College of Education (Professor James Chapman), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor Susan Mumm), and College of Sciences (Professor Robert Anderson); the Regional Chief Executives for Albany (Professor John Raine), Manawatu (Professor Ian Warrington), Wellington (Professor Andrea McLroy, and an appointment will be made in 2009 of a Chief Executive Open and Professional Learning.

Those with national responsibilities, the Vice-Chancellor and Assistant Vice-Chancellors, will be based in University House, which will provide additional working space for members of the team visiting from the Albany and Wellington campuses.

Date: 30/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Uni News; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Video Multimedia



'Moodle' the first step in learning enrichment strategy

The University is adopting Moodle as its new learning management system, part of a drive to provide the best possible learning environment for students, says Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey.

Moodle, an acronym for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, is an open-source learning platform used by the world's leading university-level distance education providers, including the Open University (UK).

The move to Moodle is the first of a number of initiatives that will form part of a larger strategy aimed at broadening and enriching the learning experience for all students, Mr Maharey says. It will allow the University to offer a blended model of teaching – combining face-to-face and online learning – to internal, distance and international students.

"This demonstrates Massey's strong commitment to a more interactive, collaborative, media-rich and personalised learning environment relevant to the needs of the 21st century learner," he says.

"We intend to blend the best of traditional distance education with a new electronic teaching paradigm to create an exceptional and distinctive learning experience for all students."

Massey's student bodies have welcomed the move.

The carefully-phased implementation of Moodle over the next two years will be a major step forward in the online toolset available to staff and those tools and services Massey already provides its students to support conventional teaching. In particular, the new teaching platform will be used to encourage higher levels of student interaction and engagement through new digital media and online learning communities.

"Although technology offers great potential, Massey's strategy is about investing in people to develop a new approach to learning and teaching, which prepares today's students for tomorrow's world," Mr Maharey says. "To realise these benefits Massey fully understands the importance of staff professional development and the need to adequately support students. Selecting Moodle is only the first step.

"Moodle will be used to build on Massey's reputation for excellence and innovation in teaching. In the past three years Massey has had six winners in the National Awards for Excellence in Tertiary Teaching, including the Prime Minister's supreme award this year. The decision to select Moodle is about ensuring our teachers have the right tools for the virtual classroom of the 21st century.

"The adoption of Moodle will also allow Massey to continue its leadership role in distance learning. We are the nation's pre-eminent provider of distance learning and we believe, in the context of economic and social transformation, Massey should ensure that those students who choose to study at a distance can do so anytime, anywhere."

Date: 30/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Teaching; Uni News; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor



College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson with Genevieve Cooper and Zonta International District Governor Anne Walker at the presentation of the district award.

Massey student takes prestigious Zonta scholarship

Fourth-year business and science student Genevieve Cooper is the recipient of this year's Zonta International Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

The scholarship, first awarded in 1998, is open to women worldwide who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in business leading to a business management career. The \$9226 (\$US5000) scholarship is awarded to students of outstanding achievement and future potential in their third or fourth year of undergraduate study. To be considered for the award, applicants must be successful in winning one of 16 national Zonta awards – Ms Cooper received the New Zealand (District 16) Zonta scholarship worth \$2000 earlier this month.

Ms Cooper, from Wanganui, is studying a conjoint Bachelor of Business Studies/Bachelor of Science degree, which she will complete at the Manawatu campus this year. Her programme of study has been finance and statistics-focused, with the goal of a career in the investment banking industry where her corporate finance and statistical skills can be applied to improve the quality of financial modelling and corporate decision making. She says she was “absolutely delighted” to receive the scholarship, which she will use for postgraduate or work-related study.



Genevieve Cooper.

Ms Cooper received the district Zonta award on 22 October at Wharerata. The international scholarship will be presented in Wanganui at 6pm on 18 November at The Kingsgate Avenue Hotel.

The Jane M Klausman scholarship was established in 1998 as a result of a generous bequest left by Jane Klausman, a Zonta member from New York. Ms Klausman recognised the significant barriers to achievement that exist for women in the business world and wished to support young women anywhere in the world seeking a business career. The scholarship is prestigious and remains the only scholarship provided by Zonta International on a global basis for undergraduate students. Since 1998, Zonta has awarded 175 scholarships to women in 39 countries.

Applications for the 2009 Zonta Scholarships open in January 2009. More information and applications forms are available from Zonta Clubs www.zonta.org.nz, or from the University scholarship office.

Date: 31/10/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



[▶ VIDEO](#) [Watch the new TV commercial on Massey's YouTube Channel](#)

Staff, students share their Massey discoveries

Staff and students feature in the University's 2009 recruitment campaign, giving New Zealand a glimpse of some of the work under way at New Zealand's defining university.

The advertising will appear on television from Sunday, acting marketing director Sarah Vining says. The concept, *Discovery is in your hands*, shows Massey's role in transforming New Zealand.

"It shows real-life explorers in action, each touching the world through their discoveries," Ms Vining says.

"All the people in the ads are Massey students or staff. Several advertising students took part and were able to gain first-hand experience of the process of creating a television commercial."

The short list was developed in consultation with each of the University's five colleges, with filming at Manawatu and Wellington.

Ms Vining says radio, print, text and internet advertising will complement the television component of the campaign, along with an "out-bounding" phone campaign to reach prospective and existing students run by the University's Contact Centre.

While in previous years the end-of-year recruitment campaign has been the marketing team's major focus, this year a decision was made to have a more constant presence in the market throughout the year.

"We are really pleased that we have enjoyed strong media coverage throughout the year, highlighting the research and expertise of our staff and students in key areas including technology and engineering, added-value in agriculture and smart foods, and, of course, the creative sector.

"The TV campaign has good time slots with quality images too, so we are really pleased to be sharing the great work that's done. And we do want to thank all the staff and students who took part."

Date: 31/10/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Any



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey speaks to staff about his vision for the University.

Path clear for new Vice-Chancellor

Te Kuratini Marae in Wellington was full to capacity for the powhiri to welcome the University's new Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey on Friday.

Mana whenua representatives were supported by members of the Wellington High School kapa haka group, University Council members, students and staff to welcome Mr Maharey.

Chancellor Nigel Gould described the University Council's decision to appoint Mr Maharey as being relatively easy. "He showed clear strengths and passion, and over his almost 12-month induction has had the energy and capability to look at developing a strong strategic base."



The Vice-Chancellor is presented with a pounamu pendant as a welcome gift from Wellington campus staff.

As part of the welcome, Mr Maharey gave a presentation about the new 2020 strategy. "Massey University is New Zealand's defining university. By 2020 it will be known as a university that embraces change, is ambitious, with a Massey-first attitude, innovative, a New Zealand style, looks for opportunities, works collegially and has autonomy to be its own boss."

The Wellington welcome completes his initiation. While he will be based at University House at the Manawatu campus, he says he is firmly focused on the concept that while Massey is a multi-campus university, everybody is part of the same team.

Date: 03/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington



*Prime Minister Helen Clark presents a copy of *The Price of Citizenship* to Professor Mason Durie. Photos: Gisborne Herald.*

Price of Citizenship celebrated

Massey University Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Pacific) Professor Mason Durie was among those honoured at Te Poho o Rawiri marae in Gisborne last month at a celebration to launch Dr Monty Soutar's book *Nga Tama Toa The Price of Citizenship: C Company 28 (Maori) Battalion 1939-1945*.

The 448-page history of the company, based on tribal memories, personal recollections, eyewitness accounts and family anecdotes interwoven with official military reports, is illustrated by hundreds of photographs, many of them previously unpublished images.

Dr Soutar, a former Massey student and staff member (1990-03) who completed his PhD while at the School of Māori Studies, says the book tells the story of the Māori Battalion's war on many different levels.

"It also manages to capture the special spirit of the Māori Battalion, which became renowned not only for its dash and flair for the unorthodox, but also for its contribution in manpower to the war effort, and allows the voices of those who were there to be heard on almost every page.

"If it were not for the understanding and leadership of Professor Durie and Massey University at the very beginning of the project in 1993, this publication would not have come about. For that I am eternally grateful.

"There were about 20 Massey students and staff involved in the project. We all came to understand the significant contribution made by that generation of men to the war effort. It became clear that World War II soldiers were owed a debt, and their story needed to be made available to younger generations."

Professor Durie was given one of two copies of the book specially presented by Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Mr Soutar says getting the book published has been a 16-year journey. "I have kept at it for so long, for the widows, wives and grandfathers who served in the war. We all wanted to see it to completion and to fulfil the expressed wish of the statesman Sir Apirana Ngata, who in a letter to his son Henare in 1946 impressed upon him that the story needed to be told."

Henare Ngata, 91, is the oldest surviving veteran of the battalion.

Mr Soutar is director of Gisborne's Tairāwhiti Museum, a member of the National Archives Council and the Waitangi Tribunal, and a guardian of the Alexander Turnbull Library. He was previously a fellow in Māori history,



Dr Monty Soutar addresses the gathering at Te Poho o Rawhiri Marae, Gisborne, on Saturday 25 October.



Veterans gather under the 28 Māori Battalion flag. Photos: Gisborne Herald.

at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and has significant experience in historical research, dealing with Māori Land Court records, iwi and Māori communities.

Date: 04/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Maori

Soil scientist's work acknowledged

Past and present Massey staff and students gathered on Friday to celebrate the 90th birthday of soil scientist Dr Jim Pollok.

Director of Massey Agriculture Professor Jacqueline Rowarth says Dr Pollok was an institution for generations of Massey students and staff.

“He was known to generations of students as ‘Podzol Pollok’, an affectionate nickname and reference to his favourite soil type. In his own words, he taught pretty well the whole gamut of soil science to agricultural diploma students.”

Dr Pollok worked at Massey from 1955 until 1983.

“Although he retired 25 years ago, his research has never stopped,” Professor Rowarth says. “Nor has his enthusiasm for teaching.”

As a school-leaver Dr Pollok spent three years working at the local stock and station firm of JG Ward & Co in Invercargill before he completed Agricultural Intermediate study in physics, chemistry and biology at Otago University. He then joined Lincoln College and completed the first year of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree. War interrupted, but after serving for five years overseas as a Radar Officer Dr Pollok resumed and completed his degree. With an Ex-Servicemen's Senior Scholarship in Agriculture, as well as an American Field Service Fellowship, he completed a masterate majoring in soil science.



Dr Jim Pollok with a soil profile of a Podzol.

After a spell soil surveying in England and Wales, Dr Pollok returned to New Zealand in 1955 and took up a lecturing position at what was then Massey Agricultural College. In 1974 he completed his Doctorate in Agriculture in Bonn on a comparison between loess (wind blown) soils in New Zealand and Germany.

At the birthday celebration, Dr Pollok told guests of the huge importance of fundamental knowledge. “From biology, physics and chemistry there are many career options that allow a creative person to contribute to society – knowledge and creativity combined. Without that knowledge, we rely on technologies that actually cannot replace that knowledge and creativity.”

Famous for the saying “I still need my trusty spade and auger, my field notebook and Munsell colour book, my knowledge of soil genesis, my ability to read the landscape”, Dr Pollok is also known for ‘causing a hole to be dug’, Professor Rowarth says. “Many students through Massey have benefited from his practical approach to digging holes with minimum disruption to the pasture, and to reading a soil profile.

“It was a tremendous privilege to have him back at Massey and to enjoy this celebration.”

Dr Pollok's birthday is 5 November.

Date: 04/11/2008

Type: University News

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

Only one new gastro case reported

Only one new case of gastroenteritis has been reported at Massey's Manawatu campus in the past 24 hours. Staff are increasingly optimistic the outbreak is under control, but the additional measures including extra cleaning, hand sanitisers and wipes and an alternative exam venue will remain in place until at least Saturday.

Regional registrar Dr Sandi Shillington says that this morning only three students used the alternative exam venue, provided for students who had been unwell but now felt well enough to write their exams. Many students are applying for impaired performance consideration for exams sat while they were unwell or soon afterwards, and medical staff are now assisting with this process. The last exam of the year will take place on campus on Saturday.

Around 155 students and a few staff have now been affected by the gastroenteritis outbreak, which started with the first affected students becoming unwell in the early hours of Friday morning. The University's management plan was enacted and extra staff remained on campus throughout the weekend to care for students and manage the outbreak.

The University is awaiting the results of laboratory tests to ascertain the nature of the outbreak. Public Health medical staff have been extremely positive about how well the University has managed the situation.

Date: 04/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

Gastro outbreak confirmed as Norovirus

Laboratory tests have confirmed that the gastroenteritis outbreak that has affected about 160 students at the Manawatu campus is a Norovirus.

Regional Registrar Dr Sandi Shillington says a marvellous effort by staff and contractors has seen the contagious virus contained, with only a few new cases reported this week. Measures instituted to combat the virus will remain in place, including extra cleaning, an alternate exam venue for students who have been unwell and cleansing wipes and hand sanitisers available across campus.

Staff are now working on processing exam scripts and assisting students who have been affected by the outbreak, which peaked on 31 October, during the end-of-year exam period. The last exam on campus is on Wednesday 12 November.

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

Ecology angle for new Chair of Statistics

The University has appointed ecologist and statistician Associate Professor Marti Anderson as the new Chair of Statistics for the Albany campus.

Dr Anderson is currently at the University of Auckland's Department of Statistics, where she has worked for the past nine years. She will take up her new role at Massey in February 2009.

Dr Anderson says she is “delighted by the appointment and the challenges I can see by coming to Massey”.

She trained in marine biology and ecology in the United States and Australia, and has a master's degree in Mathematical Statistics and PhD in Marine Science from the University of Sydney.



Professor Marti Anderson.

Dr Anderson says she is excited by the opportunities for leadership in interdisciplinary research at Massey's Albany campus involving statisticians and researchers from the ecology group.

“I think ecology and environmental science is a real growth area, and quantitative statistics can play a key role in future developments in this area.”

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences

Royal Society Fellowship for Professor Mick Roberts

Mick Roberts, Professor of Mathematical Biology in the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at the Albany campus has been elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Professor Roberts is one of 10 new fellows elected - six from universities and four from crown research institutes. He is the only one from the mathematical and information sciences panel.

"I owe a lot to the people I've been collaborating with, particularly Professor Hans Heesterbeek from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands," Professor Roberts says. "We've been working on modelling infectious diseases for the past 15 years."

Professor Tony Norris, Head of the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at Albany, says the election means the mathematics group now has three Royal Society fellows "making it one of New Zealand's leading research and teaching groups in the mathematical sciences".



"We are delighted by Mick's election as a fellow of New Zealand's most eminent scientific society."

The citing document, published today, says Professor Roberts has demonstrated strong leadership for nearly 30 years in the important area of mathematical epidemiology. "He has brought to it the rigorous mathematical tool of dynamical systems, and he has where necessary incorporated stochastic variability, using stochastic differential equations.

"With great and proved success, he has built physiologically-realistic models, which enable robust description and prediction of the rate and severity of both animal and human disease epidemics. Work done in conjunction with the Ministry of Health enabled that body to avert a measles epidemic in NZ in 2001 and instigate a change in the pertussis vaccination program in 2006."

It also says one of his papers, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society (of London), Series B, in 2004, is described by many as "the most important new development in mathematical epidemiology of infectious diseases in the last couple of years".

Professor Roberts joined Massey University in 2003 after working for AgResearch at Wallaceville, Wellington, for many years. Internationally, he is included in programmes in the universities of Oxford and Utrecht, and has frequently participated in world forums such as the World Health Organisation as an invited speaker on the incidence of dangerous diseases.

The Royal Society Academy of Fellows covers all sciences and is represented by nine panels. There are currently 334 fellows and 48 honorary fellows, the latter resident overseas.

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences



Fire Service staff clean up the damaged laboratory earlier today.

Fire damages computer lab at Albany campus

A fire in a postgraduate computer laboratory in the basement of Quad Block B at the Albany campus this morning damaged more than 40 computers and several printers.

The fire, caused by a faulty fluorescent light fitting falling on to a chair, occurred just before 7.30am. Three students in the room at the time activated a fire alarm and the sprinkler system prevented the fire from spreading, says campus building services manager Jeff Ashkettle.



The Albany campus Quad Block - B, where the fire occurred, is on the left.

Quad Blocks B and A were evacuated but staff were able to return to the buildings, apart from the damaged laboratory. Two exams were moved to other venues on campus.

Albany regional information technology manager Barbie Yerkovich says damage to the lab and equipment will be assessed by insurers to determine what can be repaired and what will need replacing. In the meantime students can access computers in another postgraduate laboratory at the Oteha Rohe precinct.

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland



Mentors Tepora Pukepuke (supervisor), Michelle Chinn and Selina Moore. Absent: Erica Morrison.

Mentoring scheme boosts completion rates in core social work papers

Social work lecturers say a mentoring scheme trialled this year has had some early success.

Lecturers found that extramural students exit papers due to both study-related and external factors. The scheme was devised to look at ways of cutting dropout rates.

Project leader Dr Simon Nash says mentors contacted almost 300 students during the year.

“DNC (did not complete) rates in semester one were significantly lower than average, successful completions were up, as were formal withdrawals.”

Formal withdrawals are a better outcome than a DNC, both in terms of academic and financial penalties, he says.

Attendance rates at contact courses were also up, however Dr Nash says there were some obstacles. “Many obstacles to successful completion and re-enrolment are beyond our control and concern other aspects of students' lives, family and work commitments,” he says. “Our student mentors are not counsellors, their focus is on study-related support.”

Dr Nash says many extramural social work students were mature students and a significant proportion were Maori or Pasifika students, who face different challenges.

“As the Bachelor of Social Work shifts to being fully available extramurally, we expect a higher risk of DNC and failure, and subsequently, disillusionment with both the institution and their own goal of study,” he says. “These risks are particularly high for Maori and Pasifika students, who make up a large proportion of our classes.”

Social work tutor Tepora Pukepuke led the team of mentors. “We're making contact with students during the year and discussing any problems they may have. If we can answer their questions in a timely fashion, there is a greater chance that they'll finish the course,” Ms Pukepuke says.

Students were contacted weekly by telephone for a one-on-one session and are also in regular email contact with the mentoring team.

“Our team is made up of current and former students who know what it's like to study, so the help they give is highly relevant. We provide an assessment of the student's needs and refer them within Massey. Rather than duplicating Massey support services, we link the student to what they require.”

The scheme is also a research project that will produce a resource that could be used in the future, across many disciplines. It is funded by Ako Aotearoa: The National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence with support from the Office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Maori and Pacific).

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Weight fixation sends unhealthy messages

Making assumptions of health based on a person's weight is faulty, and misinformation is putting people's physical and emotional well-being at risk, says College of Education researcher and lecturer in human development Dr Cat Pausé.

Dr Pausé challenged her students and colleagues to examine the “obesity myth”, which she says wrongly suggests that fat is unhealthy, that body size is a predictor of health and that there are permanent forms of weight-loss available.

“It is irresponsible to assume that all fat people are unhealthy, just as it is irresponsible to assume that all thin people are healthy,” Dr Pausé says.

She is project coordinator for the Adult Identity Development Project, which collected data on identity development, maintenance and revision in adult women and men for more than 20 years. Her focus is on weight identity, a small component of body image/identity.



Dr Cat Pausé.

Her research looked at United States women classified as morbidly obese. She says she chose this group because they are largely ignored or discarded by most studies. “Most research using individuals who are classified as morbidly obese is medical research, or has recruited participants through medical pathways.”

So far, she has found that New Zealand culture does not appear to be as weight-obsessed as the United States, yet she sees the same pressures being imposed. “In the United States, 90 per cent of women experience some form of dissatisfaction with their body. We have a global culture telling women that their bodies are not acceptable.

“In Britain, authorities are even suggesting removing overweight children from their homes to avert what they consider to be child abuse – and their methods for measurement are based on outdated systems that do not reflect today's lifestyle and standards.”

Dr Pausé says the system, known as the body mass index, is inappropriately used as a health measure by government agencies around the world and should be scrapped. She argues that most people who work in the field of fat studies, agree.

“It does not reflect the standards by which we live today – it was developed in 1850 and was developed as a normative measure of height and weight, not as an indicator of health.

“Using it perpetuates obesity myths, which damage our sense of weight identity inside a culture that is increasingly prejudiced toward fat people,” she says. “In fact we have an \$8 billion diet industry flourishing, when research shows that permanent weight loss of more than 8kg is impossible for 95 per cent of people.”

Dr Pausé says that there is research to show that weight identity does not necessarily shift even when the weight does. “Weight and health are not direct cause and effects,” she says, “although younger dieting and yo-yo dieting does correlate with poor health, and 80 per cent of women in the United States have been on some form of diet to lose weight by the time they are 18 years old.

“In many cultures, being a morbidly obese woman means living in a society that both oppresses your voice and exploits your image as a cautionary tale.”

Dr Pausé says there needs to be better understanding of issues surrounding weight and health, and that a culture shift must occur to encourage a healthier weight identity and physical health. “Imagine if a doctor prescribed a pill that only worked 5 per cent of the time for heart disease ; it would be considered unethical, yet they still always say, 'eat less, exercise more, lose weight'.”

Date: 05/11/2008

Type: Research

Lecturer honoured by accountants' institute

Chartered accountant and University senior lecturer Dr Nives Botica-Redmayne was one of 16 businesspeople honoured with Fellowships of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants at its annual meeting in Dunedin recently.

Fellowships are conferred by the institute each year for outstanding contributions to the accountancy profession and/or service to the community.

Dr Botica-Redmayne teaches second and third-year and postgraduate auditing and financial accounting courses. Her PhD was on the effects of political risk and governance on audit production, audit effort and audit fees in the public sector. Her research interests are audit services production and economics of auditing and audit risk.



Dr Nives Botica-Redmayne.

She has been the University's representative on the Manawatu branch committee since June 1995, became vice-chair last year, is responsible for the technical and legislation sub-committee and prepares and comments on submissions on professional and reporting standards for the branch. She also writes a quarterly article about developments in standards for the branch newsletter.

Dr Botica-Redmayne is strongly involved in promoting the profession and institute membership and has convened the Executive Insight programme for the Manawatu region. She was also key to the introduction of the new scholarship being presented by the branch to a Massey Manawatu student, and is a member of the scholarship panel.

Date: 06/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



President elect Barack Obama campaigning in South Carolina. Photo: [Wikipedia Image Commons](#)

From the frontline of the US presidential race

Dr Brian McDonnell, senior lecturer in Media Studies at Massey University's Albany campus, is on a Fulbright Visiting Lectureship teaching New Zealand Studies (film and literature) at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. This is his first-hand account of the US election.

It has been a hugely exciting time for me over the past few months to actually be here in the United States, and especially to be in Washington, DC, where politics always rules. For me it's been a real privilege to be able to witness in person such an historic presidential campaign climaxed by such a moving night of victory for Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

It's been particularly stirring to be right in the cockpit of change in the nation's capital, surrounded by all the historical monuments to past presidents and past conflicts, and observing everything in close-up. Of course, with the availability of live television pictures, New Zealanders can get some of the thrill of what's happened, but believe me there is nothing so vivid as being here on the ground for such an unrepeatable occasion. One of my students is Joe Biden's niece and she has given me a more personal insight into the Democratic campaign, one that I feel lucky to have had contact with.

It's almost a cliché to say the atmosphere of this election has been electric. But it's accurate in this case. Obama's rise has been so meteoric that it is hard to take in. Sure, the economic downturn and the unpopularity of President Bush and his wars made the timing ripe for change. But Obama has had to overcome a canny fighter in Hillary Clinton as well as all the other Democratic contenders, and to see off the challenge of John McCain with all his folksy ways, his compelling life story, and his tenacious fighting spirit.

Throughout it all I have been struck by Obama's poise,



Dr Brian McDonnell.



Dr Brian McDonnell outside American President (1801-1809) Thomas Jefferson's famous house at Monticello in Virginia. Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

confidence, intelligence and ability to command and organise the best campaign team in living memory. For a while I thought he was too academic, unemotional and cerebral for broad appeal to Americans and he definitely took time to adjust to the entry of Sarah Palin into the race but, as with every other challenge, he absorbed that pressure and emerged as unruffled, imperturbable and elegant as before.

Some criticise him for glibness and wonder if his fine words can be matched by action, but I think his hyper-eloquence is the real thing and that he has authentic leadership genius. I hope that the hard realities of being president don't cut too deeply into the euphoria his victory has set off.

Everyone around me here, from Democratic colleagues at Georgetown through to Republican neighbours in my Northern Virginia community, to people of all ethnicities I speak to on buses and trains, to my own students - all acknowledge the historic sea change we've witnessed.

Obama is the first African American president (or biracial president to be absolutely accurate) to capture the White House, and his accession also marks a generational change in national leader as clear as did Jack Kennedy's win in 1960. And on election night 2008 it was that realisation that I think made so many people throng to the parks and the squares and the streets to soak in the atmosphere and participate in history being made.

For me, as something of an outside observer, there has been fun too amid the rhetoric. Political satire is far healthier here than in New Zealand and the TV shows have made great sport out of the pomposity and inanity that feature in any race for power.

'Joe the Plumber', the near-invisible President Bush and especially Alaskan 'maverick' Sarah Palin have all been targets for those who see the funny, even ridiculous, side of public life. Some say Palin represents the future of the Republican Party, but I am more of the view that she is actually the last example of the old culture wars, and that Obama's huge win marks a fundamental shift in the electorate that may consign her brand of brash, anti-intellectual conservatism to history.

As we settle down from the elation of the victory, New Zealand can start to figure out more methodically just what a Barack Obama presidency, and a massive Democratic dominance in Congress, might mean for us in the next four to eight years. In regard to the challenges he faces in both domestic and international affairs, I wish him the best.

Date: 06/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Associate Professor Glyn Harper.

Book depicts New Zealand's experience of WWI

Images of War, a new book from Centre for Defence Studies director Associate Professor Glyn Harper, was officially launched at the Army Memorial Museum in Waiouru yesterday.

The book collects together photographs taken by New Zealand soldiers during World War I. Its release marks the 90-year anniversary of the Armistice.

Images were initially sourced from the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum and the Kippenberger Military Archive, but Dr Harper says thousands more photographs from private collections were sent to him after a nationwide appeal.

“It was a real privilege to be able to work on this project. As it progressed I came to realise what an important but much-neglected historical source these photographs were. I think this is one of the most important books I have worked on and I am so glad it was released in time for the 90th commemoration of the Armistice.”

Most of the photographs in *Images of War* have never been published and many were captured with forbidden cameras hidden in soldiers' kitbags. It covers the whole of the war, even though New Zealand did not appoint an official photographer until 1917. “Thank goodness many soldiers defied orders and took their own cameras, otherwise we'd have no record of the campaigns in Gallipoli or the Somme, for instance,” Dr Harper says.

The book was a part-time project spanning three years for Dr Harper, with help from his wife Susan Lemish and former secretary Tania Lasenby. Ms Lemish and Ms Lasenby looked at 30,000 photographs, with around 830 making it into the book.

“Once they knew what I was after, they were able to look at albums and boxes of images too,” Dr Harper says. “I could not have got through all of the photographic collections, and met the publisher's deadlines, without their help.”

The pictures tell a different story to the written accounts of the war, he says.

“The images assembled in the book record a large slice of New Zealand's experience of this pivotal and tragic event and reveal something of what it was like for the New Zealanders who had to live through it. They're poignant, arresting and evocative and capture the spirit of the time.”



Dr Harper signs a copy of his book for Professor John Muirhead, who submitted photographs to the project, at the launch in Waiouru.

Some images in the book show the graphic injuries sustained on the battlefield. "It was very painful going through the photos for that section of the book, but I thought it was important the book drove home the cost of war," Dr Harper says.

Chief of Army Major General Lou Gardiner officially launched the book at the War Memorial Museum in Waiouru. It is published by HarperCollins.

Dr Harper says he has plans for a similar book covering World War II.

"Of course this will be a much larger project. New Zealand's commitment to that war was far greater as the Air Force and Navy were also involved and cameras were more common," he says. "I'd expect there would be about 100,000 pictures to go through for that project."

Date: 07/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey today received one of the new range of vehicles, a diesel-powered RAV4, at Toyota New Zealand's headquarters in Palmerston North. He is pictured with Toyota NZ chief executive officer Alistair Davis.

University deal with Toyota drives in greener fleet

Massey University and Toyota New Zealand today announced a partnership to make the University's 130-vehicle fleet cleaner and more sustainable.

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey and Toyota NZ chief executive officer Alistair Davis met to sign letters of understanding that will see cutting edge technology increasingly used by the University for its transport.

"Massey wants to lead the region and lead New Zealand, not just in our teaching and research, but in our impact on the environment and this is a practical and vital step," Mr Maharey says.

"We chose to approach Toyota because of its track record for fuel efficient vehicles, including hybrids, that are essential if we are to meet the climate challenge."

Over the coming years the University's leased vehicle fleet will progressively be replaced with diesel and, where appropriate, hybrid, vehicles, which offer reduced CO2 emissions and greater fuel efficiency.

Mr Davis says Toyota, a world leader in new motoring technology, is delighted to partner Massey on this project. "Both are major organisations and leaders in New Zealand, and this partnership fits well with our goal of improving the sustainability of motoring," he says.



Date: 10/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington

Symposium to discuss occupational health

Occupational health issues, from cancer and respiratory disease to exposure assessment and occupational health in Maori, will be discussed at a symposium next week.

Occupational Health in New Zealand: Challenges and Opportunities, hosted by the Centre for Public Health Research, brings together experts from around the world.

Keynote speakers include Professor Aaron Blair from the United States National Cancer Institute in Washington DC, who will speak on occupational cancer epidemiology.

Professor Hans Kromhout, from the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands, will cover Reprotoxic Health Effects in Oncology Nurses. He will also speak about occupational exposure assessment.

Professor Malcolm Sim, from Monash University in Melbourne, will speak on Changing Patterns of Respiratory Disease.

Leading researchers from the Centre for Public Health Research will also speak, including Professor Neil Pearce, Associate Professor Barry Borman, Associate Professor Jeroen Douwes, Dr Andrea 't Mannetje, Dr Lis Ellison-Loschmann and Dr David McLean.

Professor Chris Cunningham, from Massey's Research Centre for Maori Health and Development, will also present a paper on Occupational Health in Maori.

Dr McLean says the symposium will feature representatives and stakeholders from business and policy-making institutions.

"Our goal is to see research implemented into policy," he says, "so it's important that people from the Department of Labour, the Council of Trade Unions and Business New Zealand are among those attending."

The centre has received a three-year grant from the Health Research Council for a project on building occupational health research in New Zealand, Dr McLean says.

"It's been a neglected field, so over the next three years we hope to bring the issues to the attention of policy-makers and advance the understanding of the issues."

The symposium will be held at Te Papa in Wellington on 17-18 November.

Date: 10/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; School of Health Sciences



See Red - The Story Behind the Stereotypes by Kendyl Middelbeek.

Design expo showcases high-tech sport, eco trends and redheads

Vehicles of the future, an electronic version of rugby, a biodegradable bottle and a visual communication showcase on the stereotypes of redheads are just some of the projects on display at this year's Design Exposure 2008.

Auckland School of Design regional director Azhar Mohamed says the School's annual exhibition celebrates New Zealand's up-and-coming transport, industrial and visual communication designers by displaying their latest projects.

"This year's work is of an exceptional standard and students have produced imaginative, interesting and intriguing projects," Mr Mohamed says.

"Design Exposure 2008 covers a wide range of themes and ideas. The showcase will be a feast for the eyes, as well as educational – there's something for everyone."

Projects span three categories: transport, industrial and visual communication design.

Industrial design student Alistair Patterson's Bio Bottle is an additive-enhanced, Polylactic Acid 6L bulk water bottle that splits, forming two plant pots that will biodegrade in the garden.

"With 14 tonnes of petrochemical-based plastic bottles being dumped into landfills every year in New Zealand alone, a biodegradable alternative becomes not only a viable but also necessary option," Mr Patterson says.

Rugby was the inspiration for two of the projects, including Charles Nicolson's Rush Rugby – a futuristic sporting experience that combines modern touch sensor technology with a fast paced, action filled game.

Mr Nicolson says his invention shows how sport needs to evolve to attract younger people. "With rising obesity numbers and dropping sports participation levels, the time has come to give today's youth a new reason to go outside," he says.

Melanie Matthews' Make It Great promotional campaign designed to create awareness and provoke excitement for the Rugby World Cup New Zealand is to host in 2011 features a collectable beer bottle along with labels, packaging and an information booklet designed for both the "die hard rugby fan" as well as less enthusiastic



Rush Rugby by Charles Nicolson.



Bio Bottle by Alistair Patterson.

spectators.

Kendyl Middelbeek's visual communication project See Red - The Story Behind the Stereotypes, is a visual narrative and social observation, which began with the desire to explore the identity and subculture surrounding redheads "before they become resigned to the endangered species section of encyclopaedias", she says.

"The result is a time capsule museum piece about redheads, which is designed to engage, inform, influence and allow my audience to reflect, not only on redhead stereotypes, but also on how they associate with other stereotypes and social labelling tools."

Design Exposure 2008 will be held at the Marine Events Centre in the Viaduct Marine Village. The exhibition is free and runs from 11-13 November from 10am – 6pm daily.

To find out more visit www.designexposure.co.nz

Date: 11/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Changing values to be discussed at public lecture

Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Professor Ronald Inglehart will discuss how changing values impact democracy at a public lecture next week.

Professor Inglehart is research professor at the Centre for Political Studies at the University of Michigan, and president of the World Values Survey Association.

His lecture will discuss how increasingly educated societies around the world are changing their values in ways that lead them to give increasingly high priority to individual autonomy and free choice.

The World Values Survey Association is a worldwide network of social scientists studying changing values and their impact on social and political life. It has carried out surveys in 97 countries, providing information about the values, beliefs and motivations of ordinary citizens.

The association analyses the impact of global cultural change on economic development, creativity, quality of life and democracy.

The lecture will be held in the Japan Lecture Theatre at the Manawatu campus on Thursday 20 November at 11am.

The visit is part of a series of speaking engagements this month to celebrate Fulbright New Zealand's 60th anniversary.



Professor Ronald Inglehart.

Date: 11/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar



Zonta Design Awards winners with fashion designer Annah Stretton, from left: Amy Sisson, Juliet Whyte, Belinda Coppin, Annah Stretton, Ruth Browne, Cleon Ferreira and Leilani Isara.

Wellington grads get \$10,000 in Zonta Design awards

Top textile design graduate Ruth Browne was named supreme winner at the Zonta Design Awards in Wellington last night, with a further five graduates recognised as category winners of the prestigious annual awards.

The awards are a joint initiative between global women's organisation Zonta and the University's College of Creative Arts, with support from the Wellington business community. They are aimed at furthering the status of women in design by recognising exceptional graduates from the college.

As well as excelling in their field of design, winners must also contribute to their community, help others in the wider field of design, and be advocates for their profession.

The six category winners each receive \$1000, with an additional \$4000 for the supreme winner. They are:

- Industrial Design (award sponsored by Weta Workshop) – Juliet Whyte of Kilbirnie
- Visual Communication Design (Saatchi & Saatchi) – Leilani Isara of Newtown
- Interior Design (Limited Editions) – Cleon Ferreira of Wainuiomata
- Fashion and Textile Design (Rembrandt Suits)– Belinda Coppin of Mt Victoria
- Photographic Design (Imagelab) – Amy Sisson of Brooklyn
- Textile Design (ES design) – Ruth Browne of Newtown

The awards ceremony was hosted by College of Creative Arts Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Sally Morgan and attended by the Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey and Wellington Regional Chief Executive Professor Andrea McIlroy. Fashion designer and businesswoman Annah Stretton was guest speaker.

Zonta has more than 33,000 members in 68 countries, with 29 clubs in New Zealand. The three clubs based in greater Wellington combine to support the awards.

Zonta spokeswoman Therese Marie says the awards are a wonderful example of the academic, business and wider communities working together to assist the young stars of tomorrow.

“These awards are a real means of advancement for our winners. Obviously they receive some financial reward, but the connections, contacts and work experience are what's really beneficial.”

Wellington businesses which sponsor the awards and are active supporters of the college as well as employers of its graduates.

The winners' work will be on display at the Wellington campus Great Hall until Sunday.

Date: 12/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



Designer finds comfort and style

▶ VIDEO Watch the [ONE Breakfast](#) and [Campbell Live](#) articles

Tired of coming home from a night on the town with sore feet, design student Aimie Whiting decided to do something about it.

Point of Difference is the result – cushioned high-heeled shoes designed with comfort as well as style in mind.

Ms Whiting, who is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Design degree at Massey's Wellington campus, says there is an obvious need for the product.

"I've come home from many nights out dancing with excruciating pain in my feet," she says. "These shoes provide comfort to women who want to wear fashion heels to work, go on to a bar for after-work drinks and then on dancing."

The shoes provide cushioning for all parts of the foot, she says.

"They have a co-moulded heel using hard and soft polyurethane with bypassing shafts. There's also metatarsal and heel padding. Basically, the heel compresses when you walk, reducing the feeling of bruising on the balls of your feet."

Producing a prototype product was difficult.

"I had to make the shoes by hand, which was quite a challenge without the right tools. Luckily Kumfs in Auckland provided me with some leather and the shop I Work Miracles in Wellington let me use their tools."

Ms Whiting, from Whangarei, now has a prototype and is working to commercialise her design, which can be applied to other shoe shapes and colours.

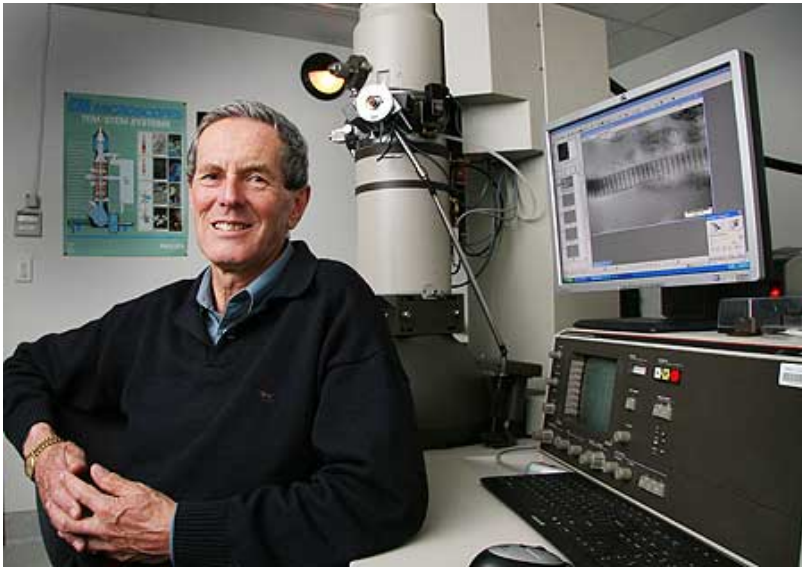
The shoes are being showcased at Exposure, a design exhibition celebrating the work of Massey University College of Creative Arts final-year design students. The exhibition is part of Blow08, an annual two-week arts festival hosted by Massey, which opened in Wellington at the weekend.

Date: 12/11/2008

Type: Audio Visual

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Video Multimedia; Wellington





Distinguished Professor David Parry with an electron microscope used in his research.

Rutherford Medal for University biophysicist

Distinguished Professor David Parry is this year's recipient of New Zealand's top science honour, the Rutherford Medal. Former Head of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Professor Parry is a world-renowned biophysicist based at the Institute of Fundamental Sciences in Palmerston North.

The award is the fourth in five years to a current or former Massey staff member, following Distinguished Professor David Penny in 2004, former staff member Professor Paul Callaghan in 2005 and former staff member Professor Ted Baker in 2006.

College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson says the award is fitting recognition for Professor Parry, a world authority on fibrous proteins – the proteins that make up muscles, connective tissues, hair and skin.

“This latest accolade adds to an astonishing list of awards and appointments, all collectively attesting to Professor Parry's standing, nationally and internationally, as a world leader in his specialist field. In short, his career continues to be a world-class act.”

The Rutherford Medal is presented at the Royal Society Science Awards dinner in Wellington tonight. Other Massey University staff to be recognised include:

- Associate Professor Simon Hall, who received the Fonterra Prize for industrial and applied chemistry. Dr Hall has carried out fundamental research and subsequent commercialisation of a rechargeable nickel-zinc battery. His citation says he has pursued high-quality research and made hard-nosed business decisions. “Few others have followed the brave process of stepping out of the academic environment to enable the commercialisation of significant new findings, provide new employment opportunities and provide new technology developments for both the national and international communities.”
- Emeritus Professor John Codd (posthumously) received the McKenzie Award for educational research. Professor Codd had a distinguished record of international publication, his research contributing highly to the sociology of education, philosophy and policy analysis of education.
- Professor Mike Hendy received the New Zealand Mathematical Society's Research Award. Professor Hendy's innovative mathematical approach to



Associate Professor Simon Hall.



Professor Mike Hendy.

molecular ecology transformed the field, his citation says, and his founding and co-directorship of the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology has led to the burgeoning of all aspects of the study of evolution in New Zealand. "His seminal work on the Hadamard transform – used to separate out pertinent signals in evolutionary data – is now an integral part of phylogenetic software internationally and has contributed to the solution of several fundamental problems.

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin was awarded the Hector Medal in mathematical and information sciences earlier this year.

Date: 12/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

Water safety signals designed to save young lives

A set of water signals and safety equipment is the first to standardise distress signals and may help save New Zealanders from drowning.

The final-year project by design student Nicole Slattery featured in the Design Exposure exhibition of student projects at the Viaduct Harbour. Watertalk expands on the raised hand signal used by swimmers in distress.

“There is currently no universal set of water safety signals used between lifeguards and swimmers,” Miss Slattery says.

“I’ve always been intrigued by sign language, and I wanted to find some way of applying sign language that would be of help to the community.

“My visual communication project aims to illustrate a set of water safety signals that will appeal to and inform primary school children as to what they should do when they get into emergencies in the water”.

West Harbour-based, Miss Slattery is completing her Bachelor of Design at Massey’s Auckland School of Design in Albany. A beach lover who once rescued her younger sister from drowning in a swimming pool, she has created six signals for use by the person in danger and rescuers. The set includes signals for dangers such as rips, rocks and sharks in the sea, or chemical spills at a pool.

Miss Slattery has designed flashcards and wall tiles illustrating the safety signals. A flutter board and floatie also carry the water safety signals. The products would be suitable for schools, public swimming pools and sports organisations, says Miss Slattery, who hopes to see her Watertalk project commercialised in the future.

The water safety project was among a number at the show focused on social and environmental issues. Others included the Bio Bottle, a water bottle that splits into two biodegradable plant pots, a tribute to Auckland’s parks to highlight awareness of the proximity of nature sanctuaries, and educational projects on dyslexia and autism.

For more details see www.designexposure.co.nz

Date: 13/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts



Nicole Slattery with her Watertalk products designed to keep youngsters safe.

Ag-Hort double for young Massey grads

Massey graduate Jason Greene has been named New Zealand's Young Horticulturalist of the Year, making it a double for Massey after agriculture graduate David Skiffington scooped Young Farmer of the Year honours in July.

Eight young horticulturalists aged under 30 competed for the Horticulture Industry Training Organisation Young Horticulturalist of the Year competition held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens on Friday.

Based on the Young Farmer of the Year contest, the Young Horticulturalist competition involves a series of regional and sector events leading to a grand final in Auckland.

Participants undertook challenges including presenting a marketing project, an interview with the judging panel and a prepared speech. The high point of the competition was a hortispport event, where the finalists raced against each other as well as the clock, tackling horticulture-based challenges.

Mr Greene, who is based in Ramarama as the sales manager for Rainbow Trees, represented the Nursery & Garden Industry Association sector.

"Winning the competition is a benchmark for me in terms of where I am with my career," he says. "There were a lot of high profile people in the audience at the dinner on the final night and it was great to win the prize in front of them."

"The hardest part of the competition was the prepared speech. By that stage we knew where everyone was standing. I was very nervous, but in the end I was okay and pulled it through."

Mr Greene received a selection of prizes worth more than \$20,000 and says he intends to use the travel component of the prize to visit his company's suppliers and some nurseries in Europe.

Applied academic programme director Ewen Cameron says that Mr Greene was alerted to the Auckland job opportunity after another graduate – Andrew Tayler, the firm's general manager and also a Massey alumni – got in touch with his old department to find a new graduate for the vacancy.

Mr Greene won the practical and interview sections of the competition, which Mr Cameron attended with top horticulture students Helen Free and Daniel Sutton.

"We thought Daniel and Helen might like to see where their career might take them in future," Mr Cameron says. "They also visited the New Zealand Hothouse operation to see really 'high-tech' horticulture and it was a nice opportunity for them to meet other graduates as there are now large numbers of Massey graduates across the industry."

Mr Skiffington competed in district and regional finals of the Young Farmer competition, taking the Taranaki-Manawatu title for the second consecutive year, before winning this year's grand final in Ashburton in July. The Young Farmer event includes theory and technical challenges, outdoors activities including agri-sports and practical challenges from ploughing to shearing, with a top prize package worth \$82,000. Mr Skiffington and his wife Megan, also a Massey graduate, farm outside Feilding in the Manawatu.



Young Horticulturalist of the Year Jason Greene competes in the final.



Young Farmer of the Year David Skiffington.

Date: 13/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments



Showjumper Chloe Akers.

Equestrians line up Youth Olympic gold

Two Massey University Academy of Sport students have been selected in the equestrian team to represent New Zealand at the Youth Olympics.

Showjumper Chloe Akers (pictured) and dressage specialist Hannah Appleton are two of the seven-member team that will compete in Sydney in January.

After missing most of the year with a broken toe, Ms Akers says she's delighted to have been picked.

"I've just started competing again in the last two weeks, and will have a competition every week until the Olympics in January," she says.

Ms Akers, an education student, says riding an unfamiliar horse will be challenging. "We don't take our own horses, and only get two days of training on a borrowed horse, so that will be interesting."

Ms Appleton, who this year successfully defended her title at the New Zealand Young Rider and Pony Dressage Championships, is looking forward to the event.

"It's great to have been selected, but of course last time we competed at the Youth Olympics, New Zealand won the dressage team gold, so there is some pressure."

The 19-year-old studies agricultural science and is based in Palmerston North during the academic year and her home town of Nelson during the summer.

Organised by the Australian Olympic Committee, the Youth Olympics will feature 2500 athletes from 20 countries. The equestrian team will compete against riders from Australia, Great Britain, Japan, Sweden, Malaysia and the United States, with the competition held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre.

Date: 14/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Academy of Sport; Sport and recreation



Checking out the Bod Pod at Monday's official opening of the Human Nutrition Research Unit at Albany; Professor of Nutrition Bernhard Breier, guest lecturer Professor Philip Calder, Associate Professor Welma Stonehouse, Head of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health Professor Richard Archer, senior lecturer Dr Cath Conlon, Professor Gil Hardy (seated), laboratory technician Carlos Miranda and nutrition lecturer Pam von Hurst.

Bod Pod to play key role in nutrition research

A new Bod Pod able to accurately measure body composition including fat and muscle mass has the potential to boost research on obesity and athletic performance.

The space capsule-like pod is part of a new suite of high-tech equipment at the University's new Human Nutrition Research Centre – Te Wahanga Rangahau Kai - in Albany, including a bone density scanner and clinical laboratory. The American-made machine is one of only two machines in the country, the other at Massey Manawatu

The pod measures and tracks body fat and lean muscle mass using air displacement technology – replacing the tape measure and callipers or water displacement tanks previously used in research.

Associate Professor Welma Stonehouse says the Bod Pod is a highly useful analytical tool for research related to obesity, as well as for elite athletes who need to closely monitor muscle and fat ratios.

“The Bod Pod gives a very accurate reading for body composition because it measures weight and volume,” she says.

“Because fat weighs less than muscle, it can be difficult to gain a precise estimate of how much fat an individual is made of and this can lead to false interpretations of what it means to be overweight.”

The unit, officially opened today, has a purpose-built clinical laboratory where researchers can process biological samples and analyse biomarkers found in blood and urine that reveal information about health status. New video conferencing facilities and computers will be used for research interviews and online food questionnaires.

The unit and its expertise will be made available to non-University researchers, including health providers or sports groups. Existing projects underway on campus include the KIWI Study, an investigation into the effects on women's iron levels of eating vitamin C-rich kiwifruit with iron-fortified breakfast cereal, and the Salmon Study, a research project comparing the Omega-3 status of people eating salmon with those taking fish-oil capsules. Dr Stonehouse says staff are also keen to connect with researchers in the food industry, sporting organisations and the public health system.

Professor Philip Calder, Professor of Nutritional Immunology at the University of Southampton, gave a lecture on



The new Bod Pod at Massey's Albany campus will accurately measure body composition for obesity and sports performance research.

Omega-3 fatty acids and cardiovascular disease – evidence explained and mechanisms explored, prior to the opening ceremony complete with Maori blessing by local kaumatua.

Date: 17/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Employment Relations Manager appointed

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (People and Organisational Development) Alan Davis has announced the appointment of Angela van Welie as the University's Employment Relations Manager.

Currently the University's Employee Relations Adviser, Ms van Welie was previously a general adviser in the Human Resources section.

She brings to the role a broad set of skills, having gained exposure to staff management early in her career as a team leader in a major government department, before pursuing an advisory role in human resources," Mr Davis says.

"Her interest in employment relations began when she gained exposure to employment law issues during a secondment to the legal services team with a previous employer. After joining the Massey HR team, her aptitude for this area of human resources practice led to her appointment to the specialist role of Employee Relations Adviser.

"She has been involved with collective bargaining, mediation and advice to both her HR colleagues and senior managers on a range of employment relations issues, including facilitating external legal expertise and developing documentation for legal proceedings. For a period, she was the sole ER specialist under the guidance of an earlier HR Director (who had previously held the ER Manager position) and during that time contributed significantly to a number of important people initiatives across the University. Angela's solid grounding in HR practice; her practical orientation; her considered but decisive approach to issues; and proactive approach to establishing relationships will enable her to successfully undertake this important role."

Date: 17/11/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Uni News



Psycho-oncology effectiveness investigated

The effectiveness of psychological support for cancer patients and cultural perspectives on cancer are among topics to be addressed at the National Psycho-Oncology Conference, being hosted by the University and the Central Districts Cancer Society in Palmerston North from Sunday.

School of Psychology clinical doctoral student Philippa Croy is among researchers who will present at the conference. Ms Croy is investigating the outcomes of the psycho-oncology service provided by the University for MidCentral District Health Board. The board's regional cancer treatment service is the first in New Zealand to offer evidence-based psycho-oncology support for people with cancer and their families.

“When someone is diagnosed with cancer its impact extends beyond the physical effects of the disease,” Ms Croy says. “Cancer can cause considerable distress, impacting significantly on a person's quality of life psychologically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and functionally. The aim of my study is to investigate the effectiveness of a New Zealand psycho-oncology service in alleviating distress and improving quality of life for cancer patients.”



Keynote speaker Professor Mason Durie.

“The study will provide much-needed New Zealand-based research regarding improving quality of life for those with cancer, and their families. It will also provide valuable information that could be used by other DHBs in the implementation of similar services throughout the country.”

Cheryl Woolley, who led development of the psycho-oncology service, says more than 560 people have been seen since it started in June 2006, many of them at Massey, but others at locations around the region including the Cancer Society's Addis House, in Feilding and in Horowhenua and Tararua districts.

“The service is the only one of its kind in New Zealand,” Ms Woolley says. “As well as services to the clients, the academic rigour of the University means we are able to also research effectiveness and appropriateness of psycho-oncology interventions, which is particularly important for development of other psycho-oncology services in other regions in future.”

The DHB's cancer treatment clinical director and oncologist, Dr Simon Allan, believes the psycho-oncology service provides excellent support for patients and families affected by cancer.

“The service has had a major impact on large numbers of patients in the MidCentral district. It has significantly and positively influenced the journey with cancer for numerous patients and their families.”

The conference starts on Sunday afternoon at the Palmerston North Convention Centre, culminating in the presentation of student awards and a progress report from the national cancer control working party on Tuesday afternoon.

University Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Maori and Pacific) Professor Mason Durie will give a keynote address on Tuesday, speaking on cultural perspectives of cancer. Maori face higher rates of some cancers and less positive outcomes.

Date: 17/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar

47-year contribution to Massey Ag acknowledged

University staff are among the many who paid tribute after the death of Robert (Bob) Barton in Palmerston North last weekend. Mr Barton was an acknowledged specialist in sheep and beef cattle husbandry, and meat science.

After graduating with a Diploma in Agriculture from the Massey Agricultural College he spent the next 47 years at the University before retiring in 1986. Mr Barton was a founder of the Massey University Agricultural Research Foundation, with his late wife Joyce also involved.

He played an active role throughout the New Zealand meat industry with a special interest in extension and technology transfer. Mr Barton, who was awarded an MBE for his services to agriculture, was aged 87.

Date: 18/11/2008

Type: Internal Communication

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



Dr Richard Shaw.

Code of conduct needed for ministerial staff

The incoming National-led Government needs to put in place a code of conduct for non-departmental staff employed in Ministers' offices, according to researchers from Massey and Victoria universities.

Massey University senior lecturer in the School of People, Environment and Planning Dr Richard Shaw and senior lecturer of Victoria University's School of Government Dr Chris Eichbaum have carried out research on the relationship between ministerial staff and the public service in New Zealand and abroad.

"In Opposition, the National Party quite correctly raised concerns regarding what they saw as the risk of politicising New Zealand's politically neutral and expert public service. The public service has a duty of service to the government of the day, and any government will expect the public service to be appropriately responsive given the nature of its electoral mandate. But the public service also has a responsibility to provide a government with the advice that it needs to hear, not just advice that it may want to hear—this is a fundamental element of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements," says Dr Shaw.

Recent governments across the political spectrum have employed staff in political and policy roles within ministerial offices, as well as those employed in press and communications roles. These staff are not part of the permanent public service, and are typically employed on fixed-term contracts tied to the tenure of their Minister.

"There will be a significant number of new ministerial staff, many of whom will have no experience of working within government, and quite possibly little understanding of the rules and conventions, including ethical standards, guiding interactions between ministerial offices and the public service. The incoming government should ensure that all staff participate in formal induction processes providing clear advice and guidance on these rules and conventions," says Dr Eichbaum.

Codes of conduct for these staff members exist in Australia and the United Kingdom.

"A code should clarify the role of ministerial staff and, among other matters, outline the requirements regarding relationships with the public service, and the requirement to ensure that there are no constraints on the capacity of the public service to provide the government of the day with advice that is free, frank and comprehensive. The code should also provide an opportunity for breaches to be raised, as appropriate with departmental chief executives, ministers, and/or the prime minister," says Dr Eichbaum.

Dr Shaw says that ministerial staff have made an important contribution to the policy process and governance in the past – particularly since the advent of the MMP electoral system and multi-party government.

"There is the potential for this to continue, but the opportunity presented by the change of government should now be taken in order to institute robust and transparent induction and accountability mechanisms for political appointments."

Date: 18/11/2008

Type: Research

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



Massey's Contact Centre team, from left: Katrina Norriss, Melissa Eveleigh, Gary Zellman, Renee Berghuis, Kim Merlo, Tina Hilliam, Tim Trow, Lisa Snook, Nina Kibby, Margaret Cootes, Pearl Theron, Helen Peek, Craig Lochhead, Colin Steeples, Pat Sandbrook and Amanda Seymour-East. Photo: Nothing Negative.

Team leader tops in contact centre management finals

Massey's National Contact Centre manager Tina Hilliam won the award for Contact Centre Manager of the Year in the category under-50 seats at the annual Manawatu Contact Centre Awards on Friday.

Student management director Dr Pat Sandbrook congratulated Miss Hilliam and her team of 30 staff, who provide a national service for customers of all the University's frontline communications channels, including staff, students and the public on the Wellington, Manawatu and Albany campuses including extramural students

Manawatu has one of the largest clusters of national contact centres of any region in New Zealand and Massey's centre and its staff have received regular recognition for their performance.

Miss Hilliam also won the same award two years ago and is the first in the Manawatu to win it twice.

The centre had an impressive list of finalists in this year's awards:

- Pearl Theron was a finalist in the category of Team Leader of the Year for the second year running.
- Katrina Norriss was a finalist in the category of Customer Service Representative of the Year.
- The centre overall was a finalist for Contact Centre of the Year (under-50 seats).

Lisa Snook, who won the customer service representative of the year award last year, led the process of putting the centre's application together this year, Dr Sandbrook says.

"I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Tina on her success, and also Pearl, Katrina and all of the other staff of the centre for their efforts in achieving the status of finalists."

In her application for the award Miss Hilliam said: "As a leader, I do everything I possibly can to ensure that all customers of the National Contact Centre receive excellent customer service. I live and breathe contact centres so that I am the best informed contact centre manager for our organisation. My motto is that the University cannot buy a better performing centre anywhere in New Zealand."

And here is what the judges said about Miss Hilliam:

"Tina is a contact centre manager that truly leads from the front. She contributes significantly in the industry and has delivered significant positive changes to the Massey operation in the last 12 months. Tina has fantastic leadership skills and has set strong development plans in place for all staff. Her team members described her as 'caring', 'dedicated', 'empathetic' and 'a real inspiration! Her work ethic is amazing'. The judges were 'wowed' by a manager who sets no limits in terms of both personal and team growth and development."

The centre is a fully blended multi-media inbound-outbound contact point for voice and data channels and is

often the first point of contact with the university for the public and for students, processing one million interactions annually. It provides phone, email, web chat, text and fax communication channels and two distinct services: The Telephony Service, which answers calls for all campuses as well as internal calls to the operator; and the Student Relations Service, which deals with enquiries from and provides support for prospective and current students through the 0800 MASSEY line, email, text/SMS, web chat and fax channels.

In this year's student satisfaction survey conducted by the University, the centre was rated good or very good by between 67 per cent and 78 per cent of respondents in all service categories. When those who said the performance or service was satisfactory was added in, the favourable ratings were from 92 and 95 per cent in all categories.

The centre is based on level four of the Registry Building, Manawatu campus, in a purpose-built soundproofed, air-conditioned environment with natural lighting, designed to provide the optimum working environment for a high concentration of customer service staff dealing with more than 1500 public and 2000 student calls daily.

It was recognised nationally this year as one of three finalists in the Telecommunications Users' Association contact centre awards for centres with under-25 seats. It was the first university contact centre to make the finals. Miss Hilliam was also one of three finalists as manager in the same award category.

Date: 18/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Palmerston North; Uni News



Associate director of the Centre for Public Health Research, Associate Professor Jeroen Douwes and Professor Aaron Blair

More research needed to tackle occupational health

More research is needed to gain a better understanding of the neglected field of occupational health, specialists say.

Each year there are between 700 and 1000 work-related deaths in New Zealand, at an annual cost of \$4.9 billion.

The Occupational Health in New Zealand: Challenges and Opportunities conference, hosted by the University's Centre for Public Health Research, brought together experts from around the world.

Keynote speakers included Professor Aaron Blair from the United States National Cancer Institute in Washington DC, who spoke about the study of cancer in the workplace.

He told the symposium that funding for research into occupational health had been steadily decreasing in recent years.

"Some believe that occupation is not an important contributor to the cancer burden," Professor Blair said. "There have been regulatory efforts to control exposure to harmful substances in the workplace, so many believe it isn't an issue."

More research was needed, however, not less. "We need to improve exposure assessment and also expand the research to cover women and minority groups, which have been largely ignored," he said.

The Centre for Public Health Research has received a three-year grant from the Health Research Council for a project on occupational health research in New Zealand.

Lead researcher Dr David McLean agrees it is an area that requires more research.

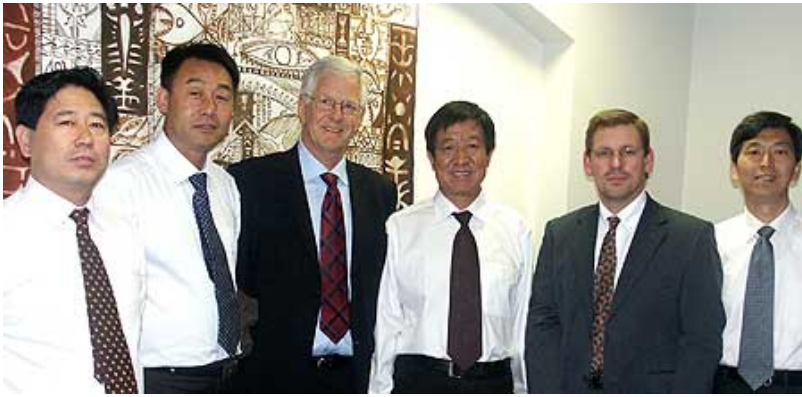
"It's been a neglected field, so over the next three years we hope to bring the issues to the attention of policy-makers and advance the understanding of the issues."

Dr McLean says the symposium also featured representatives and stakeholders from business and policy-making institutions.

"Our goal is to see research implemented into policy," he says, "so it's important that people from the Department of Labour, the Council of Trade Unions and Business New Zealand are among those who attended."

Date: 18/11/2008

Type: Research



Chinese delegation checks out Massey's food tech facilities

Massey's reputation as a leader and innovator in food technology education prompted a Chinese delegation of business leaders from the Beijing region to check out facilities and teaching programmes at the Albany campus recently.

Pictured with (third from left) Professor Ray Winger, director of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health are (from left) Meng Xianjin, director, People's Government of Caiyu Town of Daxing District, Liu Fengzhu, deputy director, Bureau of Township Enterprises of Changping District, Wang Huimin, director general, Beijing Municipal Bureau of Township Enterprises and Wang Yuesheng, vice secretary general, Beijing Township Enterprises Association. Also pictured (second from right) is Professor Charles Brennan, director Food Technology and Science Division at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health in Palmerston North.

Professor Winger says the purpose of the visit was for the delegates to gain an overview of the Institute's research, teaching and facilities with the hope of establishing a link for potential training opportunities in China. The delegates, who were in New Zealand to visit a range of business and educational organisations, also discussed food packaging and food safety issues and were particularly interested in food processing and production developments at Massey.

Date: 19/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences

Teaching nurses like doctors clinches top lecturer award - again

The assignments were tougher than expected, the homework taxing - but postgraduate nurses say Dr Felix Ram's practice of teaching them the same material he taught student doctors is a winner.

He was named Lecturer of the Year at the Albany campus for the second year running, from a total of 109 teaching staff nominated by students at the campus.

Dr Ram, a senior lecturer in clinical pharmacology at the School of Health and Social Services, says his students – mostly experienced, practising nurses – can apply what they have learned in his lectures when they are at work in a hospital or clinical setting.

"It's important for adult learning that knowledge can be applied immediately," he says.



Dr Felix Ram.

As a former teacher of medical students in the UK at St George's Hospital Medical School in London and Bradford Royal Infirmary in Yorkshire, Dr Ram joined Massey in 2005. He says he teaches nurses "in the same way I used to teach doctors".

"They are senior nurses and they need to know the same things, so I use the same text book a doctor would use."

Dr Ram says he tries to nurture a sense of professional respect among his students for each other – something that can often be undermined in the workplace through stress and competition.

"I also try to be fair and open, and not just pay attention to the bright ones," he says.

Students submitted comments on the lecturers they nominated, with many heaping praise on Dr Ram. Flattering remarks included: "has students' best interests at heart and is making a huge impact up skilling the nursing profession", "knowledgeable and thought-provoking lectures", "fantastic way of explaining things", "approachable and supportive", and "definitely NOT boring", to name just some. His sense of humour was also a vital ingredient in the mix of qualities and skills that earned him the award.

The event, organised by the Albany Students' Association, was launched in 2005, with entries up from 95 last year, and 73 in 2006.

Association co-ordinator Penny Lyall says the award ceremony this year, with catered lunch and jazz band, was designed to recognise teaching staff who have made a significant and meaningful impact on students during the teaching year, and to give recognition to all of the nominees, not just the winners.

"Every nominee is presented with a certificate that has a compilation of the comments made about them by students who voted," she says.

Dr Ram, who has done extensive research on respiratory diseases and medicine, is currently surveying New Zealand's 800 pharmacists to gauge consumer and health professional satisfaction to a newly introduced generic asthma inhaler, Respigen. He is about to release results of another study on the effectiveness of copper IUD contraceptive devices.

Date: 19/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

'Mad' Massey scientist helps boy patent compost invention

Mr Chitty, aka "Dr Robotech – the mad scientist" from TVNZ children's show *Let's Get Inventing*, worked with Ryan to transform his project into a marketable product.

Their efforts resulted in Ryan becoming New Zealand's youngest patent applicant. His application was accepted by the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand and his invention, the Waste-Away, this week won the \$10,000 Patent Prize Package from patent attorney firm AJ Park and the Icehouse Business Incubator.

The idea was one of 700 inventions sent to the television show from children around New Zealand and from which Mr Chitty helped select the best for further development.

"My job was to work with Ryan's inventive imagination, add some practical know-how and make his idea a real product," says Mr Chitty, a veteran of 53 episodes over three series of the show.

He says Ryan sent in a video presentation about his project – borne of frustration at having to traipse downstairs with the family food scraps to an outdoor compost bin. He and Ryan created the system by adapting a kitchen sink waste disposal unit and using a boat winch, 44-gallon drum and 12 plastic nut-and-bolt storage containers to create the system.

It works by flushing food scraps and water down a pipe to the system which sits underneath the kitchen window. These pass through a through a filter, with the separated water driving a simple water wheel. This turns the concrete mixer-like drum, in which the waste food turns to compost before it is then used in the garden.

"There's nothing electrical, it's completely safe, and it's green and renewable," says Mr Chitty, who visited Ryan at home several times to refine the system.

From his experiences working on the show, he says children are natural inventors and creators, driven by curiosity and desire to solve problems and make things work better. Many were motivated by inventing devices to help other people with difficulties and disabilities rather than for obvious commercial gain, he says.

"The abundance of ready-made, high-tech games does not appear to be smothering the inventive impulses of the 21st century youngster. Instead, they have more at their fingertips to be inventive with," says Mr Chitty.

From rocket-powered roller skates to a carbon-fibre knee fitting which recharges a cell phone as you walk, the scope and variety of inventions he has seen in his time with the show has amazed him.

"No one has told them they can't do it, so they just give it a go."



Massey product development lecturer Chris Chitty with nine-year-old inventor Ryan Nicholls and his eco-friendly waste disposal system.

Date: 20/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts

Bookshelf - In Print November 2008

Reviews of recent publications by Massey alumni and staff.

Wetlands of New Zealand: A bitter-sweet story

by Janet Hunt

Random House, \$NZ69.99

Reviewed by Steven Trewick

New Zealand's swamps and estuaries may not be the most romantic or photogenic when compared with our mountains, rivers, beaches or lakes, but this brilliant book may make readers change their minds. The author (who also designed the book) and the publishers have done a superb job producing a fascinating book on a complex and important topic. With its pleasing layout, excellent captions, and thoughtful text this book was a genuine pleasure to read and assess.

From judges' report for the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2008. Wetlands of New Zealand won the environment category.



Although I am perhaps not the general reader Hunt had in mind, I am certainly interested in her topic. From my youth in southern England I have always been fascinated by the nature and mechanics of what technically are known as peaty wetlands but most of us know as bogs. Mention bogs to me and I recall the black peat perched paradoxically atop white sand, pools and rivulets the colour of over-stewed tea, insect-snaring plants, dancing damselflies and the faint morbid possibility that somewhere interred within them are the ancient remains of bronze age human sacrifices. Similar bogs exist in New Zealand, and in many ways they are familiar to me: the sundew, damselfly, bladderwort and sphagnum moss are all recognisable relatives of the species I already knew from England.

So as a biologist and a lover of bogs, you would think I would be in accord with the Montana judges. And I am to a point: I too like *Wetlands of New Zealand*, but not as much as they do.

The problem for me is Hunt's ambition, for rather than restrict herself to wetlands as they are popularly understood – the “swamps and estuaries” mentioned in the judges' report – she has chosen to go with all of the wetland types defined by the Ramsar Convention. This embraces all manner of wet places – bogs, swamps, lagoons, salt pans, ponds, rivers, lakes and coastal areas (to a depth of six metres at low tide!) – and Hunt has set out to document the geology, history, social history, and biology of each.

The result is, I think, an eclectic assemblage, a mass of observation, opinion and fact, some of it fascinating and revealing, some of it, at least for me, a distraction. The multitude of digressions – even though they may each have their individual interest – result in more of a montage than a flowing narrative. For example, we are introduced to New Zealand mammal fossils because they formed in a lake (thus a wetland) that existed 16 million years ago. That allusion is merely tenuous, but the description of the animal the fossils represent as a “Jurassic mouse”, even if it has come from other sources, is misleading (it is neither Jurassic nor a mouse). Hunt, I think, would like us to read this book as a narrative from start to finish, but it is not a bedtime read. It is also not purely a coffee table book as there is so much to be read. As a reference book, it is a little frustrating as there are gaps in the index. For instance, although mentioned in the text, the godwit (one of our most amazing wetland birds) and the limestone (that forms the wetland cave systems) are not among the entries. So, I suggest the book lives on the coffee table and is equipped with a robust book-mark so you can follow Hunt's story, because it is worth hearing.

Hunt and I are definitely in agreement when it comes to the importance of New Zealand's wetland environment and preserving what little we have left. In New Zealand we are often a little smug about the percentage of our landscape protected by national parks and reserves, forgetting that type of land in reserves is dominated by areas that were the least easy or valuable to exploit. Thus, mountainous land is (rightfully) fairly well represented, but lowland forest is not. Similarly, wetlands tend to be underrepresented in our parks and reserves because they have in the past been drained and improved, so they tended to be swiftly modified beyond recognition after European settlement.

Those wetlands that remained were often tracts of infertile, troublesome land such as the West Coast pakihi swamps. Yet today even these are under pressure. Mechanical diggers are now used to smash the buried, impervious mineral pan (a method called flipping) creating land that can be used profitably to graze dairy cattle. This type of 'improvement' – which destroys the drainage, vegetation and natural history – is still widely regarded as converting 'wasteland' to productive use.

Perhaps the loss of wetlands can be regarded as a proxy for the way humanity makes use of its global environment. Today, with 83 percent of the Earth's land surface directly influenced by human activity, I and many others believe that the impact mankind is having on the only planet we have is unsustainable. We need to change our behaviour, work towards reducing the global population, and rid ourselves of the anthropocentric assumption that we are the only species that matters.

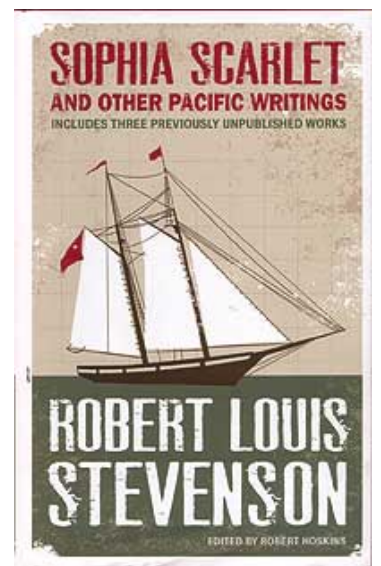
Steve Trewick is a senior lecturer in the Institute of Natural Resources. Janet Hunt has a BA (Hons) from Massey.

Sophia Scarlet and Other Pacific Writings

by Robert Louis Stevenson, edited by Robert H. B. Hoskins
AUT Media, \$25.00

This handsomely produced work brings together the outline of a novel-to-be, Sophia Scarlet with the highly accomplished short story The Bottle Imp and a number of what are best termed occasional pieces: addresses to Samoan chiefs and to Samoan students; abbreviated legends; letters and articles that appeared in journals and newspapers of the time. Robert Louis Stephenson's hold on the popular imagination lies with Kidnapped, Treasure Island, and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. His later works are largely neglected. Sophia Scarlet and other writings is a testament to his engagement with his adopted Samoan home in the years leading up to his death at age 44.

Associate Professor Robert Hoskins, who edited the collection, is a long-time Stevenson aficionado. He is best known as an expert in 18th Century and New Zealand music.

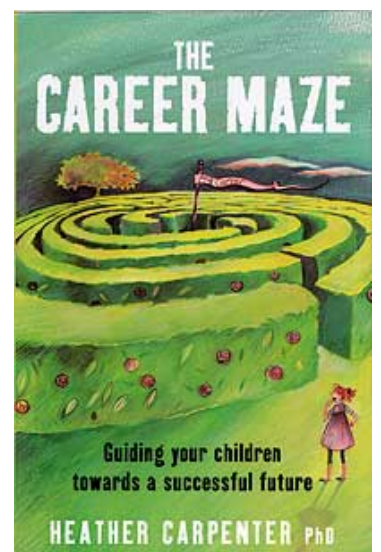


The Career Maze

by Heather Carpenter
New Holland, \$24.99

If you have always known how you wanted to make your career and things have turned out just as you have foreseen, then lucky you. You are one of what Heather Carpenter calls 'bright lights'. Finding the occupation that has the right fit is rarely so straight forward and many young people find themselves making false starts, to their own and their families' consternation. The Career Maze is full of sensible advice on how parents can instill self knowledge, self belief and self confidence in their children, providing an environment in which they can come to the decisions that are right for them.

Alumna Heather Carpenter is a careers consultant and counsellor.



The Great New Zealand Pie Cart

Lindsay Neill, Claudia Bell & Ted Bryant
Hodder Moa, \$29.99
Reviewed by Malcolm Wood.



Let us hope New Zealand's economic prospects improve, but if they don't, it probably will do no harm to the sales of Lindsay Neill's book *The Great New Zealand Pie Cart*. As Neill readily admits, the book is trafficking in baby boomer nostalgia; when times are troubled we turn to the comfort of those good old days, that golden summer when life was simpler and sweeter.

Some pie carts themselves trade on this, says Neill. The Alexandra pie cart offers a pea, pie and pud menu in the same way that a retro nostalgia menu is available at the upmarket Antoine's restaurant in Parnell.

Mind you, you really need to dial up the nostalgia to forgive the practices of yesteryear. Take the proprietor of the Motueka pie cart's recipe for coffee in the good old days: "I would fill it [the urn] with half a crate of milk, add instant coffee, and let it heat up. At night I would drain the unsold coffee, strain it, and the next day reheat it in the urn. If I made it Tuesday, by Friday we had a beaut brew on the go."

Although Neill fits the baby boomer demographic, in his younger years he was never a pie cart regular. His interest in pie carts arose much later.

Neill started out in his working life as a chef, training in San Francisco and working in America and Britain before ending up at AUT as a chef lecturer. AUT was then a polytechnic, but changes were afoot, and Neill thought it would be wise to set about acquiring a new qualification. He enrolled at Massey extramurally, over the course of a decade accumulating the papers he needed one by one for a BA in social anthropology. "Looking back, I should have done it much more quickly. I wish I had done it in five years." Being older than the run of students meant that Neill had no problem with self motivation, he says, and because none of the papers he elected required block courses, he did not meet a fellow student or a lecturer for the duration of his degree – though he did tailor his essays to what he knew of the biographies of his teachers.

BA completed, he now embarked on an MA, this time with AUT. The subject of pie carts arose when he was casting around for a thesis topic, finally settling on the history of an Auckland pie-cart institution, the White Lady.

The thesis-to-be (to be completed this year) became the basis of the book proposal which became *The Great New Zealand Pie Cart* that Neill has coauthored with Ted Bell and Claudia Bryant.

Neill has covered the more traditional pie carts; Bell, its more contemporary incarnations (the Ponga Bar in Hahei will serve you macadamia muesli with artisanal organic yoghurt if you ask); and Claudia Bryant has provided the sociological gibb-stopping that holds the publication together.

As with so many other what I suppose you might call microhistories, the *Great New Zealand Pie Cart*, is a window into the wider surrounding world. Pie carts have been around since the Great Depression, and they can be found literally from Stewart Island to Kawa Kawa.

The book's construction is quirkily eclectic; there is the odd poem, reminiscences from the likes of Ray Columbus and Georgina Beyer, a recipe for whitebait fritters, and highlights such as the Duke of Edinburgh's 1950s visit to one of Christchurch's pie carts.

Ironically, the stock in trade of pie carts is no longer pies, says Neill. "Because of hygiene issues and rehandling and reheating, they are best to stick to burgers."

These days, Neill, though still with AUT (now a university), no longer teaches cooking and has very little contact with kitchens. "I hardly cook anything. I can burn water." He likes it that way. Being a chef has rid him of any illusions about the profession. Popular culture may have become fixated on celebrity chefs and the romance of cooking, but the show ponies of the industry are anything but representative. Think instead, he says, of the person on the line who has to cook 80 meals, he says, or the hard working sous-chef who does the work while someone else takes the glory.

However, he has not renounced his interest in the food and beverage industry. He hosts Easy Mix radio's 'Dining Detective' slot and recently won the New Zealand Guild of Foodwriters' 2007 Emerging Food Writer of the Year for 'Comer Con Gusto' an intimate look at dining in his favourite city, Buenos Aires.

Neill's own good natured review of his book: "It's a must-read. Massey should make it a compulsory text.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; Mag-Reviews; Massey Magazine

If you go to San Francisco...

Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholar Fiona Millar talks to Malcolm Wood

It is 5.00 at the end of a Wellington working day and a matchbox-sized image of Fiona Miller appears on my screen, and there, a moment later, is my own thumb-nailed face alongside. Ah, the miracles the Internet makes possible.

For first-year MBA student Miller, it is 9.00 on a Tuesday night in her apartment in Berkeley just outside San Francisco; she has come straight from a student organising committee and once she is done with talking to me must make some headway with her course work.

Last night she was up into the small hours working on a microeconomics assignment. It's a subject new to this Bachelor of Applied Science graduate. "I had a moment when it all made sense," she announces. "I must be very lucid at 2.00 in the morning."

It's a more-than-full life. For her and the other 240 students in her year, there are three finals next week, two big group projects also due and a flow of individual assignments. Mid-term exams were three weeks ago.

Then there are her extracurricular activities. Fiona is one of five students from her year of 240 students who are organising the annual Venture Capital Investment Competition.

Five teams, each of five students, play the part of venture capitalists, deciding how to disperse their notional investment funds among a group of competing start-up ventures. What makes this different from a pure make-believe classroom exercise is that the ventures are genuine enterprises in need of venture funding and the judges of the teams' performance (the 'dragons') are real-life venture capitalists, some of them commanding multibillion dollar funds.

Miller's committee will recruit the teams, judges and entrepreneurs, encourage the students to put together suitably diverse teams, and raise the sponsorship for the travel, expenses, prizes and gifts of appreciation. The Haas MBA does not come cheap – even though the University of California is a public university, the course fees alone come to US\$40,000 a year – and the cost of living is prohibitive. Miller's time in the States has been made possible by a Fulbright Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Entrepreneurship, which brings with it US\$100,000 in funding (plus travel expenses, insurance and a paid internship).

This, together with a Haas Merit Scholarship, makes Miller one of the lucky ones; whereas many of the students – who range from people who have been involved in not-for-profit work in Africa to Wall Street investment bankers – must get by on loans and savings, at least she does not need to worry about where the next dollar will come from.

After graduating from Massey, Miller worked, in turn, for Massey, Livestock Improvement, and AgResearch, which is where she was in 2004 when she was alerted to the Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship, by Professor Robert Anderson who had learned of the scholarship's inception: "He sent a photocopy of the Fulbright memo to me with a handwritten note: 'You should think about this!!'."

The scholarship was set up to enable a New Zealand graduate student from a technical background "to complete a master's degree at a US university in a knowledge economy-related field, and to gain professional work experience in the US and New Zealand".

Miller was interested, but felt she needed the more commercial experience. It was while working for her next employer, WaikatoLink - the commercialisation wing of the University of Waikato – and just having turned 30, she decided it must be now or never for her to apply. "And I squealed with excitement when I was told I'd been selected!" Her three predecessors had entrepreneurial backgrounds; hers was in commercialisation.

The Haas School of Business was a logical choice. Not only does it have a strong reputation, its location alongside San Francisco places it in the heartland of American venture capital funding – around half of American venture capital comes from Bay Area.



Fiona Millar.

How do you explain such American phenomena as Silicon Valley (an hour's drive from Berkeley) or for that matter its growing local biotech equivalent? A simple reductionist approach does not work. Here you have the workings of a well-established ecosystem: ambitious and capable graduates coming out of first-class educational institutions such as Berkeley and Stanford; the research emerging from private and public enterprises; a culture that embraces risk; large sums of money; and business expertise. It is these last two that venture capitalists bring together. They have money to invest, the discernment to spot winning business opportunities, and the acumen to exercise oversight and take good ideas to market.

New Zealand's venture capital market is, by comparison, a recent development, and it is tiny: in 2005 it represented just 0.11 per cent of GDP. But with domestic initiatives such as the Government's New Zealand Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF) and with canny investors outside New Zealand increasingly looking beyond their borders for opportunities, it is growing.

How is Miller finding life in Berkeley, particularly during both a world financial crisis and a US presidential election?

While Miller's MBA largely dictates her horizons, she is enjoying her interactions with her fellow students, a third of whom come from outside the US, and is looking forward to establishing links with the wider UC Berkeley community. "The other day I had to walk across to the other side of campus and I stumbled across the enormous Life Sciences building. Being from a science background, I was hankering to get inside and find out more."

The financial melt down and the election occasion much discussion. She has heard classmates who have taken time out from Wall Street talk about the serendipity – or otherwise – of their timing, and, if only she had the time to get to them, the school, which has a number of financial luminaries on staff, has been running seminars to discuss the implications of the financial crisis. When it comes to the presidential election, San Francisco and the Haas Business School are generally Democrat in their sympathies, values that gibe with Miller's own. Some things, though, are difficult to transpose to a New Zealand setting. "Every day I see four or five people wearing Obama t-shirts. I can't imagine New Zealanders wearing Helen Clark or John Key t-shirts!"

What will happen once she has finished her MBA and the 15 months she is allowed to work in the States? Miller is set on a return to New Zealand and taking up a role that turns research breakthroughs into commercial successes. Whether that will be within a research organisation or a venture capital entity remains to be seen; either way, an agricultural biotech leaning seems likely.

"I've always had a passion for farming and science, and I want to be involved with the agricultural sector. There are a lot of things we do well, but there are many ways we can add greater value. It doesn't just have to be about meat, wool and milk any more."

In the meantime, there is only that one problem. "I just have to find another 10 or 15 hours a week. I figure I can always sleep in 2010."

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Business; Mag-Features; Massey Magazine



Tom Fitzsimons.

A month in the middle kingdom

Massey journalism graduate Tom Fitzsimons recently spent ten weeks working at the Shanghai Daily funded by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

When I was in Shanghai, an Irish expat who had lived there a decade told me: “Whatever you do, don’t write a story about China”.

He was talking about people who arrive with no knowledge, see the huge buildings, the bright lights and start talking about the rise of “the dragon”. He meant that it was a mistake to try to reduce China, with all of its history, scale and complexity, to a simple narrative.

And he is right: the China I visited is complex. It changes every time you look. One moment there’s a beautiful piece of government pageantry, the next there’s two old women locked up for trying to protest at the Beijing Games. One moment you see architectural wonders of the world rising before your eyes, the next you see hundreds of migrant workers asleep on the backs of trucks at night. One moment you choke back some fumes, the next you’re told they don’t give out plastic bags for free any more to help the environment.

One moment you talk to a Chinese filmmaker who’s made the most poignant documentary about his neighbourhood getting knocked over, the next you see some drunken sleazebag expat rolling down the street towards you.

The gap between China’s nouveau riche and its peasants is huge and only growing, while press freedoms are limited, dissent tightly controlled and minorities vanquished to the margins of society.

Similar tensions apply in the commercial world. China may represent a nation of 1.3 billion potential consumers. It may be the factory of the world. But any foreign company setting up a venture in China must navigate a welter of changeable regulation, breakdowns in communication, a lack of accountability and sometimes sheer bad luck.

When I visited Bob Major of Fonterra, he was upbeat about prospects. A few days later – according to news reports – the company learned of melamine contamination of the baby formula produced by San Lu, a company in which Fonterra had a \$200 million shareholding. At press, there are reports that San Lu may be wound up.



So China is complex. But that doesn't mean that stories about China should not be written and it doesn't mean China's not coming out ahead on balance. China's extraordinary economic growth has meant new roads across the desert, and new office towers, and shops, and schools, and clothes, and food. It has meant real prosperity for more Chinese, and a much bigger role for China in the world.

Above all, China is endlessly fascinating. As Bill McAulay, formerly of Plimmerton, told me: "Every day you see something that surprises you, every day you see something and think 'I haven't seen that before. That's amazing!'"

I'll vouch for that.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Business; Mag-Features; Massey Magazine





Professor Glyn Harper.

Photographic Memory

Military historian Glyn Harper, the author of *Images of War*, talks to Malcolm Wood.

A lust for pocketable gadgetry is not something restricted to our times. In 1912 the desirable object of the day, the height of consumer aspiration, was a new model of camera, the Vest Pocket Kodak.

Compared to cameras of a few years earlier, this was a wonder of miniaturisation, convenience, speed and affordability.

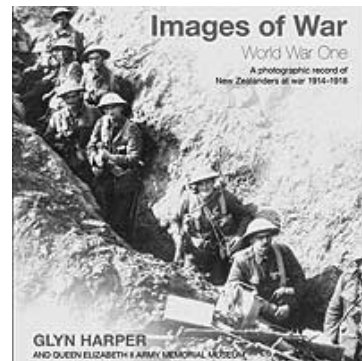
When the New Zealand Expeditionary Force steamed away to war in October 1914, many of the troops carried cameras like this tucked away in their kit for the great adventure that lay ahead.

Eventually, more than 100,000 New Zealanders would serve in WWI. And because of cameras like the Vest Pocket Kodak, part of their documentary legacy to us takes the form of many hundreds of albums and thousands upon thousands of photographs.

Mailed home or carried back by the returning soldiers, archived away in shoeboxes and suitcases, the photographs, provided they have been kept away from sunlight and damp, have endured remarkably well, as Professor Glyn Harper knows.

Over the past two years he, his wife Susan Lemish, and Massey colleague Tania Lasenby have viewed around 30,000 photographs from WWI: 20,000 or so from the collections of the National Army Museum in Waiouru and the remainder sent in by individuals and families. From these they have winnowed the 830 photographs that form the content of *Images of War: A photographic record of New Zealanders at war 1914–18*, which has been published on the 90th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities.

As this is New Zealand's first photographic history of WWI to be published in those 90 years, you might say it has been a long time coming.



Images of War: World War One
A photographic record of New Zealanders at war 1914–1918 by Glyn Harper and Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum
RRP: \$59.99



This is, after all, the war we remember because its images speak so clearly. The spectral figures in gasmasks, the torn apart wreckage of the French countryside at the front, the lumbering behemoths that were the first tanks – are an indelible part of the modern consciousness.

The other major allied combatants published photographic histories long ago; Australia published a weighty book of WWI photographs as the final instalment of its official history back in 1923.

New Zealand's wartime history is familiar territory for Harper. The school teacher, turned army officer, turned academic has – there's a pause while he ponders – 17 books of military history and narrative to his name, including a number for children and younger readers.

It was his third book, this one about Major General Sir Howard Kippenberger (also the subject of Harper's doctoral thesis) that first took him into WWI and the trenches of the Western Front. Kippenberger's reputation rests on his accomplishments during WWII, explains Harper, but he had also been a boy soldier on the Somme. "He lied about his age." Reading about the Somme aroused Harper's interest in another less emblematic battle.

"I read about how badly New Zealanders had been treated on the Somme, but in the accounts there was always this throwaway line: 'but Passchendaele was much worse'. So I wanted to find about Passchendaele and how much worse it could be."

In 2000, 80 odd years on from the tragic debacle it describes – 846 New Zealand troops were killed in a single morning in the First Battle of Passchendaele – Harper's book was published – and within two weeks sold out.

How did a book of military history become a bestseller? Why are the events of WWI still so strongly with us? Partly, Harper says, this has to do with the scale of New Zealand's involvement: the 100,000 individuals who went to war came from a population just over a million strong. Every family would have had some close connection. Those connections endure through family histories. "People want to know why their relative went and what they did, what they would have seen and experienced."

Then there is what you might call the meta significance of WWI. As the twentieth century recedes, many of its most significant events, from WWII to the Cold War to the collapse of the former Soviet Union to the break up of Yugoslavia, are seen as one long chain of consequences tracing back to the events of 1914-18.

"If you want to understand the world today you have to understand WWI."

WWI was not the first war to be photographed, says Harper. Professional photographers followed the course of the American Civil War, but photography in the 1860s was a complex and time consuming procedure involving large glass plates that had to be treated and sensitised in the field, exposed for a period of many seconds, and then swiftly developed in a darkroom wagon.

By 1914, things were very different. The Vest Pocket Kodak – a version would later be marketed as the soldier's camera – was capable of shutter speeds of around a fiftieth of a second, and the rolls of celluloid film, each yielding eight 15/8 by 2 1/2 inch exposures, could be dropped off to a chemist for development (entrepreneurial locals followed the armies of the Sinai Palestine



THE HOME FRONT: Children taking part in fundraising for the war effort. Mark Febery.



The Western Front 1917: Keeping a watchful eye on the enemy at Ida Post. Joan Miskimmin??.



The Western Front 1917: Trying to keep dry and prevent the low-lying trenches from flooding was a constant struggle. Soldiers pumping water away from the trenches. Joan Miskimmin??.



Gallipoli: Enjoying a dip. Allan Comrie??.



Gallipoli: The road up to Walker's Ridge behind Anzac Cove. Allan Comrie??.

campaign into the field). And it lived up to its name: in its folded down state it was same size as an iPhone, though twice the thickness.

This was good for the owner, but not something the army was altogether comfortable with. Understandably, then – as now – military regulations forbade both the keeping of diaries and the taking of photographs on the front. Secretary of War Lord Kitchener himself loathed the media and didn't want cameras, amateur or official, anywhere near the combat action. "Official photographers weren't appointed until after he died in 1916 and New Zealand didn't appoint its own until the early months of 1917," says Harper.

So it is just as well for us that New Zealand's private soldiers carried their cameras, or our photographic record of those early campaigns, such as Gallipoli and the first of the Somme offensives, would be thin. "All the photographs in here come from private sources so it is just as well that all those people ignored the instructions to leave their cameras behind."

Harper began his work on the book by writing a brief: these were segments of the war he wanted to cover and these were the photographic priorities. He wanted to cover each of the major sites and years of battle in which the New Zealanders took part, to show something of life on the home front, and he wanted to show something of the consequences for those who made it home.

One major problem was the number of generic WWI photographs – photographs that could not be reliably tied to a time or place. "If you knew the date, if you know the unit name or the person's name you can often work things out. If you have nothing, you are guessing." Photos without provenance were rejected. So too, except where there were special grounds, were photos that appeared to have been deliberately staged or tampered with in the dark room.

The Australian war photographer Frank Hurley (remembered most for his extraordinary pictures of Shackleton's ship the *Endurance*) was known for improving on reality. "One of Hurley's images – the one he liked best – is made up of 12 different photographs." Harper flips open a book to the image in question: troops going over the top, aeroplanes overhead, shells bursting, a lowering sky pierced by shafts of light. "To my mind it looks like something out of a Hollywood movie."

Harper has included just one suspect image, a high-contrast nightmare vision of New Zealand troops attacking. "I don't know whether it is a composite, whether it is faked, whether it is staged. The typesetter reckons its a composite. I have a letter that says it was taken by a German photographer, just before he was bayoneted."

Tania Lasenby was the person who first saw the photos sent in by individuals after an appeal was made to the public. It was an experience she found deeply poignant. One album contained foliage and flowers picked from behind the battlelines.

To Harper's surprise, among the photographs sent in were several official war photographs – part of the 'H-series' – that had failed to find their way into the armed forces collections.

A family in Palmerston North lent Harper their grandfather's album – he had been a stretcher bearer on the Western Front –



Sinai-Palestine campaign 1916-1918: Farrier Sergeant Westwood and horse rest during one of the Gaza battles. Lyn Murphy??.



Sinai-Palestine campaign 1916-1918: Albert Creed of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles in a snipers position in the desert. Albert, a Gallipoli veteran, posted this photo to his family for Christmas 1917. David Mowat??.



Sinai-Palestine campaign 1916-1918: The New Zealand Mounted Rifles units labelled this place Diahorea [sic] Valley. Its real name was slightly more attractive: Tel el Nag. Matthew Pomeroy??.



Sinai-Palestine campaign 1916-1918: The burial of Private Fred Crum, Mounted Field Ambulance at Belah on 9 May 1917. Matthew Pomeroy??.



Gallipoli: The road to Walker ridge. Allan Comrie??.

and showed him the Box Brownie on which the photos had been taken.

Then there were the mysteries: "Someone sent this album of Sinai Palestine through to Harper Collins [publishers] and all it had on it was 'I don't want this back'. I'd love to know who it was, what the story was behind it."

What sort of photos have made the cut? It is an eclectic mix – the war in all its aspects, not just the stuff of battle. There are photographs of sightseeing and picnics, of patriotic fundraising drives, of ruins and refugees, of the washing of socks.

The hardest part of the book for Harper was a section dealing with the horrific facial wounds suffered by the soldiers and the attempts made at surgical reconstruction.

"I agonised about whether to put it in. I removed the names so as not to cause distress to their families and I haven't shown the most graphic of the photos. I was actually moved to tears at times."

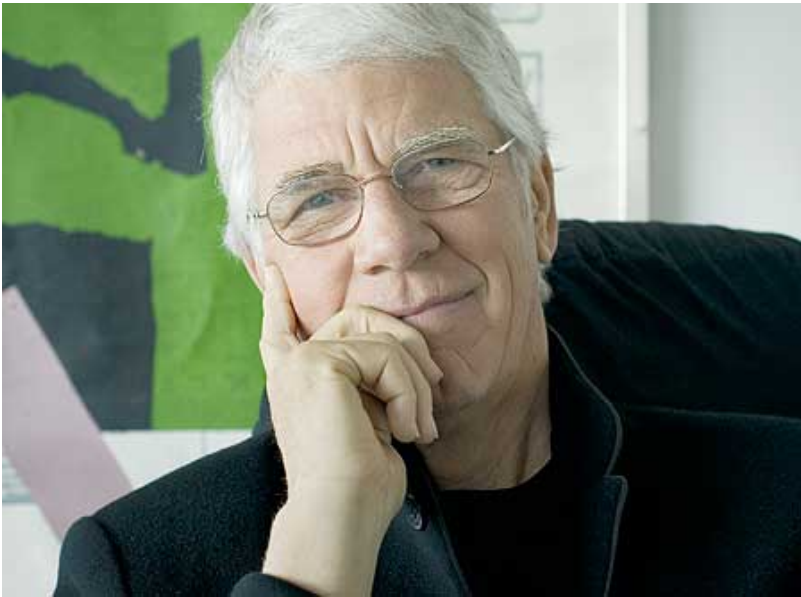


These New Zealand soldiers seem at home in their 'Kiwi Dugout' in Belgium. Mark Febery.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Mag-Features; Massey Magazine



Mark Pennington.

Take a seat

Mark Pennington has designed everything from playgrounds, to stereo systems, to the earthquake house at Te Papa – but he says a high-performance task chair was his most difficult undertaking. The head-designer of Formway furniture's world-leading Life chair, and former senior lecturer at what is now Massey University's design school, has been recognised for his varied international career with entry to the University's College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame. He talks to Keri Welham.

Mark Pennington strides ahead, into the iconic world he created. This is Te Papa's Awesome Forces, the popular museum collection which goes beneath the Earth's crust to explain lava, tectonic plates and how the ground beneath us rumbles and shakes.

There's the clock that illustrates the millions of years of Earth's development, the lever that shows the Earth crack in two, the globe which sets out exactly where the tectonic plates meet. He designed them all, everything you see, during several years in leading roles within Te Papa's design team.

With a brisk walk and obvious excitement, he heads for his most famous Te Papa creation, the earthquake house where museum-goers can experience the exact pattern of jolts which rocked the eastern Bay of Plenty in March 1987.

"Look at their faces," he says, peering in the door where visitors to the museum are transfixed on the shaking around them.

Lower Hutt-raised Pennington, 62 years old and a father of four, has worked alongside some of the world's most famous designers, on everything from hi-fi systems to the world-famous Life chair. The chair, designed in Wellington and manufactured around the world, can be found in homes and businesses across Asia, Europe, The United States and Australasia. It retails from \$600 to \$1200, depending on fixtures, and has generated more than \$400 million since its launch earlier this decade.

It may seem hard to imagine now, but Pennington's parents were supportive but unconvinced by his career choice. In the early 1960s, design had a low profile and little



Formway furniture's world-leading Life chair.



Top: Mark Pennington with students during a kite-flying field day. Photo courtesy of Bill Toomath

Above: Design School staff in the 1980s Mark Pennington, Jim Coe and Bill Toomath.

appreciation in New Zealand. They were concerned Pennington might not be able to turn his artistic gifts and inquiring mind into a real, wage-earning, solid job.

But Pennington knew as soon as he stepped inside the then Wellington Polytechnic School of Design, that he didn't want to be anywhere else.

Pennington's enthusiasm for design is immense.



Third-year Industrial Design class of 1966, Wellington Polytechnic School of Design. From left: Nick Stewart (career path unknown); Mark Pennington (Holyoake Engineering; Holland: Philips; USA: Fitch Richardson Smith and Form Design; teaching at Rhode Island and Wellington Polytechnic; Formway); Michael Smythe, pictured in bath, (Fisher and Paykel, JASMaD, Marks and Smythe Designers, Designforces, Designsource, the Designers Secretariat, Creationz Consultants); Neil Booth (Modern Signs, transforming Waiheke's Treebeard craft shop into the island's first art gallery, freelance illustrator and writer); Gary Dunn (Motat, Design Co, Jomax Toys, Geddes Dunn Landscape Designers, Playgoods, Aquatic park (co-director/entrepreneur)); Erica Duncan (later Martin) (Sydney: Lester Bunbury Assoc; London: interior and industrial design firms; Wellington: Crag Craig and Moller, Erica Martin Designs); Gay Ashford (later Epstein) (PDL Plastics, Ballantynes; Australia: Metters, British Paints, David Epstein and Associates; Hong Kong: Concept Consultants and Play Tennis Ltd, Ashford Australia); Jim Dent (front) (career path unknown); Angus de Lange (British Office Supplies, Dominion Museum, Finland, teaching at ATI /Carrington Polytechnic, full-time painter). Photograph courtesy of Neil Booth and with thanks to Michael Smythe.

"It's been the most fulfilling, stimulating, rewarding career path... I've met great people, I work with great friends, I'm excited, I'm stimulated by it, it's diverse, and it's good for New Zealand."

He entered design school in 1963; part of a group that became known as The Golden Year. He studied with design critic Michael Smythe, product designer and fine artist Angus de Lange, the product and interior designer Erica Duncan, and businesswomen and designer Gay Ashford.

The school was then led by the visionary James Coe, whose bustling office Pennington remembers stuffed with skeletons, books, artwork, inventions and a curvilinear particle board desk.

Pennington plodded through the introductory and theory lessons of the first year. And then, in the second year, the course moved to practical design.

"And suddenly, I remember, I got it."

He was plucked from school by industrial tycoon Noel Holyoake, nephew of then Prime Minister Keith Holyoake, who spotted Pennington's talent at a student exhibition. Holyoake wanted a designer as his right-hand man in his domestic heating enterprises. Pennington designed range hoods and gas heaters and learned a lot about fast decisions and seizing business opportunities, but it wasn't fun. He left to set up a consultancy.

Clients included Caltex, Unilever, the 1970 New Zealand Expo in Japan and, most significantly, work across Asia-Pacific for Philips Electrical.

In 1970, when he was just 24 years old, the electrical giant invited him to be guest designer at its Concern Industrial Design Centre in Holland. He worked conscientiously on the projects they gave him, but would then secretly work away at alternative designs; dismissing the rules and starting over.

“It was that healthy dissatisfaction and ability of New Zealanders to challenge convention and have a go. Without knowing, that set me up. That made the difference. It was an attitudinal thing; a willingness and a desire to explore, to utilise and amplify new technology. I was just wanting to do something better.”

seat-montage-2.jpg



Page 20, clockwise from top left: the design concept for a vacuum cleaner featuring handle-integrated controls, created for Whirlpool; a conceptual sketch for an electric blanket controller created for Ralta NZ; the final model for the controller; enamel cast-iron cookware for global distribution, created for Waterford of Ireland.

The director of the Centre, well-known designer Knut Iran, noticed the alternative design work on his desk and asked Pennington to present it to the Philips board. They were impressed and Pennington was teamed up with futuristic US designer Syd Mead, an already acclaimed and world-renowned designer who would go on to Hollywood fame with set work on films such as Blade Runner.

“I couldn't have hoped for any more than that – to work with a guy of that calibre,” Pennington says.

They were world trend setters, designing 1970s lawn mowers and hi-fi systems in the days when led lights and touch controls were emerging from the Philips technical laboratories.

Pennington, his then wife and first child lived on a farm near the Belgian border. There was an equestrian centre on the farm and, utilising his explorative nature, Pennington borrowed a book on building, then designed and built swimming pools and rooms at the complex for his landlord.

From Holland, he moved to London to work for Pentagram, a multi-disciplinary company run by one of the world's most famous designers, Kenneth Grange – designer of the Kenwood appliance range, the Parker pen, trains and other varied objects.

He was accepted into the Royal College of Art in London to do postgraduate study in design. But with a young family he turned this down and instead moved to the Cotswolds to work for David Carter Design Associates. The family lived in a 400-year-old cottage; the intimacy and richness of which would influence their future home in New Zealand.

In the mid-1970s, they came home in search of a Kiwi upbringing for their children. The consultancy was resurrected but New Zealand felt constrained for the young designer.

“It was a young nation constrained by import tariffs, with an introverted production-led mentality.” Design, he says, was an afterthought.

He got work with Philips and various other clients, then James Coe came calling. He asked if Pennington would consider becoming a tutor.

Pennington was unsure if he was up to it. He worried that he didn't know anything about being a tutor. But he found tutoring an enriching experience, one that forced him to consider his own ideologies and processes. “It was a huge growth curve for me. If you want to teach someone about your subject, you have to know it very, very well.”

One of his students was Lyn Garrett, now undergraduate programme co-ordinator for the industrial design major within Massey's bachelor of design.

He says Pennington's enthusiasm for everything he does is hard to contain.

“But once he’s talking about design, his passion for the topic oozes out of his pores and hands in a way that is infectious and inspiring. Mention the phrase ‘smooth and creamy’ to any industrial design student from the ‘70s or ‘80s, and they’ll immediately say ‘Mark Pennington’, not Cadbury.”



Below: Cassette-radio players designed for Philips Eindhoven during late 1960s. A number of these design concepts feature advanced technologies for their day, such as touch controls and liquid crystal displays.

Garrett went on to work with Pennington at Formway and says his former tutor's influence on New Zealand design, as a designer, strategist, inspirational educator and innovation activist, is immense.

“It’s the quality of his vision alloyed with his articulate passion for design and New Zealand which is partly responsible for what he has achieved: the other part of his success is that he is an immensely talented industrial designer. I’m not sure that being Mark Pennington has ever gone to his head,” Garrett says. “I’ve always found him to be warm, human, thoughtful and articulate, and he smiles easily.”

Pennington loved working with students, seeing them developing their projects. His career developed too. He rose to head of design, developed industry links with the school, got a Queen Elizabeth Arts Council grant, and travelled the world on a Fulbright scholarship studying new educational approaches.

On his return, he helped move the school's philosophy away from the rigid Bauhaus model common in Europe towards a more liberal, eclectic, independent South Pacific approach.

“We are isolated geographically but certainly not in a technical sense. But through that isolation, we have a sense of independence which is to our advantage, to view the world from afar... and to also be unfamiliar with the rules.

“We have this wonderful sense of independence and spirit of adventure as an adolescent nation, and we’re simply different. That is so utterly desirable on a global scale.”

That spirit would not be suppressed through the rigid German and English design school ideologies any longer. Instead, it was officially embraced.

Students started to win or be continuously placed in major international awards. Pennington says the school, and its graduates, were starting to become a significant design force in the world. Students of that era have gone on to lead design teams at Apple and Nike, influencing global trends.

After 17 years, Pennington left the design school. “It became part of me and I became part of it.”

He returned again to consultancy; interspersed with overseas roles such as a position as Associate Professor of Design at the Rhode Island School of Design, and as consultant at Richardson Smith in Ohio, US. Back home, work with a small Petone furniture company popped up. It was one of the businesses Pennington had collaborated with through students at the design school.



Page 23, clockwise from top: the highly successful Life chair; the utilitarian military aesthetic of this cassette-radio player designed for Philips Eindhoven in the late 1960s became highly influential; completed in the late 1980s, the Pennington-devised playground and lighthouse-slide on the waterfront at Frank Kitts Park is a Wellington icon and a popular meeting place.

Through this exposure, Formway's owners – industrial chemist Allan Brown and accountant Rick Wells – realised they could grow the business through differentiation, but they needed to buy in expertise.

Pennington tidied up their existing models, then moved on to new products. Their first ground-up design was the Zaf chair. It won product design awards, including the prestigious Prince Philip Award for industrial design, and Formway moved into Australia on the back of the product's success.

The company went beyond chairs to workplace design and Pennington, by now a shareholder and director, developed a desk system called Free. The desk system was entered in an international trade show in America. Formway could hardly afford the exhibition and travel costs. But, to everyone's amazement, the Wellington furniture company won an unprecedented two gold medals in the show. This success helped launch Formway into the US market.

Pennington and his growing design team travelled to many international trade shows and moved from being initially in awe of the designs, to slowly starting to believe they could do better. There was always something inadequate with each design they saw. Imagine if you could eliminate all of those shortcomings? This feeling became overwhelming and Pennington and his colleagues formulated an audacious plan. The team would create “the best chair in the world”.

The perfect chair is a complex product to design. It must fit bodies of varied shapes and weights, and remain comfortable. Pennington says a chair is the ultimate design challenge.

And it was certainly a bigger undertaking than Formway realised at the time.

The design team grew to, at one point, 20 people. The development costs exceeded \$4.5 million. It was the project which would either catapult Formway to global success, or sink the business.

Formway realised that design was its core competency and that manufacture and distribution needed to be carried out closer to the market. They courted US company Knoll International and convinced its top tier to travel to New Zealand for a presentation. There were risks taken on all sides, with the American executives staking their reputations, and undoubtedly their jobs, on the high-level trip Down Under.

At this stage Formway not only had to build a working model of this revolutionary chair, but also build and paint a presentation room.

When the Americans arrived, Formway's factory staff erupted into a spontaneous haka. Everyone was painfully aware that livelihoods were riding on this meeting.

As soon as the chair was unveiled, the Americans leapt from their chairs and started embracing the Formway team. After three days of staunch negotiations, a deal was struck and the Life chair was going global.

Since then, the Life chair has won the Best of NeoCon at Chicago's prestigious Facilities Management trade show, and numerous other international awards as well as a permanent place in the Chicago Design Museum

collection. Around 150,000 chairs are now sold every year from Osaka to Oklahoma. It is one of the largest-selling high-performance chairs in the world and has become Knoll's flagship product.

How is it possibly different from any other chair?

The life chair is lightweight, with a mobile support system. As you move around, the back of the chair moves with you, continuously supporting your body. It measures your body weight and auto-adjusts the back support system to give the relevant resistance.

In demonstration Pennington stretches back with his arms behind his head and shifts to the left and right. "It's like a good shoe," he says. "It will always move naturally with you."

His philosophies around design are borne out in the Life chair. "People are central to your work. The only reason you are a designer is, in effect, to contribute to people's lives. So the better you understand people, the better the design."

Pennington says the Life chair is an environmentally sound product; an outcome he initially saw as a challenge, then he decided was a responsibility with a product selling in such high numbers, and an opportunity for market advantage. It has since become the first product in America to win the environmental Smart Award.

Formway no longer has to pitch to large offshore firms. These days, prospective manufacturers approach them.

Tony Parker, Massey's current Professor of Industrial Design, says Pennington's work, particularly with Formway furniture, is studied, analysed and promoted as an outstanding example of how good design means good business.

"Working with other designers, both inside and outside his team, he has influenced the thinking and career development of people who will, in their own right, make significant contributions to design here and internationally.

"His passion and enthusiasm for design is contagious. His knowledge is that of a master or professor. His own talent and accomplishments give him mana and his genuine joy when his students produced work of quality fuelled an atmosphere of striving for excellence and achievement."

Pennington's recently bought a "humble brick box" on the beach front at Paekakariki and he's looking forward to transforming it into something special. Of his four children, two are graphic designers, one is a budding fashion designer and another is in property but with a well-developed appreciation of design.

Pennington says despite their initial hesitation, his parents, now deceased, would have been "thrilled as thrilled" by his success; from his John Britten Award for design leadership, to his work on the national museum, to his years tutoring other generations of New Zealand designers.

"They would be moved and delighted that a career path has opened up that they never believed possible, and that I've been able to contribute in a way they couldn't have foreseen."

For information about studying industrial design at Massey, contact design@massey.ac.nz.

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Matthew Brodie.

Dream RUN

Matthew Brodie, the runner up in the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Award, talks to Malcolm Wood.

Achieving top one hundred status for YouTube views nationally, being interviewed by New Scientist for its web site, featuring in the national papers and on national television... Matthew Brodie, the category winner of Future Science and Technologies and overall runner up in the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year awards, is taking his 15 minutes of fame all in his stride, with a kind of self-possessed bemusement.

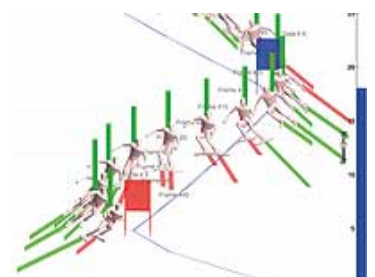
The truth is that, for the time being, his life is not as glamorous as all that. In a secluded office on Massey's Wellington campus, Brodie's days are devoted to compressing four years of research into the under-100,000 words requirement for a PhD thesis.

And although his thesis is about the science of skiing, the doctoral student – and newish father – will not see much snow this year. Brodie's breakthrough is the development of fusion motion analysis software that will allow a skier's run to be analysed and understood in all of its detail. It is a first.

Motion analysis has a long history. In the 1870s Eadweard Muybridge photographed a horse in fast motion using a number of cameras arranged parallel to the track and triggered by a succession of trip wires. It is believed his stills settled a bet about whether a galloping horse's hooves are ever simultaneously clear the ground – they are – and showed that the illustrators of the time had things hopelessly wrong.

Until very recent times most motion analysis has been carried out in a way Muybridge would recognise, using cameras in the controlled environment of the laboratory, athletics track or film studio (for 3D animation-based and special effects).

In some situations, however, optically-based motion analysis is not practicable. Downhill skiing is one. Steep and irregular terrain, extreme speeds (speed skiers routinely exceed 200 kilometres per hour), the dramatically changing scale and orientation of the skier in the camera frame, the need to tilt and pan multiple cameras each with an operator, and the visual problems of snow and natural light all mean that optical analysis will never be a practical or efficient solution, says Brodie.



Fortunately in the past decade a wave of affordable, tiny microelectromechanical sensor (MEMS) technologies for measuring movement have come to market. Is this a solution? Maybe. The problem, it turns out, is making sense of the data they produce.

Matthew Brodie was raised in Palmerston North. He did a degree in chemical engineering at Canterbury University and took up a job as a process engineer at Carter Holt Harvey, but after a while boredom took hold.

So he quit, took three months out for an invigorating tramp of the length of the South Island, and went in a different direction. In his early teens Brodie had been introduced to skiing during family holidays at Mt Ruapehu. Now, over a number of years, he embarked on a series of ski-related jobs: ski-patrolling at Mt Olympus and Temple Basin, working as an instructor and coach in Japan in the off-season, and eventually establishing a small business bringing Japanese skiers to New Zealand. For a while, before the dollar inflated against the yen, he did well. But it was a precarious lifestyle, and he had other interests. Postgraduate study beckoned.

Brodie had his research topic in mind, exploring the dynamics of skiing, and a preferred city, Wellington, where his girlfriend had just taken up a job. That being so, Massey, which taught exercise science and engineering and had a Wellington campus, was the logical choice. Biomechanist Dr Alan Walmsley, of the Institute of Food, Nutrition, and Human Health and multimedia systems engineer Dr Wyatt Page of the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology agreed to be his supervisors. He was awarded a scholarship to help with his costs, and a capital case was put forward for the sensor system he would need.

What kinds of movement are there? In the case of single sensor, there are three perpendicular axes in which it can move in three dimensional space (forward or backward, up or down, left or right) and three perpendicular axes around which it can also rotate independently (forms of rotation known as yaw, pitch and roll).

The sensors purchased by Massey would measure each of these kinds of movement. Although weighing just 30 grams, each contains three gyroscopes (to measure orientation), three accelerometers (to measure acceleration), three magnetometers (to measure the strength and direction of the magnetic field in the immediate vicinity) and a thermometer (for sensor calibration).

All up, the system purchased for Brodie's work consisted of 15 sensors wired to a central bus, which could connect to a laptop computer or modified logic board. What is more, the system even came with 'Nancy', a software body model, based on the scanned dimensions of a real person, to which the data from the sensors could be mapped.

But Nancy, as Brodie was to discover, had her limitations. For one thing, she had a problem with her lower back: the software assumed this was rigid. For another, as supplied, Nancy also lacked legs. Hers was a torso-and-arms model only.

A third problem was that the software model worked on the assumption that the sensors would be attached to the subject at set body points in impossible-to-maintain orientations.

These were matters Brodie remedied. He built Nancy her lower limbs, freed up her lower torso, and devised a way of placing the sensors where he wanted and subsequently performing a calibration.

Then came the crunch. He put a subject wearing his sensors on an office chair and spun the chair to see what Nancy, the computer double, would do. As the chair rotated, its occupant and Nancy parted ways. The subject kept her arms to her sides; Nancy raised hers into the air.

"After I spun the person on the chair and discovered that the model didn't work, that's really where my novel contribution to this begins," says Brodie.

Brodie knew he would have to re-engineer the modelling software and he knew too that he would have to take steps to improve the accuracy of the raw data. He embarked on a series of experiments.

He could see that he would need another external source of data. "The IMUs [Inertial Measurement Units] just give you local movements. I needed to know where a person was and how fast they were moving through global space." He attached a GPS to the helmet of his subjects, but, again, an off-the-shelf GPS was not going to work.

"But if you can get the raw data out of it and combine it with the inertial measurement data, you can get a more accurate position and orientation.

"One step up from the raw data, GPS gives you time-of-flight and carrier frequency, which is like the Doppler effect you hear when an ambulance goes past. When you are going towards a satellite the frequency gets

higher; if you are going away from a satellite the frequency drops. You can tell the relative velocity. Then if you take the accelerometer data and integrate it you have another measure of velocity. So now we have overlap: information on velocity from two different sources.”

Brodie's third source of data was a multiple-sensor pressure-sensitive insole, again off-the-shelf, and again needing to be tweaked to provide the data he needed.

Brodie and his subjects became a regular feature on the slopes, Brodie, the boffin with his laptop and Ben Griffin, his test pilot, with a tangle of wires sprouting from his daypack and a GPS taped to his helmet.

Brodie's first animations looked somewhat awkward. “I had to assume some part of the person was fixed. So I assumed the cervical spine was fixed. My first animations look as if they are hanging on a coat hanger.”

Gradually the software model was refined to the point where Brodie and Griffin could sit down after a run – perhaps back in the “blue monster”, Brodie's VW van-turned-laboratory – and watch exactly what had happened. How Griffin had angled his body. Where his line had been. The pressure he had exerted on the snow. How efficiently, in Brodie's terms, height and gravity had been used to generate velocity.

Overseas, Brodie's work was also becoming noticed. At a science and skiing congress in Austria, Brodie was given a coveted spot as one of the early speakers and awarded a Fédération Internationale de Ski sponsored prize for innovation.

It was this, together with the fact that he was not part of a large, well-established research group, that Brodie believes clinched the award from the MacDiarmid award committee.

A second wave of publicity for his work – this time international – came when Brodie was invited to write the lead article for the first issue of the Journal of Sports Technology and the publishers put out an international press release.

Brodie's work could have multiple applications. The obvious one is in enabling competitive skiers to improve their times, but the animations it produces could also be used as an add-on for televised ski races (in the same way that animations are used to enliven the America's Cup races) or to identify and address the causes of sports injuries.

Nor is there any reason why the technology should not be applied to any other sport or form of movement. Already inertial sensors and other forms of movement detectors are being used in such consumer appliances as the Nintendo Wii game controller and the Nike sensor for running shoes.

Prices too are coming down. Brodie calculates that the cost of the basic components in the sensors he made use of has come down by two thirds in the last four years.

It is a reasonable prediction that in future we will not lack for technology or data when it comes to motion analysis. The trick will be to make sense of it.

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The Skiffington family: David, Heather, Megan and Anna.

Green horizons

Lindsey Birnie visits Young Farmer of the Year David Skiffington and his family on their lifestyle property outside Feilding,

Meet the Skiffington family. First, inside the door is Angelina Ballerina – a part Anna Skiffington, age three, makes her own – then her fictional sidekick, Henry, played with spirit by Heather Skiffington, age two, finally the production crew: dad, David, who bends down to adjust Angelina's ballet shoes, and mum, Megan.

Angelina Ballerina and Henry are characters from a popular children's book; David Skiffington, the winner of this year's 2008 Young Farmer of the Year, is the household's full-time dad, looking after the children and two leasehold properties; and Megan, a sales consultant for a scientific equipment company, is, at least for the moment, the principal breadwinner.

David, who comes from a farming lineage, which includes his parents and grandparents, grew up in Rotorua. It was there, as a teenager, that he met and romanced Megan. One day the two of them, he told her, would have a family and a farm. Megan, whose family also included grandparents who farmed, liked David and his vision. "I knew I wanted kids and it sounded like a fantastic lifestyle for them."

But first came Massey, where Megan embarked on a Bachelor of Science majoring in genetics (with a minor in physiological and molecular plant biology), and David, after dallying with the idea of becoming a vet, began study for a Bachelor of Applied Science.

Part way through his first year of the degree David decided to set a ten-year plan for the couple to achieve their dream of farm ownership. One of the waypoints he mapped out was to win the Young Farmer of the Year.

The Young Farmer of the Year is a New Zealand institution of many decades standing. Held annually, the competition calls on every skill that might be asked of a modern-day farmer, from artificially inseminating a cow, to erecting a fence, to explaining the difference between pasture grasses, to delivering an after dinner speech. Each year, hundreds of young farmers enter the



Getting back to the land

Three new land-based bachelor's degree qualifications have been launched by Massey. The degrees are in AgriScience, AgriCommerce and Environmental Management.

The BAgriScience is intended for those who want to work at the interface of science, technology and management in agriculture, horticulture or equine studies. The graduates are likely to find careers as technicians, farm or horticultural managers, fertiliser or seed company representatives.

The BAgriCommerce prepares its graduates to work in any of a range of businesses related to primary production, including agricommerce, banking, farming, exporting, rural valuation, rural financing, logistics and supply chain management.

The Bachelor of Environmental Management will provide the career foundation for managers who hold stewardship over resources, environments, catchments and parks, as well as for regional planners and policy analysts.

22 district competitions hoping to advance through one of seven regional finals to the nationally-televised grand final.

The new programmes, developed after extensive consultation, update the Bachelor of Applied Science, which was introduced in 1994.

David first entered in 2006, taking to the challenge of preparation with a will. He learned how to bone out a shoulder of lamb and the intricacies of tax flow and forecasting. He enlisted the help of friends and neighbours. "I rang people up and said 'I don't know how to plough a paddock, can you help?'"

He missed out by a whisker. After making it through to the finals and tying with the eventual winner, he lost by a single point on a deciding technicality: he had caught up to his rival rather than the other way round. He knew he had to have another go – "I'm pretty competitive, I like winning" – and it would have to be soon. David was nearing the cut-off age for entries.

This time he won convincingly.

Out in the yard you can see the gleaming evidence: the Ford Ranger utility (upgraded to a double cab for the children) he uses when off doing work on their properties and, in a shed, a Honda four-wheel drive atv.

The Young Farmer win is also a useful validation for anyone wanting to get involved in the Skiffington enterprise.

Without land or start-up capital, any aspiring farmer faces a challenging first few years. When Megan and David first began looking for blocks to lease, the greatest argument in their favour was the promise that any property the two took on would be materially improved during their tenure. Their 'sell' is their competence, dedication and expertise.

Aside from the lifestyle block they live on, they currently have two leasehold blocks totalling 89 hectares, on which they graze dairy cows and raise breeding ewes.

"The blocks have very different management issues," David says.

"The main challenge is feed budgeting; there are lots of mouths to feed and lots of grass but it's not necessarily in the same place at the same time. The soils are quite different and there are notably different water patterns."

David's more hands-on farming knowledge is complemented by Megan's analytical and forecasting skills – though she also dons overalls and mucks in when she can.

They are on the lookout for more land if they can find it. It is all part of a larger ambition.

"Within the next nine years we are looking to buy a big breeding property," Megan says. "The goals you have to set to achieve that are really aggressive. It really puts pressure on David to get smart about the farm and to do his best.

"I am happy for us as a family to work really hard."

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Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Mag-Around & About



British-born Dr Martin Brook completed his PhD at Dundee University in 2001, having conducted fieldwork in New Zealand's Southern Alps, northwest Iceland, and the Scottish Highlands. As well as his work on the Tasman glacier, Brook is working on an understanding of the dynamics of the Fox Glacier and of the rates of landscape evolution in the North Island, particularly in the Tararua ranges.

Advance and retreat

One of our iconic landscapes is changing rapidly, writes Dr Martin Brook. And there is nothing much we can do about it.

For somewhere to contemplate climate change and its consequences, I can recommend nowhere better than floating on an inflatable boat on the ever-extending lake that now lies at the terminal face of the Tasman glacier.

Thirty years ago there was no lake: the Tasman river issued forth from the glacier's face.

By the early 1980s there were a few surface ponds – the technical term is 'supraglacial' – toward the end of the glacier.

By the late 1980s, when Martin Kirkbride, (who would supervise my PhD in the late 1990s), undertook his first survey of what was happening, the ponds had begun to coalesce, and by 1990, the Tasman Glacier's had its own 'proglacial' lake.

When I first visited the Tasman Glacier in January 2000, as part my PhD fieldwork, the lake was two-to-three kilometres long, and today the lake is an inescapably significant geographic feature: six-to-seven kilometres long, a couple of kilometres wide and – as we discovered in a detailed survey in April 2008 – at least 245 metres deep.

No, this is not man-made global warming at work, but something much older. The Tasman Glacier is belatedly responding to the post-1850 century of climate warming that began with close of the 'Little Ice Age', a 400-year event which included three cool periods.

That climate warming may not have amounted to much – perhaps a 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature – but it was enough. Worldwide, as numerous studies have shown, glaciers in general went into retreat.



The Tasman Glacier and its surroundings as seen by Landsat in 2001.
 1. Mount Cook Village;
 2. The Tasman Glacier's proglacial lake;
 3. The main body of the rock-and-scrree covered Tasman Glacier;
 4. The high peak of Aoraki Mt Cook;
 5. The Hochstetter Glacier, where the lake is likely to eventually terminate.
 Image: NASA



In general, but not universally. For when you look at an individual glacier, matters become more complicated.

The mass balance (or 'health') of a glacier is a delicate budgetary exercise. There are inputs, (collectively known as accumulation) in the form of snowfall and avalanching onto the surface. And there are outputs (collectively known as ablation), including surface melting, meltwater runoff and evaporation, and the direct evaporation of ice.

New Zealand's mid-latitude situation and its particular geography mean that the effect of climate change – either current or historic – can lead to quite different glacial responses according to the glacier you choose.

Indeed, because the prevailing weather patterns have led to higher snowfalls in upper basins or nevés, the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers have advanced over a kilometre from their 1950s and 1960s positions, even as glaciers on the east coast of the divide have continued to retreat.

The Fox and Franz are 'clean ice' glaciers: they lack the insulating rock, gravel and dirt cover you see on glaciers such as the Tasman. Because of this, they respond quickly to changing climatic conditions.

A recent study published by our group¹ found evidence that the terminus of the very steep Fox Glacier responds to changes in accumulation of snow in its nevé in less than a decade.

In contrast, low-angle debris-covered glaciers like the Tasman Glacier respond an order of magnitude more slowly to climate change, and when it is climate warming the change often takes the form of a gradual surface lowering.

Until the arrival of the lake, this is exactly what happened to the Tasman, the downwasting evident to anyone who, over the years, had to climb ever further down steep moraine walls to reach the glacier surface.

With the formation of the lake, the equation changed. The downwasting continues, but it is the lake that is exerting the greater influence: every day and all day, its waters eat away at the glacier.

The lake allows the terminus of the glacier to calve blocks of ice off the snout. This happens in a number of ways. At the water line, a thermo-erosional notch forms, melting a large, flat cavern into the ice cliff. This destabilises the ice above, causing subaerial calving; sometimes there are spectacular collapses of ice into the water, sending waves across the lake – to the consternation of anyone in a small survey boat!

Another type of calving happens beneath the water's surface, chunks of ice breaking away from the submerged portion of the glacier and rising to the surface as icebergs. During our April fieldwork, icebergs would occasionally emerge from the water at quite large distances from glacial terminus.

The distance of the icebergs from the terminus taken together with the evidence of our sonar work suggests that a large 'foot' of ice extends for maybe 200 metres under the water away from the ice cliff into the proglacial lake.

The work that has been done on similar calving glaciers in South America and Alaska suggests that there is a direct relationship between the calving rate of the ice cliff and the water depth. As lake depth at the snout increases, more glacier ice comes into contact with the lake water, more melting occurs, and the calving rate increases.

The Tasman Glacier – and the lake at its tip – occupy a deep rock basin carved during the last major Ice Age around 20,000 years ago. As the Tasman Glacier retreats further up the Tasman valley, the rock basin is deeper and so the lake becomes deeper too, in turn putting more and more of the front of the glacier in contact with lake water.

And whereas many glacial lakes are dammed by narrow moraine walls, which may eventually breach, the dam wall of the Tasman's glacial lake lies below the level of glacial outwash plains that stretch tens of kilometres to the south towards Lake Pukaki and the Mackenzie basin.



Two boats were used in the survey of the Tasman's lake, one (upper photo) carrying an echo-sounder to measure lake depth, the other (lower photo) pulling a towfish sonar, imaging the sub-bottom materials beneath the lake floor. The towfish sonar, a shallow seismic technique, is used to identify subsurface ice and the sub-bottom sedimentary stratigraphy.

In the summer of 2008/9 Brook and his team will return to Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park to continue sonar work at the Tasman and other proglacial lakes. They will be using ground-penetrating radar to study glacier structure; crevasse geometry, continuity and orientation are key determinants in glacier calving rates.

The data gathered will form part of an honour's project by Rob Dykes and a PhD thesis by Clare Robertson.

So what is going to happen to the Tasman Glacier and the lake with which it is now twinned? Or, more particularly: How far will the glacier recede? How large will the lake grow? And how quickly are things going to happen?

In the 1990s, when the lake was starting to grow significantly, Dr Martin Kirkbride put forward two scenarios, one moderate, one more extreme. In his moderate scenario, the glacier would retreat up the valley and the lake, growing at a moderate rate, would reach seven kilometres long by the year 2200. In the more extreme scenario the glacier would retreat rapidly reaching 10 kilometres up-valley by 2008 from status quo in 1986. With the lake now at seven kilometres and growing, this is much closer to the reality. To date, it looks like the ice cliff has retreated at the rate of roughly 180 metres a year, but the rate is likely to increase as the lake deepens.

The relationship between the lake and the speed of glacial retreat is fascinating. Within the glaciological community there is intense debate about the relationship between calving and glacier dynamics. A central issue is whether calving losses are the cause of ice flow acceleration or the consequence (2).

One view is that calving is the 'master', process, with calving losses triggering a cascade of dynamic changes up-glacier, including flow acceleration. A contrasting view portrays calving as the 'slave' of glacier dynamics, responding more or less passively to changes in other parts of the system. In this view, coupled dynamical and geometric changes to the glacier system drive increased calving rates, by causing the calving front to retreat and increasing the rate at which ice is delivered to that point.

Conceivably the glacier will continue to retreat rapidly until bedrock in the valley profile is exposed at water level (730 metres above sea level) between the glacier and the lake. Geophysical work carried out in the early 1970s in the valley suggests that this point will be reached after another eight or nine kilometres of recession, where the Hochstetter Glacier now joins the Tasman. This will be vastly different landscape from that which we know today.

Are there then wider lessons to be drawn from all of this? I do not know. Certainly, as I have said, the Tasman Glacier is reacting to climatic changes that occurred well before any concerns about global warming.

Perhaps what it illustrates is that small climatic changes can have complex and sometimes disproportionate effects.

1. Purdie et al. (2008). Seasonal variation in ablation and surface velocity on a temperate maritime glacier: Fox Glacier, New Zealand. *Arctic, Antarctic & Alpine Research* 40: 140-147.

2. Benn et al. 2007. Calving processes and the dynamics of calving glaciers. *Earth Science Reviews* 82(3-4): 143-179.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Mag-First_Person; Massey Magazine



The Rev. Martin Luther King - World Telegram & Sun photo by Dick DeMarsico.

Parts of speech

What is the measure of a great speech, asks former speechwriter Dr Heather Kavan.

Fifteen years after Martin Luther King delivered his “I have a dream” speech, I wrote my first political speech. Of course, my piece wasn’t in the same league as King’s speech, but it might have been, had there been a revolution at the time.

Fresh from studying the Arts at university, and having read too many books on anarchist philosophy, I’d landed a job writing speeches for a government minister. I’d met the minister only once, and mentally drifted off during the conversation, so I had little idea of what I was supposed to write.

I decided to pen a feel-good narrative, contrasting the impoverished past with some exaggerated current successes. I would have cringed if I’d had to say the words myself, but the minister delivered them confidently, and sent me a message saying that he especially liked the speech.

My discomfort at sexing up the minister’s successes was small. This was, after all, a political speech – it could hardly be an announcement of his mediocrity.

But what happens when the stakes are higher?

The issue has a special relevance in recent times, as Bush’s speech writers dishonestly sold a war that cost the lives of 4300 US soldiers and up to 1.3 million Iraqis. Their increasing influence on policy, especially military policy, makes most of us feel tight around the collar.

A cartoon showing a king speaking to a mob of people, “Sorry about the war and the economy and everything, folks – I was misled by my speechwriters” sums up our discontent.

No doubt the victims of Abu Ghraib find the joke hilarious.

The speech writing profession has also taken a dive as the Internet has made it easier to detect how much speech writers plagiarise. In the usual mud-slinging of American presidential elections, both sides allege that their rivals are plagiarising. John Kerry, George Bush, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden: all have been accused of swiping material. However, John McCain really crossed the line when his recent foreign policy



*Lecturer in Communications and Journalism
Dr Heather Kavan has a richly varied background in writing and editing, research, world religions, and developmental psychology.*

speech turned out to be copied from Wikipedia. To be sure, speech writers usually draw on traditions of public rhetoric. But Wikipedia? For a foreign policy speech? Do we really want the world's fate decided by people who choose unreliable and lazy options?

And then there are the stories we hear in speeches. Maybe it's just me, but each time I hear one, I feel an urge to spike the speaker's water glass with sodium pentathol. Perhaps the best known example is Hillary Clinton's speech at George Washington University in which she talked of dodging sniper bullets when landing in Bosnia. It was a tale worthy of *Saving Private Ryan*, but footage showed no sniper fire, just the beautifully coiffured Hillary walking along the tarmac, smiling and waving. According to her companion, the only challenge she had was deciding where to go for dinner.

When speeches turn out to be the literary equivalent of celebrity breast implants, it's hard to view even a genuine speaker without a whiff of suspicion.

So, is there anything great – or even noble – about speech writing?

On the eve of Barack Obama's acceptance pledge for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, three top speech writers were interviewed on United States National Public Radio, and asked what they thought constituted a great speech. They replied that a great speech wasn't measured by lofty rhetorical phrases, but by whether it stirred the audience to action – in this case to vote for the candidate. Speakers must, they said, convince the listener that their life will be better in a concrete, specific way.

Similarly, Helen Clark's former chief press secretary, Mike Munro, told me that when people are asked what works for them in speech making, the most common tribute is "I felt that the speaker was talking about me". The speech must be personally significant.

These are useful pointers for excellence; however, they can't be interpreted as the sole criterion of a great speech. If stirring the audience to action is the measure of greatness, then Hitler and Mao Ze Dong's speeches that mobilised millions to kill might rate higher than the Sermon on the Mount. (Stalin's speeches can be disqualified because of his practice of having the first member in the audience to stop clapping shot dead.)

Seasoned speakers would agree that, no matter how brilliant the speech, there are some audiences that have the responsiveness of a coma patient. In fact, some of the world's most powerful speeches were flops at the time they were given. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, for example, was followed by a dead silence and eventually a scattering of barely polite applause. Similarly, when suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst delivered her acclaimed 'Freedom or death' speech, the theatre was only one third full, and reporters ignored the speech, except for one who described it as having "no great results".

If the speaker's immediate impact isn't the measure of a great speech, what then is? What is the difference between a speech that dies in its infancy and one that resonates through lifetimes?

I think author Roy Clark hit on the answer in his analysis of Obama's race speech. Clark cites scholar W. E. DuBois on how people experience double consciousness – a sense of viewing one's self through other people's eyes, of "measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity".¹ Although Clark and Du Bois are specifically referring to the dual experiences of being black and American, I think double consciousness can be interpreted more widely. A truly great speech is soulful: it lifts us above man-made judgements to a greater dignity. Like beautiful music and art, it seems to be an inspired, rather than a mortal creation. The words transport us to a transcendent place, and the closer we align ourselves with the other consciousness, the better we seem to feel.

If that sounds too ethereal, we should look more closely at the way the speech writer accomplishes this. The main technique is rhythm. Even those who aren't black still bask in the intonations of African-American speakers like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Jesse Jackson in their fight against racism. The words have a musical quality. When heard, they resonate through the body, and when read, they dance on the page – in both cases bypassing the intellect and triggering emotions. Is it any surprise that Bob Dylan has pledged his support of the euphonic Barack Obama?

The musical quality is best illustrated by King's "I have a dream" speech. What's interesting about this speech, and not generally known, is that the "I have a dream" part nearly didn't get into the speech. King started writing the speech the night before, drawing on passages from his speech writer, Stanley Levinson, and his friend Archibald Carey. He didn't finish writing until 4am. King included the "I have a dream" part, but his political advisors told him to leave it out as he'd used it in 25 of his earlier speeches, and they felt the crowd would be bored by it.

When King gave the speech, singer Mahalia Jackson was standing nearby. As King started intoning "Go back to Mississippi, Go back to Alabama", Jackson became concerned that he might wind down the speech, so she cried out, "Tell them about your dream, Martin." King launched into "I have a dream" and the speech became a legend.

Speech writers employ rhetorical devices, let's call them special effects, to create this rhythm. The hottest special

effect is reversible raincoat sentences (technically antimetabole or AB BA reversal). Examples range from: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country” to the more adventurous, “I’d rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy”.

Other special effects include anaphora – repetition of the beginning phrase: “Call it pain, call it hurt, call it agony,” and its opposite, epiphora – repetition of the end phrase: “to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together”.

Also effective are antitheses: “His parents came together on immigrant ships; my parents came together on slave ships,” triads: “ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished”, and assonance: “meaning of its creed”. The handiest tool a speech writer can have is a rhyming dictionary.

Although seemingly contrived, rhythmic utterances come across as more authentic than ordinary speech. Just as musicians say that music is like a truth serum – one can easily spot an insincere singer – so rhythmic speech demands that the speaker vocalises from the heart. A great speech is a genuine, vibrant expression of the human spirit. Take away the soulful intonations and the speech loses its magic.

Most New Zealand speech writers would never get the chance to write an “I have a dream” type of speech, but I think this says more about our leaders' personalities than our social conditions.

A music lover on Amazon.com has suggested that if we made our politicians sing instead of give speeches, we'd be better at picking the honest ones. I'd like to suggest an additional test, which I call the Thomas question.

Physician and poet Lewis Thomas was once asked: If we had to explain to beings from outer space what we're like, what signals should we send? Thomas suggested Bach, his music streamed out into space over and over again. Then he wondered if this would look like bragging, but reasoned that it would be excusable for us to make our best impression first, and then we could reveal our less edifying creations later.

I suggest we judge our politicians by how their speeches would rate in the list of creations to be sent into space. If when they speak, we can only imagine a thousand galactic yawns resonating across the cosmos, then they're unlikely to have anything special to offer our country.

The Thomas question is the ultimate challenge not just for speech writers, but for all of us who write. Instead of appealing to the lowest common denominator, we could write as if our words were to be streamed into space, over and over again.

After Bach.

1. Clark, R. P. (2008). “Why it worked: A rhetorical analysis of Obama's speech on race”. Retrieved: 27 Sept., 2008, from: <http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=78&aid=140711>

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Features

Categories: Alumni; College of Business; Mag-First_Person; Massey Magazine



Dave Bull, and centre director Faith Martin plant a new tree in the nature corridor at Thursday's opening ceremony, as guests explore the new facility.

Child Care centre opens nature corridors

The Massey University Child Care centre at the Manawatu campus officially opened its nature corridors on Thursday, celebrating the completion of two interactive garden areas that the children themselves helped develop and design.

Final touches were being added on Wednesday to the nature corridors that are situated on either side of the complex and link the under-two and over-two year-old sections to ensure access to all children and teachers.

The corridors provide quiet spaces for children to engage with the natural environment as part of the daily programme, while native trees encourage birds to visit.

Centre director Faith Martin says a key initiative was to develop a physical environment that provides a quality learning environment for the community.

"We wanted to create an environment that reflected our identity and supported and strengthened the underpinning beliefs and philosophy of the centre," Mrs Martin says.

Stone pathways lead children to quiet spaces where they are able to sit and rest a while and each garden has a water feature to provide soothing and calming sensory experiences.

"We were fortunate, and very grateful, to receive generous donations of trees and shrubs from Massey University and Horizons Regional Council," she says.

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey joined the children, families and friends of the centre, with Massey staff and representatives from Horizons Regional Council, and the Ministry of Education at a ceremony on Thursday night to open the corridors.

A Mihi whakatau (greeting) given by Reupena Tawhai from Te Uru Karaka Kohanga Reo, also located at the University, opened proceedings and former head groundsman Dave Bull spoke before cutting a blue ribbon and officially opening the new facility.

Mr Bull highlighted his long affiliation with the University, and his love of trees was noted by Mrs Martin, who then invited him to plant a tree, as guests explored the new green spaces that the children had designed.



Tui section's Andre and Charlie get hands-on when putting finishing touches on one of the pebble pathways.

The occasion celebrated the fruition of three years of hard work. Fences and major planting were completed in the second year. Water features were added this year.

A landscaping company was employed to do major reconstruction for the nature corridors, however most of the work during the past two years was done by staff, parents and children of the centre.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North



Pandy Fruean (left) and Sophia Donnelly at North Harbour Stadium before the final.

Massey students foot it at FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup

Three Massey students had a helping hand in running the successful inaugural Under-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand this month.

The Bachelor of Business Studies students worked with international football federation FIFA since March, doing ticketing, catering and planning as part of their sport management practicum.

The event, which drew large crowds, was praised by FIFA officials for the organisation and public support at the various venues. North Korea beat the United States 2-1 in the final at North Harbour Stadium, Albany, last Sunday.

No doubt a life-changing event for many of the teams from 16 countries, it was certainly so for student Pandy Fruean, who notched up over 250 hours for her practicum as catering co-ordinator at the stadium, which is across the road from Massey's campus.

Despite having no formal catering experience, Ms Fruean took on the task of coordinating 250 people, including 180 volunteers, to organise meals for guest coaches and referees, players, transport staff, youth who collect balls during games and general staff. As well as organising rosters and meal deliveries to guests at meetings or practices at the stadium and around the city, she had to make sure all the volunteers and staff in her team adhered to FIFA's strict dress and branding code by wearing allocated uniforms and shoes.

One of her more peculiar tasks was making sure there were enough jelly snakes at half-time for the international football players. "The lollies were made of natural juice. There were never any left after the game and no complaints."

She enjoyed the challenge of juggling university papers with part-time work. "I had no idea when I started out how much I would learn and how fantastic it would be." She also gained insights into managing a major event, branding and marketing protocols and communications. Probably the most valuable aspect was learning about and being able to "network" with other sports administrators. "I realised how essential networking is in the sports industry."

Fellow students Sophia Donnelly and Marcus Sun also did their sport management practicum work with FIFA, working on planning and ticketing respectively.

Dr Trish Bradbury, senior lecturer in the Department of Management and International Business, says the practicum is a crucial part of the teaching programme, enabling students to gain a real experience of working in

the sports industry, to learn skills, make contacts and get a feel for what career path they wish to pursue. Dozens of Massey graduates work in senior roles managing stadiums and events worldwide.

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Sport and recreation

Soils role in ecosystem a focus for conference

World-leading soil ecologist Professor Richard Bardgett will give a keynote paper on sustaining soil biological health and function at the Soils 2008 conference, being held at the University's Manawatu campus in December.

Chairman of the conference organising committee Professor Vince Neall says Professor Bardgett's visit is timely, given the growing interest in soil biota from both the science and farming communities.

"The current level of interest is in part due to the growing awareness of the importance of soil biota in underpinning soil function in highly productive soils, and in part due to the increasing recognition that our soil resources are coming under increasing pressure from ongoing intensification of our primary industries," Professor Neall says.

"We are truly fortunate to have someone of Professor Bardgett's calibre presenting at the conference and contributing to discussion."

Professor Bardgett is currently Professor of Ecology at Lancaster University in England. His research focuses on biological interactions in soil and how they influence ecosystem processes, such as plant growth and nutrient cycling. He will cover some of the most topical issues in this fast-moving area of science, including technological advances to extract and characterise soil organisms, including complex microbial communities, and to assess their function. His presentation will consider how management practices influence soil biodiversity and the consequences of this for soil and ecosystem functions. His research on factors that control soil biological properties has been strongly influenced by his long-term and ongoing links with New Zealand researchers at Landcare Research.



Professor Richard Bardgett.

Sustaining soil biological health and function is a major theme of the conference, sponsored by the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust.

Soils 2008 will run from 1–5 December, as a combined meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Soil Science Societies. A full programme can be found at : <http://www.soilsconference.co.nz>

Date: 21/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North



Massey University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington (left) and staff member Tim Harvey present an award to Chinese pastoral farming consultant Xie Jishi for his commitment to enhancing relations between New Zealand the Guizhou province.

Quarter of century of agricultural co-operation with China celebrated

China's provincial government of Guizhou hosted a seminar and celebration last month to recognise 25 years of co-operation between Guizhou and New Zealand.

It was attended by University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, along with staff members Tim Harvey and Martin Chesterfield. They were part of a delegation led by New Zealand Ambassador to China Tony Browne, including former ambassador Lindsay Watt, who was involved in the establishment of the co-operation in 1983.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington and New Zealand's Ambassador to China Tony Browne at the celebration marking 25 years of agricultural co-operation.

The development of the Dushan Pasture and Seed Demonstration Farm in Dushan, Guizhou, marked the start of an extremely successful and beneficial relationship between New Zealand and Guizhou Province, says Mr Harvey, who was the University's director of agriculture at the time.

Mr Harvey says the relationship has expanded way beyond the demonstration farm, with some of the concepts and technologies developed at Dushan now spreading in many Karst Mountain areas to nearly all of the 90 pastoral provinces within Guizhou. They are also having a positive impact on smallholders in other provinces such as Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guangxi in the south-west.

The University has also had a long association with Guizhou Agricultural College, which has now become the Guizhou University. Professor Warrington signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, which will strengthen the relationship and will see co-operation in agriculture research, staff and student exchanges.

The seminar highlighted some special aspects of the contact between New Zealand and Guizhou, notably the then Prime Minister David Lange's visit to Guizhou in 1985 as well as the Guizhou Party Secretary's visits to the New Zealand project sites at Dushan. This was especially notable because the then Party Secretary, Hu JiTao, is now China's President.

A wide range of specialists from both countries have been involved, including more than 30 New Zealanders and many key personnel from Guizhou Department of Agriculture and Guizhou University.

Four New Zealanders involved in the Guizhou projects have been awarded the Chinese National Friendship Award for long-term co-operation and commitment to the region: Dr Phil Rolston from AgResearch, Dr Bruce Trangmar from engineering firm MWH, and Professor Alex Chu and Mr Harvey from Massey, received the award in 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2004, respectively.

Xie Jishi has been one of the key personnel in pastoral development and was one of the first technicians to visit New Zealand and then return to Dushan to help develop the farm. Mr Xie went on to become director of the Foreign Co-operation Division of the Department of Agriculture and is now a senior consultant in pastoral farming. Massey University presented Mr Xie with an award for his commitment to New Zealand-Guizhou relations.

Guizhou is now becoming the centre for pastoral farming in south-west China and the central government is paying a lot of attention to expanding pastoral farming in 33 different counties. From very small beginnings, the Guizhou Province is now importing approximately 250 tonnes of grass seed every year to support pastoral farming in Guizhou

The south-west of China has a temperate to semi-temperate climate and a strong animal husbandry focus. Guizhou is one of the country's poorest provinces and the commitment by the New Zealand Government to support and provide project aid in agriculture and rural development is making a huge difference to the lives of the small farmers and especially the minority ethnic groups in the Karst mountain areas. The first project in Guizhou was a direct government-to-government project to establish a pastoral demonstration farm and grass seed production unit at Dushan.

A significant number of New Zealand and Chinese pastoral and animal husbandry experts worked on this project as well as Canterbury farmer Graham Hill, who was contracted to help develop and establish the demonstration farm from 1983-89.

Twelve Chinese technicians came to New Zealand from 1984-86 to undertake short-term training in pastoral farming. The success of this training is evident in the number of these technicians who now hold senior positions in agriculture and commercial development in the province.

The pastoral farm has now developed into a successful dairy production and milk processing centre. Pastoral and dairy farming has radiated out from it, indicating the region has potential for further pastoral development and opportunities for international investment.

Date: 24/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North; Wellington

Long road to world cup glory

The New Zealand rugby league team is the world champion after the weekend's historic win over Australia but the road to that pinnacle has been anything but smooth, according to Bill Greenwood.

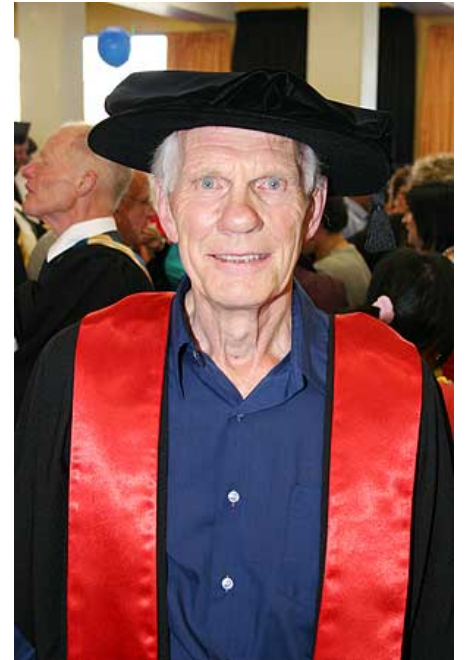
Mr Greenwood graduates in Palmerston North on Friday with a PhD. His thesis chronicles the early development of the sport in New Zealand, from 1908-20.

The 76-year-old, who was born in Lancashire but has lived in Wanganui for more than 30 years, completed a master's degree after retiring, which focused on the emergence of rugby league in Wanganui and its surrounding provinces.

For his PhD thesis Mr Greenwood widened his research to cover the entire country and found rugby league faced major hurdles in the early days.

"Rugby league began here in 1908 and faced opposition from the more established rugby union from the beginning," Mr Greenwood says. "Union campaigned against rugby league in a number of ways to try and stop players making the switch."

An Auckland team toured the country in 1910 and the game grew from there until World War I.



Bill Greenwood.

"After the war, it was a struggle to get players involved. While it was true that most players in New Zealand were working class, like those who played the game in Australia and England, the number involved was considerably less than in those countries. In Australia, for instance, 20 clubs were started in New South Wales by a group of businessmen. In New Zealand, there weren't the centres of industry and the factories that there were in Sydney."

Research was carried out mainly by reading old newspapers, as there was a dearth of literature about rugby league's formative years.

"Even the minutes of rugby league club meetings and other similar documents had mostly been lost or destroyed, so newspapers were my main source of information," he says.

Rugby league, of course, kept its foothold in the New Zealand market and the game here reached its pinnacle with the weekend's world cup triumph, in what Mr Greenwood says was a wonderful game.

While 2008 is the centenary season for rugby league across the Tasman, the official centenary here is in 2010, which Mr Greenwood thinks would be an opportune time for his history of the game's roots in New Zealand to be published.

"At the moment I'm taking a break, but it would be nice for it to come out then."

Mr Greenwood's will be one of 29 new doctorates to be conferred on Friday.

Date: 24/11/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North)



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey with College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame inductees Kate Sylvester, Mark Pennington and Dr Francis Pound from the Gordon Walters Foundation.

Three inducted into Hall of Fame

[▶ VIDEO](#) [Watch the ONE New item](#)

Fashion designer Kate Sylvester led the 2008 class of inductees into the College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame on Friday.

Ms Sylvester is one of New Zealand's most successful fashion designers and studied her craft from 1985-86 at Wellington Polytechnic, which joined Massey in 1999.

The Auckland-based designer was honoured at a black-tie dinner along with fellow inductees Mark Pennington, from Formway Design in Petone, and (posthumously) artist-printmaker Gordon Walters.

Mr Pennington studied at the former polytechnic School of Design from 1963-66 and his design accomplishments with Formway include the *ZAF* and *LIFE* chairs and the *FREE* system workstation.

Mr Walters (1919-95) was a part-time student at Wellington Technical College from 1935-40.

The dinner marked the end of the *Blow.08* festival, which has run for most of this month in Wellington and Auckland, showcasing the college's work this year. About 120 people attended the dinner at the Museum Building's Tea Gardens on the Wellington campus.

College Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Sally Morgan says the festival has been a great success.

“The *BLOW.08* festival surpassed all our expectations, engaging high level endorsements with creative industries and strengthening our partnerships in the community, Professor Morgan says. “Our success this year is reflected in raised attendance figures, a higher level of enjoyment expressed by those attending events and a greater profile for the college. I am most grateful to our outstanding graduates, staff and international guests whose contributions are the fabric of this event.”

The Hall of Fame was established last year to recognise past students and staff of the college, and its forerunner institutions, who have made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand's economy, reputation and national identity through art and design.

The first inductees welcomed into the Hall of Fame last year were Richard Taylor, special effects designer at Weta Workshop, New York-based fashion designer Rebecca Taylor and (posthumously) sculptor and filmmaker Len Lye.

Date: 26/11/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Video Multimedia; Wellington



Robotics lecturer Dr Rory Flemmer explains developments in the kiwifruit picking project to students visiting the Manawatu campus this morning.

Inspiring the next generation of researchers

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey challenged the next generation of scientists to go out and discover something new at the launch of the *Massey Research* magazine.

Speaking to pupils from 10 schools at the Manawatu campus this morning, he said researchers have an amazing job because they find out things before everyone else.

“What we do at university is to make knowledge,” said Mr Maharey. “Researchers get to come here and get to hang around in the labs and lecture theatres and create knowledge. They produce it and then we apply it – isn't that wonderful?”

Mr Maharey, a Massey graduate with an MA (Hons) in sociology, spoke about the successes of Massey researchers, including collaboration and teaching at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. He noted the success of Massey staff member Dr Simon Hall in inventing a battery that never runs out, and a project under way using mathematical algorithms to analyse DNA enabling the tracing of common ancestors over thousands of years.

Researchers profiled in the magazine then answered questions from the pupils about their groundbreaking work.

The panel included Alistair Scarfe, who is completing his PhD at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology and is developing robots to pick kiwifruit, Professor of Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health Nigel French and bioprocess engineer Dr Gabe Redding.

Questions ranged from what inspired them to take up a career in research to how much the kiwifruit picker project had cost to date.

Palmerston North Mayor Jono Naylor and newly-elected city MP Iain Lees-Galloway, who are both Massey University graduates, were also at the launch.

Schools that attended were Dannevirke High School, Turakina Maori Girls' College, Awatapu College, Freyberg High School, Palmerston North Boys' High School, Palmerston North Girls' High School, Queen Elizabeth College, St Peter's College, Mana Tamariki Kura Kaupapa, and Wanganui City College.

Date: 26/11/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Palmerston North; Research

New AVC gets regional award for excellence in HR, nominated for national honour

The University's recently-appointed Assistant Vice-Chancellor (People and Organisational Development) Alan Davis has been named Wellington region Generalist HR Person of the Year by the Human Resources Institute of New Zealand.

The institute awards are designed to recognise excellence within the HR community and the regional judging panel applied criteria including having:

- significantly influenced the development of workplace strategies, policies and practices;
- built enduring and productive relationships with senior management that have engendered high levels of trust;
- delivered work that is performed in a manner that convinced senior management of their personal integrity;
- been recognised by senior HR and non-HR managers as a key contributor to the personal credibility of the rest of the team;
- enhanced the image and standing of people-management practices and their importance to organisations.



Mr Alan Davis.

Members of the judging panel were impressed with Mr Davis's significant work over the course of his career in major New Zealand organisations across the range of HR practice areas, culminating in his most recent work in leadership development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, where he worked before joining Massey in August.

Because the award was made with distinction, he was nominated for a national award, which will be judged early next year.

Mr Davis is one of three recent appointments to the Senior Leadership Team announced by new Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey. Experienced public relations practitioner Sue Foley joined Massey this month as Assistant Vice-Chancellor (External Relations), and in February Professor Susan Mumm will take over as the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. An AVC (Academic) is currently being sought.

Date: 26/11/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any

Research questions need for regional councils

Regional councils are performing poorly on environmental issues and do not accurately reflect the values of their communities, says an environmental researcher.

Jeff McNeill is a senior lecturer in the School of People, Environment and Planning and has worked as a policy manager for Horizons Regional Council and as a policy analysis consultant. He graduates this week with a Doctor of Philosophy in Politics.

Mr McNeill's thesis questions the logic of policy-making based on regional boundaries.

"Many environmental management issues are not regionally based and the regional boundaries have no particular meaning to the people in those regions," he says. "Environmentalists and farmers, for instance, are more likely to share opinions and values reflecting their sector than any regional allegiance. This is very clear in their approaches to water quality, in how they see the state of water and what needs to happen."

Mr McNeill was surprised how little regional council representation reflected their communities.

"Political systems are never completely representative, but regional councils outside the main centres are dominated by farmers, most by between half and three-quarters, and by retired district councillors," he says. "Farms and municipal sewage treatment plants and landfills are the dominant pollution sources outside the large cities - it has to be a brave councillor who is going to stand up to his or her peers and tell them to pull their socks up."

In the immediate future, Mr McNeill says his research supports the new Government's intention to establish an environmental protection agency. Consistent environmental policy by central government would be preferable, but he has some reservations.

"So far governments of all political colours have been extremely tardy in providing strong political leadership," he says. "If we are going to have an environmental protection agency, we also need to see some political commitment as well."

Longer term, Mr McNeill suggests comprehensive regional or provincial government is desirable, as it is desirable to have the governing body accountable to its community.

Date: 26/11/2008

Type: Research

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



Jeff McNeill.



Graduation ceremonies first for new Vice-Chancellor - last for Chancellor

Massey's graduation ceremonies in Palmerston North tomorrow will be the first for new Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey and the last for long-serving Chancellor Nigel Gould.

In total 406 people from all three campuses – Albany, Wellington and Manawatu – will cross the stage to receive qualifications and another 16 are to graduate in absentia.

Twenty-nine new doctorates will be conferred during the two ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway – two of them Doctors of Education and the rest Doctors of Philosophy.

Mr Maharey says the large number of doctoral completions is great to see. It will be his first graduation ceremony in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor since officially assuming the role last month.

British High Commissioner George Fergusson will be guest speaker at the morning ceremony at 10am, and New Zealand Entrepreneur of the Year Ashley Berrysmith will address graduands and guests at the 2pm ceremony.

Mr Fergusson visited the Manawatu campus earlier this year, walking in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both have Massey connections. Sir Charles and Sir Bernard Fergusson both served as New Zealand governors-general. Sir Charles laid the foundation stone of the University's Old Main Building on 4 December 1929, while in 1964 Sir Bernard opened the new Fergusson Hall, named in his honour, adjacent to the Manawatu campus.

Mr Berrysmith was named New Zealand Entrepreneur of the Year last year and is director of New Zealand Fresh Cuts.

Graduates will form a procession from the Regent to the Palmerston North Convention Centre after each ceremony.

Mr Gould, who has been on the University Council since 1999 and Chancellor since 2002, decided not to seek re-election as Chancellor for next year. He has capped more than 25,000 students at over 120 ceremonies in the past six years. [See earlier release](#)

Date: 27/11/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North; Uni News; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor

University Council to elect new Chancellor

The University will have a new Chancellor next year. Long-serving University Council member and Chancellor for the past six years Nigel Gould has announced he is not seeking re-election and tomorrow's graduation ceremonies in Palmerston North will be the last he presides over.

Mr Gould, a Wellington-based businessman, is the longest serving member of the council, one of three members appointed by the council on the nomination of the University Vice-Chancellor. He joined in 1999 after representing the Wellington Polytechnic in the negotiations that resulted in the merger with Massey that year.

He was Pro-Chancellor (deputy chairman of the Council) from the end of 1999 until being elected Chancellor in late 2002. Since then he has capped in excess of 25,000 graduates at more than 120 ceremonies in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North.

Mr Gould told members of Council he had decided, when offering himself for re-election as Chancellor last year, that it would be for the final time.

He says 2008 has been an incredibly satisfying year. "I have gained considerable enjoyment from leading a cohesive and supportive council during a period of major transition. I take great comfort from the sound depth of governance that has been developed within Massey, with the broad range of experience and stability ensuring that the Council is well positioned to meet its obligations into the immediate future."

He also acknowledged the opportunity to work closely with Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey on developing a new management structure that balanced retention of experience with infusion of new capabilities. "This gives the Council the confidence that Massey's management team is well resourced and highly motivated.

"I will be stepping aside with some sadness, but very confident that Massey will be looking to a very exciting future."

Mr Gould describes the highlight of his time as Chancellor as the people he worked with, and sharing the moment of celebration with graduates on stage was a privilege.

He says he plans to stay on Council into the new year and expects to have a continuing interest in the commercialisation activities of the University.

The new Chancellor will be announced after next week's Council meeting.

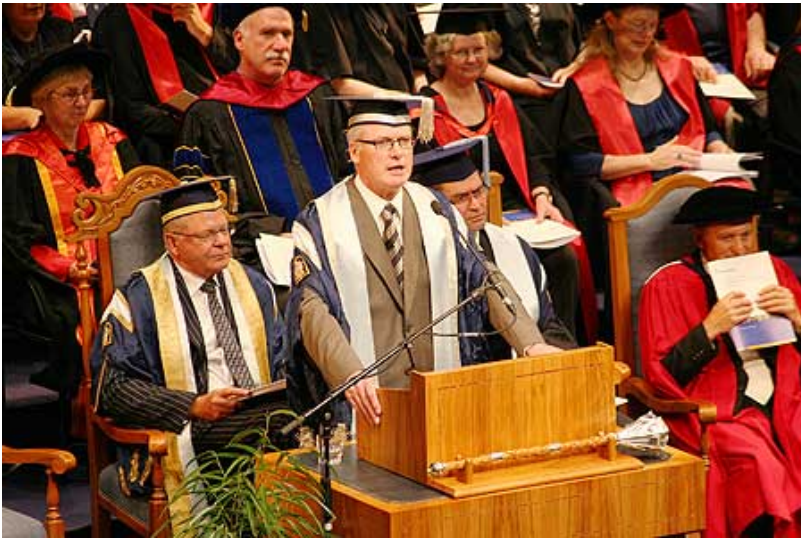
Date: 27/11/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Uni News; University Council; Wellington



Chancellor Nigel Gould.



Graduates defined by their time at Massey

[View the new Doctorates profiles](#)

Graduates, their friends and families came from far and wide today for the University's annual November graduation ceremonies.

More than 400 new graduates from all campuses crossed the stage of the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North to receive their qualifications.

For Chancellor Nigel Gould it was his last two ceremonies capping graduates. Over the past six years he has capped more than 25,000 students at over 120 ceremonies and has served on the University Council since 1999.

New Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey was attending his first ceremony in his current position, and congratulated graduates for their achievements, instilling in them a sense of pride for completing their studies at New Zealand's "defining" University.

He told graduates that, as Massey helps define New Zealand through its unique research and contributions to the community, their time spent here helped define them, and to seize all opportunities available to them in the future.

Twenty-nine new doctorates were conferred during the two ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway – two of them Doctors of Education and the rest Doctors of Philosophy.

The morning's guest speaker, British High Commissioner George Fergusson, told graduates to give the most that they can in their chosen paths.

"Don't just play – offer to coach," Mr Fergusson said. "Don't just join – offer to help run. Don't just do your job – look for wider contributions you can make to the wider organisation, or to the wider community. It makes a difference. And it makes life more fun too."

In the afternoon ceremony, 2007 New Zealand Entrepreneur of the Year Ashley Berrysmith urged graduates to consider social and environmental impacts of their future decisions and how it will affect the world around them.

"I was one of fortunate few who had a dream and a clear career path, which I wanted to follow in horticulture," Mr Berrysmith said. "I have pursued that dream and have carved out a successful career from when I graduated in the early 80s until this very day."

Mr Berrysmith ended his address with a quote from race-car driver Lyn James: "You accomplish victory step by



Chancellor Nigel Gould British High Commissioner to New Zealand George Fergusson and Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey.



The procession makes its way down Broadway Ave.

step, not by leaps and bounds."

New Doctorates in November:

Christine Elizabeth Coutts – to the degree of Doctor of Education

Mrs Coutts examined drop-out from state girls' secondary schools in New Zealand from an ecological perspective. Leavers' stories showed dropping out to be both an outcome and an initiator of developmental change in the students themselves. Mrs Coutts concluded that the important challenge for schools is not necessarily to reduce dropout rates, but to provide leavers with the skills and confidence to navigate transitions into employment or further training.

Brian Thomas Finch – to the degree of Doctor of Education

Mr Finch investigated the understandings that children developed of a film, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, which they had repeatedly watched in their own homes. The study showed that the children had developed a wide range of understandings about the film's characters, narrative structure, causation and special effects. The research shows that through viewing films at home, children develop educationally relevant understandings.

Matthew Oluwasegun Aladesaye – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Automation and Control

Mr Aladesaye investigated maintenance practice in several New Zealand industries and the improvements that could be obtained by the use of predictive maintenance techniques. Results showed a well-defined preventive maintenance schedule embedded into a systems, applications and products programme to monitor routine maintenance. He further investigated the current predictive maintenance that uses a Fast Fourier Transform algorithm and discovered its limitations in diagnosing gearbox faults.

Xiaowei Chen – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Genetics

Ms Chen's research was on non-protein coding RNA (ncRNA) molecules in Giardia. Her research has identified a large number of previously known types of ncRNA as well as new ones of as yet unknown function. The results have wide implications for understanding the basic control functions of all nucleated cells.

Rene Anne Corner – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science

Ms Corner investigated the effects of stressors during mid- and late-pregnancy on lamb birth weight and survival. The effect of ewe nutrition and shearing during mid- and late-pregnancy on ewe live weight and behaviour was also examined. Findings showed that mid-pregnancy shearing consistently increased lamb birth weights, and altered ewe and lamb behaviour 12-24 hours after birth.

Ritchie James de Montalk – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Aviation

Mr de Montalk examined the differences between the skills and competencies of New Zealand flight school graduates and the types of skills and competencies believed to define a proficient air transport pilot. The technical skill of aircraft handling was highly valued, and training in this skill was perceived to be satisfactory. In contrast, while non-technical skill deficiencies were found to be factors in many aircraft accidents, the pilot groups considered some of the non-technical skills to be less important than technical skills and the training of non-technical skills to be less effective.

William Greenwood – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History

Mr Greenwood studied the development of rugby league in New Zealand from its introduction in 1908 until 1920. The research focused on when and where the game was played in New Zealand, who played the game, and the factors which helped and hindered its development. It was found that the majority of rugby league players were working class and were attracted to the game because it was perceived to be a clean and open game, in contrast with the slower and more injury-prone code of rugby union.

Xiong Zhao He – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Protection

Mr He investigated the reproductive behaviour of *Aphidius ervi*, a cosmopolitan parasitoid species of several major aphid pests found on economically important crops. The main aims of his research were to study its general biology and investigate factors that affected its reproductive fitness. Parasitoids of both sexes preferred larger and younger mates for mating due to their higher reproductive potential. This study provided valuable information for integrated pest management developers in improving mass rearing and biological control strategies.

Katherine Angharad Holt – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Earth Science

Ms Holt focused on the geological and paleoclimatic history of the Chatham Islands over the past two million years, the Quaternary period. Findings recognised subtle cyclic changes in the composition of the Chatham Island flora and types of surficial deposits over the past half million years, which have been ascribed to major

global fluctuations in climate.

Kathryn Joy Hutchinson – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science

Ms Hutchinson studied the use of metabolic challenges for determining quantitative trait loci (QTL), which are associated with genes that underlie some of the important metabolic pathways involved in milk production. The research has shown that metabolic challenges did not provide useful information for the detection of QTL for milk production traits.

Trevor Kenneth James – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science

Mr James studied the behaviour and fate of herbicides in sawdust and paper pulp. These two materials are frequently waste products from the forestry industry, but have the potential to be used in the arable cropping industry as soil amendments. Experiments showed that waste products affect the behaviour of herbicides in the soil. This will enable farmers to apply herbicides, where these soil amendments have been used, without environmental damage.

Darryn James Joseph – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies

Mr Joseph researched Māori language features that would provide a strong foundation for appreciating Māori literature. He created a Māori text-type taxonomy and defined 10 figures of speech, such as metaphor, simile and idiom, using examples and explanations from participants. His research on the grammar and nomenclature of figurative language has deepened our ability to evaluate the beauty of Māori text.

Stephen Kirk – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

Mr Kirk's research focused on the synthesis and characterisation of novel inorganic phosphazene polymers containing transition metals. Mr Kirk's results contain what is thought to be the first evidence for a fluxional mechanism in these compounds. His work has also produced the first stable polyphosphazenes with 2-oxypyridine moieties coordinated to transition metals.

Kavitha Kongara – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Clinical Science

Mrs Kongara's research focused on renal safety and efficacy of novel analgesics, tramadol and parecoxib, in dogs. The efficacy and safety of analgesics was screened under controlled conditions. Subsequently, their efficacy was compared with morphine in dogs undergoing surgery. These studies on novel analgesics significantly contribute to safe and effective pain relief in dogs.

Carlos Adolfo Lehnebach – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Biology

Mr Lehnebach explored the phylogenetic affinities of native New Zealand buttercups and the morphological and genetic diversity of buttercups found in the New Zealand Alps. Mr Lehnebach's research has provided support for the reinstatement of two alpine buttercup species. His investigations have also provided support for a framework for interpreting and understanding the nature of the extensive morphological variability observed in widespread alpine buttercups.

Jeffrey Karl McNeill – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Politics

Mr McNeill examined the efficacy and role of regional government in New Zealand using environmental management as a case study. The regional councils' abilities to identify and achieve environmental policy outcomes were examined. Despite having a mandate to promote their communities' well-being, most regional councils continue to exercise a narrow set of functions.

Carolyn Jean Mincham – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History

Ms Mincham found that horses and the traditions associated with them played a significant role in the process of colonisation in New Zealand. She also found that horses contribute to how New Zealanders perceive themselves as a nation. Ms Mincham concluded that the absence of an iconic horse around which to construct ideas about national identity in New Zealand reflects both the strength of local and regional ties as well as a continuing allegiance to British horses and customs.

Clyton Moyo – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Science

Mr Moyo investigated methods to reduce quantities of herbicide used in pasture through improved targeting of weeds. His research into spot-spraying of pasture weeds showed that ingress of clover stolons is more important than re-establishment from seed, in the recovery of patches created by herbicide damage. He also showed that application of herbicides to the centre of weed rosettes is as effective as 100 per cent plant coverage, greatly reducing the risk of damage to pasture.

Reginald Hedley Newell – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History

Mr Newell's research focused on 3NZ Division in the South Pacific in World War II. He examined the creation of the division, its deployment into the South Pacific, committal to combat and its eventual disbandment. He also examined the command style of its leader, Major General HE Barrowclough, the complex relationship with the Americans, the often dreadful conditions experienced by the troops and the limited legacies of the division.

Pia Pechtel – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Ms Pechtel addressed the need for an improved understanding of adult functioning following sexual abuse in childhood. Her research revealed perceptions of sexual abuse consequences from three different viewpoints: clients with a history of childhood sexual abuse, non-abused adults, and sexual abuse practitioners. Comparing a multiplicity of perceptions yielded valuable insights into how sexual abuse may be recognised in society and may affect the client-practitioner relationship in therapy.

Marissa Bacay Roldan – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Biology

Mrs Roldan examined the effects of the availability of the important soil nutrient, phosphate, on gene expression and protein accumulation on the enzyme, ACC oxidase, in roots of the pasture legume, white clover. In phosphate-depleted roots, the up-regulation of one of the ACC oxidase genes coincided with a greater increase in lateral root production. This suggests that differential gene regulation and the ethylene produced is significant in fine tuning the plant's responses to phosphate stress.

Susan Margaret Smith – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies

Ms Smith investigated how iwi and hapū of Ngāti Tūkorehe in Kuku, Horowhenua, came together to exercise kaitiakitanga (active guardianship) over fragmented ecosystems in tribal coastal areas. What emerged from the co-intelligence and co-management strategies for knowledge development was that iwi and hapū participants determined and effected significant ecological improvements. In drawing on Māori concepts, local experiences and aspirations for environmental rehabilitation, the research articulated new ways of revitalising remaining ecosystems within revered cultural landscapes.

Aye Kywat Soe – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science

Miss Soe's research investigated the origin and molecular nature of larval paralysis factor (LPF) – a natural anthelmintic agent expressed in the gut mucosa of nematode-resistant sheep. The research developed and optimised conditions needed for high-level production of LPF from in vitro cultures of small intestinal mucosal cells. Miss Soe concluded that this molecular lead, combined with a sensitive biological monitoring system, will speed up the search for a potential new class of anthelmintic agents based on natural sources.

Kathryn Janey Stewart – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

Ms Stewart's research focused on critical incident responses in secondary schools in Aotearoa New Zealand and identified a gap in the current research. The voices of young people in the delivery of such responses were found to be under-represented. Ms Stewart's research aimed to redress this situation by ascertaining from this population their experiences and suggestions, in order to develop responses and services that meet their particular needs.

Mairi Stewart – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science

Ms Stewart investigated the use of infrared thermography as a non-invasive measure of stress and pain in cattle. She measured changes in heat emitted from blood vessels around the eye, using an infrared camera, and compared these changes with cardiac responses. Ms Stewart's research has implications for the assessment and alleviation of pain in animals and could have wider applications for non-invasive assessment of animal welfare and animal emotions.

Kathy Louise Stuart – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Ms Stuart's research explored how New Zealand parliamentarians manage emotion in the workplace. Becoming a parliamentarian entails developing a new occupational identity and learning to understand emotions differently. Parliamentarians come to understand their work as requiring both rationality and emotionality. This passionate rationality enables parliamentarians to feel they are doing a good job, and to retain a sense of integrity and personal authenticity in work situations that call for complex negotiation and compromise.

Vernon Charles William Trainor – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Biology

Mr Trainor undertook the functional characterisation of two novel genes, known as Terminal Ear (TEL) 1 and 2, from *Arabidopsis thaliana*. These genes are normally expressed in the growing areas of the plant known as the root and shoot apical meristems. He was able to show that normal differentiation of leaves and the tissues of the root was delayed or prevented. He concluded that these genes do have an important role in the regulation of cellular differentiation within the meristems and on the regulation of plant development.

Brian Michael Vest – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

Mr Vest used quantum theoretical computer simulations to determine the properties of chromium dihalides from small clusters in the gas phase to the infinite bulk system. The magnetic and structural properties for small clusters closely resemble that for the solid-state. The process of nucleation, which was open to speculation for several decades, has been resolved for the first time.

Anna Marie Williams – to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Technology

Ms Williams investigated the effects of key droplet and fines properties on the extent of agglomeration to allow a mechanistic understanding of the process. Agglomeration can be a difficult process to control and operators find it hard to tune the process to produce specific powder properties. This thesis has gained insight into agglomeration processes during spray drying and offers practical guidelines to industry to improve the control of agglomeration processes.

Date: 28/11/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

Unravelling the mystery of mechatronics

▶ VIDEO [Watch the ASB Business \(TV3\)](#)

Futuristic projects such as a glamorous desktop personal assistant called Nicole, who can help with tasks around the office, will come under the spotlight at a conference at the Albany campus this week.

Nicole is an animated, voice-activated virtual PA who responds to requests including playing soothing music, turning on the lights, telling the time, reading news headlines and searching for files on the computer.

She is the brainchild of Dr Tom Moir from the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology, and will be showcased at the 15th International Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice from tomorrow (Tuesday 2 December) to Thursday.

Dr Moir says her skills mean she can help disabled people and her "look", designed by Brazilian company Guile 3D Studio, is of "science fiction meeting reality".

Mechatronics is the blending of mechanics, electronics and computer control into an integrated design, which can result in simple products that make the technological marvels of yesterday fade in comparison. The conference has attracted delegates from 23 countries, including China, South Africa, Taiwan, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Other projects featured include the use of robots in surgery and rehabilitation, a chewing machine that can check texture of food, how an MP3 player can be a stress-buster and a device to recognise lettuces that are ready to be harvested in a field full of hundreds.

"We are delighted to be hosting this conference, which will provide a dynamic forum for international experts and researchers to present and review advances in man-made machine intelligence," says Dr Moir, who has helped to organise the event. "Many of these have culminated in practical applications that can change the way we live and work."

The conference will take place in the Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building. It follows a successful Robotics workshop hosted at Massey last week that attracted specialists from around the world, including Professor Matsumi Ishikawa, of the Kyushu Institute of Technology, in Japan.

To view a demonstration of Dr Moir's project featuring Nicole, log onto <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYYN3fymgFA>



Nicole, the voice-activated animated personal assistant, who will feature at the 15th International Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice.

Date: 01/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Video Multimedia



Wellington High School Principal Prue Kelly, Massey Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey and the University's Wellington Regional Chief Executive Professor Andrea McIlroy outside the old gym. The "eyesore" will be demolished this summer to make way for a new building.

Deal to buy school gym kick-starts exciting stage of 'Creative campus' development

An agreement for the University to buy the old Wellington High School gymnasium clears the way for a significant development in facilities for students, staff and the public.

The University is to buy the gymnasium building and will demolish it over summer enabling it build on the 1250 square metre site, which it will lease from the school.

"This demonstrates our commitment to the ongoing development of the Wellington campus and to providing world-class facilities to students and staff on all our campuses," says Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey, who signed an agreement with WHS Principal Prue Kelly today.

The gym was built by students of the Wellington Technical High School in 1927. At the time the school catered for secondary and post-secondary students. When the polytechnic was separated from the school, the gym stayed with the school, which has a newer gym on Taranaki St and will use the proceeds of the sale to build a new gym closer to the other school buildings next year.

Although it has still been used for basketball, the building has fallen into severe disrepair, with holes in the walls and graffiti outside.

The University's Wellington Regional Chief Executive Professor Andrea McIlroy says the location is a strategic site, adjoining Block 1 and beside the path connecting the original part of the campus with the Museum Building and the Industrial Design Centre.

"It has fabulous potential for a building that will most likely house students and staff from the College of Creative Arts in purpose-built studios that may well incorporate gallery or exhibition space that becomes a wonderful public facility too," says Professor McIlroy.

The development plans for the campus include increasing consolidation on the Tasman St site including a new Library, purpose-built facilities for the Health Research Centre (currently in Adelaide Rd) and new student accommodation in close proximity to the campus.

Date: 02/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington



Animal science experts join Massey University

Four key new staff have boosted the animal science capability at Massey University.

Dr Nicola Schreurs has joined the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, lecturing in ruminant nutrition and in particular rumen function and dietary requirements of pastoral animals used for production.

Dr Schreurs has a BAppSci Hons and a PhD (Animal Science) both completed at Massey. Her research interests include using animal nutrition to add value to meat and milk products to meet consumer demands and to take advantage of markets, dietary aspects of ruminant nutrition to improve animal performance and nutritional and quality characteristics of meat and milk and the way they are controlled by animal metabolism and diet.

Dr Pete Hutton will lecture in dairy production based at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences. Dr Hutton has a BSc Hons and a PhD (Rumen Microbiology), both completed at the University of Western Australia. Dr Hutton's research interests include economics and production implications of feeding of supplements on New Zealand farms, energy balance in lactating cows and feeding high-sugar grasses for increasing energy efficiency and improving rumen metabolism and milk production in dairy cows.

Dr Hutton is a former dairy farmer from Nowra, New South Wales, who ran the family farm for 14 years before leaving to travel and pursue his tertiary education. He says he went down the animal science track as a career because of the smart people and good work environment. He considers his new role at Massey a “perfect fit”.

“I'm looking forward to doing dairy production research in New Zealand as New Zealand is the best place in the world for pasture-based dairy production.”

Dr Sarah Pain also joins the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, lecturing in animal metabolism and animal-plant interactions.

Dr Pain studied biotechnology and molecular biology before graduating with a B.Biotech and a BAg Hons in animal science and completing a PhD at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests include nutrition-physiology interactions, diet selection and palatability of fodder for dairy cows and horses, namely investigating the physical and chemical factors that influence the short-term preference of feedstuffs and identifying key drivers of diet selection.

Dr Rebecca Hickson will join the University after sabbatical leave, lecturing in animal breeding and genetics from the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences. She has a BBS majoring in finance, a BSc majoring in mathematics and a BSc (Hons) in animal science from Massey, as well as completing her PhD (Animal Science) at the university.

Dr Hickson is interested in energy efficiency and sees it as an increasingly important area for all animal industries, predicting a role for genetic improvement in achieving more efficient animals. She is also keen to increase the number of beef bulls used to sire beef calves from the dairy industry, and would like to see greater emphasis on reducing gestation length and calving difficulty of these calves.

Originally from a Gisborne sheep and beef farm, Dr Hickson is currently on sabbatical at Iowa State University working on genomic selection projects with ex-Massey Professor Dorian Garrick.

Date: 02/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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

New MPs in for emotional rollercoaster

A daunting emotional journey awaits new MPs when the 49th New Zealand parliament sits for the first time next week, according to a Massey researcher.

Dr Kathy Stuart, who graduated with a PhD in Sociology last week, researched how MPs manage their emotions in the workplace. Using the passing of the Civil Union Bill as a case study, she observed the parliamentary debate and conducted in-depth interviews with MPs for the qualitative study.

Dr Stuart says becoming an MP entails developing a new occupational identity and learning to understand emotions differently.

“Parliament is not an ordinary workplace,” she says. “There is a central tension between the persona required to do the job and the actual person.”

Dr Stuart studied the way in which MPs spoke about their work and identified three “interpretative repertoires” which MPs used to manage their emotions: The Game, The Performance and The Crusade. “For example they’ll often talk about winning, defending and the rules, using the imagery of competition, or about taking hits and the shots fired as a way to frame their world.”

MPs were required to be both passionate and rational – two traits usually thought of as mutually exclusive.

“Society has rigid ideas about rationality and passion but MPs have to be both in order to carry out their role. It’s that passionate rationality which enables them to feel they are doing a good job as a parliamentarian and to retain a sense of integrity and personal authenticity.”

Rules govern the way MPs act in the debating chamber, but many MPs still find the action played out there objectionable at first. “After time, however, many come to understand that this behaviour has its place and is an important part of the process,” Dr Stuart says.

MPs interviewed spoke of the need to develop a new identity upon entering parliament, which could be an isolating environment.

“They talk about really being thrown in the deep end and it’s sink or swim,” Dr Stuart says. “It’s a different world from what they may have been doing previously and many said there wasn’t always a lot of support from colleagues in dealing with the emotional aspects of the job.”

MPs were also public property and defined by their new role. “One MP spoke of the change in the way people perceived them, of how people would jump on the fact they were a Member of Parliament, over everything else they’d done. They thought that was the most exhausting thing, the stress of how they were going to be perceived.”

Date: 03/12/2008

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North



Dr Kathy Stuart.



Outgoing Massey University Chancellor Nigel Gould (left) congratulates his replacement, Dr Russell Ballard.

New Chancellor elected to University Council

Wellington company director Dr Russell Ballard has been elected to replace Nigel Gould as University Chancellor.

Dr Ballard, 64, a former high-ranking civil servant who headed several government departments, has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Massey (1967) and a Master's (1969). His PhD from the University of Florida (1974) is in forest soils and he also has a Diploma in Company Direction with distinction from Britain's Institute of Directors (2003).

Dr Ballard says he put his name forward because he is committed to the vision of elevating Massey to a pre-eminent position among New Zealand universities and to the top echelon of international universities. "I know I share this vision with the new Vice-Chancellor and Council members and I look forward, with your support, to providing leadership in pursuit of this vision."

He says the fundamental building blocks to achieving the vision are: providing a superior student experience and making Massey a workplace of choice for staff.

"Both the VC and the Council have key roles to play and I believe I have a good appreciation of the joint and separate roles of each. I am confident that I have the style, values and knowledge that will contribute to an inclusive, cohesive, energetic and productive Council operating within a robust framework of governance principles and ethical standards."

In 2002 Dr Ballard was one of a group of distinguished alumni to be awarded Massey's 75th Anniversary Medals. He was appointed to the Council in 2005, one of four nominees of the Minister of Education, and chairs its Performance Review Committee. He was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours and is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management.

Mr Gould, the longest serving Council member and Chancellor for the past six years, will remain on council but decided not to offer himself for re-election as Chancellor. Stephen Kos remains the University's Pro-Chancellor.

Date: 05/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Uni News; University Council; VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington



Nutrition researcher Melanie Pauga preparing a salmon sample for laboratory analysis.

Salmon outranks fish oil pills for omega-3 and selenium

Swallowing fish oil capsules for brain boosting, health-promoting omega-3 may be just as effective as tucking into a fillet of salmon. But if you want a dose of selenium as well - an element many New Zealanders are lacking - then go for the salmon fillet, say Massey researchers.

Researchers at Massey's Institute of Food, Health and Human Nutrition in Albany investigated whether salmon or fish oil tablets are better for people to increase their omega-3 fatty acid status. Omega-3 is gaining in popularity for its numerous and well-documented benefits including protection from heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis and eye diseases as well as enhancing brain function and helping combat mood disorders such as depression.

Omega-3 can be obtained from a range of plant sources such as flaxseeds, walnuts and canola and soybean oil as well as animal sources such as fish, meat and eggs. However, the best source is fish oil, in the form of salmon or fish oil capsules, says Associate Professor Welma Stonehouse, who coordinated the study.

When researchers compared a group of healthy volunteers who ate a 120g portion of salmon twice a week with another group who took salmon oil capsules containing the equivalent omega-3, participants were found to have similar levels of omega-3 in the blood, she says.

“What we also found was that the people who consumed salmon were able to significantly increase their blood concentrations of selenium compared to the group who took capsules,” she says.

Selenium is an important antioxidant in the body and has been associated with a reduced risk of heart disease and cancer.

“Because soils in New Zealand are low in selenium, the selenium content in our food is low, making New Zealand one of the countries with the lowest selenium status in the world. This is an important finding for the New Zealand population.”

While the idea of popping a pill for health may seem simpler and quicker than pan-roasting a piece of salmon, Dr Stonehouse says participants found the fish portion easier to digest than capsules.

“The participants who took the capsules had various complaints about burping, unpleasant breath, tiredness and nausea whereas the participants who ate salmon tolerated it very well,” she says.

She says that one of the barriers to eating salmon is that it is perceived as being too expensive. But replacing beef with a 150g portion of salmon a week would add just \$2.50 to the grocery bill. The cost of consuming good

quality fish oil tablets is between \$2 and \$10 a week, she says.

“Fish seems to be the recommended option if you want to increase your omega-3 status. For people who don't like salmon, using fish oil capsules will be just as effective.”

New Zealand King Salmon provided salmon for the study.

Two years ago researchers at Massey's Riddet Centre in Palmerston North developed technology to allow the active ingredients of omega-3 in fish oil to be incorporated into foods at high levels without the taste and smell of fish.

Date: 05/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

Marae plan for Albany takes shape

The New Zealand Navy's marae in Devonport could be the model for a marae planned for Massey's Albany campus in the next decade.

Plans took shape last week when more than 50 staff visited the navy marae where they heard how the University's version could be run as a conference centre and base for extended Maori language education in schools.

Donald Ripia, Maori strategic development manager for Albany and former naval lieutenant who played a key role in the opening of the Navy's Te Taua Moana marae in 2000, says a marae on campus could function as a conference centre and Maori-oriented education venue for Massey students and high school pupils.

He said the navy marae was an ideal model for the University as it had created its own infrastructure to manage the complexities of representing iwi from different regions, as Massey's would need to do.

A marae would help raise the profile as an appealing tertiary destination for Maori living in Auckland as well as Northland and in the upper regions of the North Island, he says.

It would also allow flexibility as a venue for delivering lectures to students taking papers and programmes with a Maori component, says Mr Ripia.

Academic and general staff were invited to the navy marae for a background discussion to prepare the way for Massey Albany's marae project, which is included in the long-term strategic plan for the campus. Funding options are currently being investigated, says Mr Ripia, who emphasised that the marae would not be built until major infrastructure was in place to create a bridge straddling bush and farm land between the east and west precincts of the campus. A new science block would be built on the west precinct first.

Following a powhiri to welcome staff on to the marae, Mr Ripia explained how the navy marae was built, as well as how its design and carvings were adapted to accommodate its specific role in serving the navy's history and community, including non-Maori.

A new marae at Albany would be the first to be built by Massey, as the marae on its Manawatu and Wellington campuses were inherited from education facilities it took over, says Mr Ripia.

"Most universities have struggled to get a marae but once they do it's brought enormous benefits," he says.

caption: Donald Ripia at the New Zealand Navy's Te Taua Moana marae in Devonport, which could be the model for Massey's planned marae for the Albany campus.



Donald Ripia.

Date: 05/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Maori

Scientific analysis columns published in book

Emeritus Professor Tim Brown and Associate Professor David Shillington from UCOL will today launch a book based on some of the best of their science columns that have been published in the *Manawatu Standard* newspaper over the past four years.

A professor of microbiology until he retired from Massey in 2000, Professor Brown's column is called *Analyse That*, while Dr Shillington's is called *Analyse This*. They alternate in Monday's papers.

The book is 110 pages, containing 40 selected columns from the pair. It is self-published, carries endorsements from Massey's Distinguished Professor David Penny and from Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey, and will sell for just under \$20.

Professor Brown is surprised at the longevity of the columns. "I thought we'd last about 10 weeks but we've had a lot of great feedback.

"We choose our own topics; we mostly try to pick something topical, pertinent, local, specific to New Zealand or a world problem."

Dr Shillington is the husband of Massey Manawatu Regional Registrar Dr Sandi Shillington. He heads UCOL's School of Applied Health Sciences.



Date: 05/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Sciences; Palmerston North



Dr Brett Gartrell (centre) and Dr Avi Holzapfel assess Paru, a North Island brown kiwi being cared for at the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre on Massey's Manawatu campus.

Kiwi carers get tips from the experts

[▶ VIDEO Watch the ONE News item](#)

More than 90 Department of Conservation staff and others from kiwi facilities attended the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre's first kiwi health and husbandry day yesterday, at the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital on the Manawatu campus. The event also officially launched a New Zealand Kiwi First Aid Manual, written by vet lecturer Kerri Morgan.

Wildlife Health Centre director Dr Brett Gartrell says the aim was to share the skills needed to care for New Zealand kiwi, and to allow carers to see for themselves the specialist facilities at the centre.

Sessions included Dr Gartrell and colleagues Miss Morgan and Maurice Alley speaking on diseases of the kiwi; disease management in captivity and crèches; predator signs and DNA techniques.

Vet technician Bridey White outlined best practice transport for injured kiwi, with Miss Morgan covering kiwi first aid. Dr Gartrell addressed when intervention is appropriate for injured birds.

The centre has treated more than 80 kiwi in the past five years and staff are currently looking after Paru, a 19-year-old captive kiwi with a heart condition.

"Paru came to the Wildlife Ward because he was not eating," Dr Gartrell says. "He has spent several weeks undergoing diagnostic tests including x-rays and ECGs to monitor his heart condition and had an ultrasound of his heart.

"He's now eating worms but not eating a captive diet. But we have now worked out what was causing the problem so we need to get him home and settled and see if he will eat there."

The care of kiwi in the Wildlife Ward is made possible due to funding from Shell New Zealand.

Date: 05/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North; School of Veterinary Science; Video Multimedia; Wildlife Ward



Pictured, from left: New Zealand Trade and Enterprise business development manager, Jamna Tan, Massey Teacher Education and Undergraduate Studies director Dr Sally Hansen, Cempaka Teach chairman Dato' Hamzah Abdul Majid, College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman, Cempaka Schools chairman Datin Freida Pilus, New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia David Kersey, Massey Graduate Diploma Teaching (Secondary) International programme co-ordinator Dr Peter Rawlins, and Ministry of Education South East Asia counsellor Mike Connolly.

New international partnership grows teaching excellence in Malaysia

A new international partnership will see the University's Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) offered to students in Malaysia from next year.

The initiative is a partnership between the College of Education and education provider Cempaka Schools in Malaysia, which approached the college seeking experts in teacher education.

From February, 50 students in Malaysia will undertake a study in a one-year programme towards an "international" version of the diploma. This has been specially designed for the partnership and has Committee on University Academic Programmes approval.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says the new agreement is a manifestation of the University's international vision. "Massey University is committed to international partnerships and collaborations that are mutually beneficial," Professor Chapman says. "The Vice-Chancellor's *Road to 2020* vision states that Massey University intends to expand its position as one of New Zealand's pre-eminent providers of international learning and explore opportunities to deliver more learning overseas."

In a ceremony to formalise the new initiative in Kuala Lumpur on 3 December, Professor Chapman signed an agreement with Cempaka Schools chairman Datin Freida Pilus.

"Massey University is very impressed with the vision of Datin Freida Pilus," he says. "Her goals for contributing to the training of hundreds of secondary school teachers in Malaysia are impressive. Massey University is honoured to be associated with these goals, and to play an important role in training secondary teachers."

Delivery of the programme will be via e-learning and residential contact courses and staff will travel to Kuala Lumpur on occasions during the year to deliver the on-campus parts of the programme and to maintain personal contact with students.

"Staff in the College of Education have enjoyed contacts with Malaysia over many years," Professor Chapman says. "Numerous Malaysian students have undertaken PhD study in education at Massey. College staff have also delivered many short courses for Malaysian Ministry officials, school principals, and school inspectors."

Professor Chapman says New Zealand plays a significant role in the wider Asia-Pacific region and is well respected for its education system and practices. He hopes the new initiative will lead to further collaborative links.

Date: 08/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education

Scholarship programme supports Maori mental health

A desire to contribute to Maori mental health has seen Sharran Smith (Ngati Rauru) awarded the inaugural Te Manawaroatanga Te Rau Puawai scholarship at a ceremony in Palmerston North.

The scholarship marks the beginning of the partnership between Te Rau Puawai Workforce 100, the Maori mental health Scholarship Programme at Massey University, and the Manawatu Primary Health Organisation.

The programme sees recipients from partner organisations complete Massey qualifications in a health-related discipline in order to increase the professionalism of the Maori mental health workforce.



Mrs Smith (pictured right) works as an executive assistant at the PHO, but wants to pursue a career as a clinical psychologist. *Sharran Smith.*

"I saw the information about the scholarship go across my desk and thought that would be a great opportunity for someone," Mrs Smith says. "Working in the area of Maori mental health is something I've always wanted to do and now I have that opportunity."

Mrs Smith will study psychology at Massey and hopes to become a clinical psychologist.

Te Rau Puawai co-ordinator Monica Koia says the aim of the scholarship is to get more Maori qualified so they have access to a range of mental health careers. The partnership enables Maori mental health providers to gain qualifications more relevant to their area, she says.

Manawatu Primary Health Organisation manager Nicky Hart says Te Manawaroatanga - which means "the stout-heartedness" - is an important step for the organisation.

"Maori are over-represented in mental health statistics and this partnership is an opportunity for our people to further their expertise in the field," she says.

Te Rau Puawai has seen almost 200 students graduate in the past 10 years. The scholarship provides recipients with fees and some course-related costs, a mentor, assistance with study planning and skills and access to Maori community and student networks.

Date: 09/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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

Massey Vice-Chancellor visits Hawke's Bay

Massey University's new Vice-Chancellor and former Education Minister Steve Maharey will be in Hawke's Bay tomorrow visiting Massey staff, former students and community leaders.

Mr Maharey was MP for Palmerston North for 18 years and a Cabinet Minister in all three Labour-led Governments from 1999.

Since taking up his role at Massey two months ago, he has begun regular visits to regions around the three campuses at Manawatu, Albany and Wellington.



"Hawke's Bay has longstanding and significant links with Massey and I aim to strengthen those," Mr Maharey says. "Many of the programmes we teach and do research in are in areas such as food science, agriculture, veterinary science, horticulture, environmental management and business that are integral to the Hawke's Bay economy."

"More than 3500 Massey graduates live in the Bay and each year up to 200 of its secondary schools enrol at one of our campuses. Many more adult students enrol in our extramural – or distance learning – programme, which is New Zealand's largest."

Mr Maharey will be visiting staff of the University's College of Education, who are based at the EIT campus in Napier, meeting community leaders at a stakeholder function and attending a function of the local alumni (Massey graduates) chapter.

He plans to make similar visits on a regular basis.

Date: 10/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: VC Bulletin; Vice-Chancellor



Dr Manisah Mohd Ali of Kebangsaan University presents a gift to Dr Jill Bevan-Brown from the College of Education.

Visiting Malaysian academics share ideas on inclusive education

Academics from Malaysia visited the College of Education in December as part of a programme to share ideas and research initiatives.

The Inclusive Education Research Cluster hosted a delegation from a similar research cluster from Kebangsaan University. They came to New Zealand specifically to make contact with the College of Education's research cluster, to learn about its activities and discuss possible future co-operation in research, professional development visits and the exchange of information.

The cluster is made of 11 academics who conduct research and teaching in the areas of inclusive education, which include, gifted and talented students, home and school partnerships, violence and bullying, behaviour disorders and behaviour difficulties, disability issues, Maori and Pacific Island students, and learners with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

A "Letter of Intent" for future co-operation between the research clusters was signed and a presentation was made to the University on behalf of Kebangsaan.

The Malaysian academics were in New Zealand for five days, during which the college arranged visits to the Malaysian High Commission, The Commissioner for Children and Group Special Education, and the Ministry of Education.

Visits to schools in Palmerston North gave the group an opportunity to view and discuss examples of inclusive education, and allowed for a full day of discussion with members of the Inclusive Education Cluster.

[Click here for more information on the Inclusive Education Cluster](#)

Date: 11/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

Massey cyclist on pace

Good recent form is likely to secure track cyclist Simon van Velthooven a place in the national track cycling team for next month's World Cup in Beijing.

The Bachelor of Applied Science student has just returned from Australia, where he competed at the World Cup meeting in Melbourne.

In his specialist event in Melbourne, the keirin, Mr van Velthooven narrowly missed out on the final but won the B-final, finishing seventh overall.

"It was the best result ever by a New Zealander in that event, so while I was disappointed in missing the final, it was a good result."

The keirin is an unusual race, which sees riders follow a motorcycle at a deliberately slow pace for most of the eight laps of the track.

"The pace bike leaves with about 700m to go and it's a sprint from there," Mr van Velthooven says. "It's a mind game, you have to fight your way through the pack and time it right; it's all about brains, really."

He is currently training in Invercargill, in anticipation of World Cup selection. World Cup events are designed as qualifying rounds for the World Championships and Olympics.

Mr van Velthooven has received a Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarship the past two years. He is also a Massey Blues recipient.

Date: 11/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Sport and recreation



Simon van Velthooven.

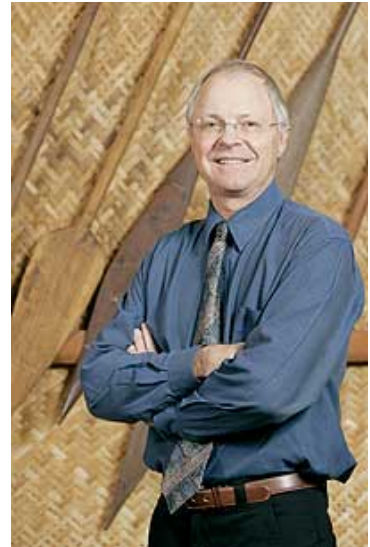
Quest for origins takes Howe back to Hauraki

When Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe retires from Massey's School of Social and Cultural Studies at Albany at the end of the year, he will turn his attention to a nearby corner of the Pacific – Auckland's Hauraki Gulf – where his fascination with Oceania began.

The renowned historian has devoted 38 years to groundbreaking scholarship on Pacific history, embracing the vastness and diversity of the region's geographical, cultural, political and historical evolution.

Professor Howe says his next book will be a “cultural ecology” of the Hauraki Gulf and its numerous islands, a personal ode of sorts to the marine playground of his youth and one he continues to love exploring by sea kayak or recently acquired yacht.

The book, aimed at a general audience, brings him full circle to the setting which inspired a career studded with successes, including his bestseller *The Quest for Origins: Who first discovered and settled New Zealand and the Pacific Islands?* Published by Penguin, *The Quest for Origins* tackles the burgeoning of absurd, unproven theories on migration by setting out the linguistic and archaeological evidence for the way in which New Zealand and the Pacific were settled.



Distinguished Professor Kerry Howe.

The Quest for Origins provided the background for the hugely successful *Vaka Moana* exhibition on the story of Pacific migration, coordinated by Professor Howe. The exhibition, which opened at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in December 2006, features life-sized models of early outrigger canoes, as well as tools, weapons, artefacts, photographs, journal entries and video documentaries. It is currently touring the world and has just opened in Sydney.

The beautifully illustrated book accompanying the exhibition, *Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors*, which Professor Howe edited and contributed to, won the 2007 Montana Book awards' history category. This year *Vaka Moana* won the non-fiction writing and text and reference book sections of the Hawaii Book Publishers' awards.

Reading books on subjects other than Pacific history, such as plants, animals and geology, is one of the attractions of retirement for Professor Howe. The 61-year-old also plans to enjoy his freedom exploring more of New Zealand's land and marine wilderness with his wife Merrilyn.

But his days of history teaching are not quite over. He will do some informal lecturing at sea for several weeks early next year enlightening cruise ship passengers with a penchant for history about the places they visit, including New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Australia. He and his wife have done similar historically oriented summer cruises around New Zealand for the past three years.

One of the stops on next year's voyage is the Loyalty Islands near New Caledonia, the subject of his first book published in 1977.

Professor Howe stresses that the Pacific region is an inexhaustible subject for aspiring historians, although “it's much harder to study than it was two or three decades ago because of the cost of travel, and the changing nature of Pacific societies”.

But he laments that the study of history and other humanities subjects is less popular among 21st century students as a result of the modern quest for affluence.

“One regret I have is that I started my career when arts and humanities were central to a tertiary education. Now they are certainly not so.

“It does sadden me that with those subjects that have at their centre issues like human dignity, human fairness, a lot of those things are lost in the range of other tertiary learning, which is more to do with making a buck. It's a reflection of the way the world has changed.”

Half-empty bookshelves in Professor Howe's office are perhaps a sign of hope that this trend might be reversed. More than 1000 of his books, which form a unique collection of Pacific history including many out of print, rare and valuable editions, will remain on the campus as part of the University's Pacific collection, relocated from

Palmerston North to Albany.

Date: 11/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

New Job Evaluation System for General Staff Positions

The University and the Combined Unions representing General Staff have entered into a joint project to implement a new job evaluation methodology for assessing the size of General Staff jobs and establishing internal relativities.

1. Background

1.1 Purpose of Job Evaluation:

Job evaluation is a systematic process for establishing the relative size, content and contribution of jobs within an organisation. It provides a structured, consistent and equitable process for deciding job gradings and placing jobs within an internal grading structure. The evaluation system which operates at the University is one which involves analysing, within a structured framework, a set of defined individual job factors (or elements) that make up a job.

1.2 Reason for Changing the Methodology:

Since 1990, Massey has been using the Canadian 'Aiken Plan' to job size general staff positions. However, this methodology has not been widely used or supported in New Zealand for a number of years and no remuneration survey information has consequently been available. This has severely limited the Plan's usefulness and ability to support Massey's remuneration structure for General Staff.

The need to replace the existing system was first acknowledged back in 2003 when a joint University and Combined Unions Salaries Taskforce recommended the implementation of a new job evaluation methodology and more specifically the "COMPERS" system. That recommendation was not progressed until 2007 when, following collective agreement negotiations, the University and the Combined Unions entered into a problem-solving process. During those discussions it became clear that staff confidence with current internal job relativities had diminished and there was a need to collect information to enable the University's job sizing to be compared with external market data. It was subsequently agreed that:

"The University will institute a new job evaluation methodology. This will be implemented during 2008 by the current joint Job Evaluation Committee. The Job Evaluation Committee will provide a report to the 2008 problem-solving group on this implementation."

Although there was no problem-solving group convened in 2008 the commitment to a change to the job evaluation system was reiterated very recently when the latest Collective Employment Agreement (covering a term from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009) was settled. That settlement stated:

"The parties have continued the commitment made during the 2007 problem-solving process to institute a new job evaluation methodology and to implement the new methodology during the term of this agreement."

An assessment of available job evaluation methodologies and linkages to remuneration survey information has resulted in a decision to take on the earlier recommended "COMPERS" system. This particular methodology is provided and supported by remuneration consultants, Mercer (NZ) Ltd.

2. Implementation Project:

2.1 Project Scope:

The University and Combined Union parties have acknowledged that in committing to the implementation of the new job evaluation methodology the application of the new system to all general staff jobs will not be able to proceed until the parties have developed an approach on how the COMPERS evaluation system is to relate to the current grading and salary scale structure for General Staff. The current grades and scales are based on the Aiken Plan which has a different job factor evaluation points system to that provided by COMPERS. For that reason, the scope of the current project will be limited to establishing and evaluating a new set of benchmark jobs to provide a reference point against which others jobs may be assessed and to assist with gathering

comparable external market data. Beyond that point the process for implementation of the new system is a matter for future discussion between the parties.

2.2 Project Sponsor and Steering Group:

The Sponsor for the benchmarking project is Alan Davis, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (People & Organisational Development), and a Project Steering Group comprising University representatives, Combined Union representatives and remuneration consultants has been established to oversee the implementation project. Members of that Steering Group are:

Stuart McKie – Senior HR Advisor, HR Section
Alan Wheeler – Deputy Director, HR Section
Jane Kostanich – AUS Branch Organiser, Auckland
Noelene White – Library
Neil Jury – Mercer Consultant
Suzane Riddle – Mercer Consultant

2.3 Project Objectives:

- To implement a fair, robust, gender-inclusive and transparent job evaluation methodology that effectively supports ongoing requirements.
- To have a set of benchmark positions evaluated as a basis for gathering data about salary relativities and to provide the parties with a view on how the job evaluation is to relate to the current grading structure for general staff.

2.4 Plan & Timeline

The following is an indicative timeframe for the benchmarking project:

Early Dec 2008 Benchmark jobs are selected to represent the range of general staff roles in the University, including some unique roles.

Mid-Dec 2008 Training of selected staff to act as 'Data-gatherers' to work with job-holders and their managers in the collection of relevant job information.

Early Feb 2009 Data-gathering process completed.

Feb 2009 Members of the current Job Evaluation Committee trained on the COMPERS methodology.

End of Mar 2009 Committee evaluations of benchmark positions completed.

April 2009 Remuneration consultants review and check evaluation outcomes.

End of Apr 2009 Data and documentation on evaluation outcomes finalised and project completed.

2.5 Gender Equity:

A key objective of this implementation project is to ensure that the job evaluation system and processes promote gender equity. The Steering group is using the NZ Gender-inclusive Job Evaluation Standard (NZ8007:2006) to monitor gender inclusiveness and to help identify and eliminate any gender bias. The following set of gender equity objectives and principles has been prepared for the project:

Objectives:

- To ensure gender inclusiveness at each stage of the evaluation process.
- The evaluation of jobs is based on skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions and not on the people who hold the jobs.

Principles:

- an open, transparent and fully understood and explained process.
- avoidance of gender bias through careful planning and good documentation
- benchmark positions are representative of the full range of jobs and take account of jobs with highly specific features and jobs that are predominantly occupied by one gender.
- Key people involved in the process (e.g. data-gatherers and members of the job evaluation committee) are trained to recognise and avoid gender bias.
- Monitoring and checking of job evaluation outcomes to identify and eliminate gender bias.

2.6 Benchmark Jobs:

There are some 1400+ staff in jobs that are placed on the General Staff Grading & Salary Scales by way of a job evaluation process. Due to this large number the approach that has been taken is to select a representative sample of jobs to establish a benchmarking framework against which other positions can be assessed and measured. The Steering Group decided that approximately 5% of the total number of jobs would provide a sufficiently robust benchmarking structure.

During the selection process consideration was given to ensuring there were jobs representing a range of functional areas; jobs that are most often held by women and most often by men; jobs that represent all levels of the current grading structure; jobs from within colleges/regions/national shared services; jobs across all three campus locations; jobs from the most frequently occurring and most highly populated positions as well as some one-off jobs with unique features; and jobs occupied by staff who had been in the job for a sufficient length of time to be fully familiar with the role.

After due regard to the above factors a total of 78 general staff jobs have been selected. That is 5.5% of the staff numbers but with many of the selected benchmarks coming from “highly-populated” job categories they represent about 64% of General Staff. The job-holders of the selected positions comprise 67% women and 33% men, which is almost the same as the overall gender profile for general staff which is currently 66% women and 34% men.

Job-holders in the selected benchmark positions and their managers will be contacted early in the New Year to enlist their support and cooperation with gathering relevant job data.

3. Future Communications:

There will be further updates as work on this project progresses. However, it is important to reiterate that the scope of this initial phase is limited to evaluating a set of benchmark jobs and therefore, until the University and Combined Unions agree a way forward on how the new methodology will apply to all general staff jobs, no comment can be made on what, if any, effect there will be on current job gradings or salaries. Consideration of such matters will occur when the parties develop the future approach to full implementation.

The one outcome that the parties do wish to see from the implementation of this new job evaluation methodology is for General Staff to have confidence and trust in the process and that will require extensive staff briefings and regular communications at a later date so that staff have a good understanding of the system.

(Issued on 12/12/08 by the Steering Group for the Job Evaluation Benchmarking Project)

Date: 12/12/2008

Type: Internal Communication

Categories: Any



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey with Karl Wood, Klaudeen Agac-ac, Leilani Fou from QEC high school in Palmerston North.

Year in review - It's Our Future

- Vice Chancellor Steve Maharey
- Professor John Raine, Regional Chief Executive – Albany and International
- Professor Ian Warrington, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Manawatu Regional Chief Executive
- Professor Andrea McIlroy, Wellington Regional Chief Executive
- Professor Nigel Long, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)
- Professor Mason Durie, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Pasifika)
- Professor Lawrence Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Business
- Professor Sally Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Creative Arts
- Professor James Chapman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Education
- Professor Mason Durie, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Acting)
- Professor Robert Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Sciences

Vice Chancellor Steve Maharey

I have been with the University for a few short weeks. During that time we have, as a Massey community, set about the task of reinvigorating our sense of purpose, which is to make a defining contribution to New Zealand and the world.

We are defining in a number of ways.

- We embody the central traits of what we think of as the New Zealand character – innovation, honesty of purpose and a certain egalitarian idealism.
- We are representative of the nation because of what we teach, where we are located and the make-up of our staff and students populations.
- We shape New Zealand through the creation and dissemination of knowledge.



Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey.

We are a young university. Our history reaches back 81 years to the time when we were an agricultural college established to transform the land-based industries of New Zealand.

Our teaching programme was designed to lift the capacity and capability of farmers. Our research programme provided the evidence needed to bring about change.

It is this commitment to outstanding teaching and research connected to the real world issues facing our nation and the world that has been the hallmark of Massey ever since.

When we became a university in 1964 our first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Stewart, noted: "Massey doesn't conform to the standard pattern in many ways. The University is young and so can easily embrace change and

retain a less conservative attitude. I hope this can continue forever.”

We have embraced change by leading the way in new areas of teaching; building a multi-campus university; establishing the first Chair in Te Reo Māori; advancing learning for Pasifika students; leading Centres of Research Excellence; hosting the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching and reaching out to partners around the world.

I want to acknowledge the achievements of the staff who established Massey University's reputation as a defining university and a world centre of learning: we stand on their shoulders.

Our role of contributing to the shape of our nation's and the world's future is even more important today. We live at a time of unprecedented change. The world economy is being reshaped. Reliable access to food is a concern for all nations. We need to know how to combine prosperity with sustainability. Our future depends on our ability to be creative, innovative and flexible. And, against the backdrop of recent events, we must learn to live in peace.

Universities have the responsibility to respond to these challenges.

At Massey, we need to:

- Set ourselves the task of leading changes in learning;
- Focus our research on areas where we can make the greatest impact;
- Reach out to our partners and work with them to apply what we know to real world issues;
- Commit ourselves to advancing the rising ambitions of Māori, Pacific Island and new migrant communities to enter and succeed in tertiary education;
- Show how both prosperity and sustainability are possible.

These are significant challenges for any university. But we are not an ordinary university. In our recently released strategic plan, *The Road to 2020*, we have set out bold goals to advance our research, learning, connections, responsibilities, resources and excellence.

We have committed ourselves to excellence in all that we do and identified agri-food, creativity and design and innovation within the new economy as areas of specialisation.

We have a clear sense of our purpose and of the contribution we can make.

I want to thank the staff, students and the partners of the University for your warm and generous welcome. I am humbled to have been invited to be part of Massey University. I feel a responsibility to those who have preceded us to continue their work. I am ambitious for what we are yet to achieve.

I look forward to working with all Massey staff in 2009. Until then, have a wonderful festive season with family and friends.

Steve Maharey , Vice-Chancellor

(This is an excerpt from the Vice-Chancellor's Graduation speech November 2008).

Professor John Raine, Regional Chief Executive – Albany and International

This year the Albany campus continued developments that will support future growth and reinforce Massey's position as the primary university presence north of the Harbour Bridge. New student headcount increased by six per cent, with postgraduate EFTS up 11 per cent on 2007 to 27 per cent of total enrolments.

Activity on new facilities developments has been intense with commencement of construction of the new Library – Information Commons building, commencement of construction of the Bistro Bar under the Recreation Centre, due to open early 2009, retrofitting space in the Study Centre to create offices for Orbit Travel and



Professor John Raine.

business cases submitted for the 300 bed on-campus Student Accommodation Village, the first building in a planned Sciences and Engineering complex. These facilities, and academic programme developments, will provide essential support for growth in student enrolments. A proposal for the construction of the Northern Aquatic Centre on campus was submitted to the North Shore City Council Evaluation Panel in November, but the council has now decided to locate the facility at North Harbour Stadium.

Capture of close to \$3.8m in Marsden research grants by Massey Albany staff this year underlined the research strength now present on the campus.

The 21st Century Career Pathways in Technology Programme for school students was again run very successfully by the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology with Smales Farm Technology Office Park.

Community and business relationships have continued to develop Massey maintained a high profile at events such as the Westpac Enterprise North Shore Business Excellence Awards, the AIMES Awards for young achievers and the Harbour Sport Sporting Excellence Awards. The annual Schools Science Symposium hosted by Massey's Sports Science and Management staff was again a great success.

Massey's e-centre continues to succeed in nurturing young companies, and providing a centre for high technology company networking on the North Shore. In 2008 the e-centre has further developed its CMCTEC business export development operation with CMC in India. The e-centre relationship with Enterprise North Shore has evolved further in 2008 and preliminary planning has commenced for a jointly tenanted e-centre #2 building adjacent to the Albany Highway. Business networking also developed with a number of jointly-run events, such as the hosting of ICT Cluster and other technology innovation events.

Priorities for next year will be further business case development for the Sciences building, targeted academic programme and staff capability development, and a focus on student services and satisfaction. New initiatives are being planned to raise Massey's profile in teaching and research in the region, in particular a senior staff mission to Northland and events for schools and school staff on campus.

Professor Ian Warrington, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Manawatu Regional Chief Executive



Professor Ian Warrington.

This has been a very good year for the campus with a number of important events, activities and celebrations.

The environment has been improved significantly by the grounds team and the new plant information plaques have been widely welcomed. Staff, students and visitors are also enjoying the results of renovations to Wharerata, including the development of the "Fern walk".

Refurbishment of other buildings includes Business Studies West level 2, Social Sciences Tower level 1 and a complete refit of SST level 2. Redevelopment of space in Ecology has provided a new home for the Riddet Institute. The new Food Pilot Plant was opened by Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton in July and our new "University House", home to the corporate office, was officially opened as part of a welcome to the Vice-Chancellor.

The region continues to provide leadership in sustainability initiatives. The vehicle fleet was renewed with a greater emphasis on fuel efficiency and lower emissions, usage of the free bus service is increasing and the recycling centre output has increased.

Improving campus safety includes the procurement of four additional automatic external defibrillators, and updating and renewing the Campus Emergency Plan. The Medical Centre won the MidCentral District Health Board's Health Award for Excellence in Child and/or Youth Health Services.

We launched the "Massey University Elite Sports Travel Award", providing financial assistance to world-class student athletes representing New Zealand at international events. We are proud that 22 of our students represented New Zealand at the Beijing Olympics.

A new on-line application system for halls of residence was introduced on behalf of all three campuses, significantly improving efficiency and usability. The response rate has meant that we expect our halls to be full next year.

A total of 240 students successfully “staircased” from their initial programme of study at the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies into a subsequent Massey qualification this year.

We have relocated a record number of staff, consolidating groups and managed our power and utilities costs by closing down surplus and outdated space ahead of the proposed consolidation of the Hokowhitu site at Turitea.

The farms continue to provide a valuable platform for teaching and research – part of what makes this campus special.

My thanks to all who made this year possible, especially to Dr Sandi Shillington who has been the Acting DVC for much of the year. My very best wishes to you all for a well earned rest over the summer break and I look forward to working alongside you for another successful year in 2009.

Professor Andrea McIlroy, Wellington Regional Chief Executive



Professor Andrea McIlroy.

The completion of the campus development plan has been a major achievement this year, as well as forming a comprehensive induction programme for our new Director Buildings and Facilities, Gordon Whyte. The recent acquisition of the old Wellington High School gym is an exciting step towards implementing it. Making use of this site will help unify our campus.

The marae carving project has enhanced the campus environment as have refurbishments in Block 5 for the College of Business and in the Museum Building for the School of Visual and Material Culture. We also have an Information Commons in the library.

But we have not only spent money, we have saved it. With the formation of a campus Energy Committee we have saved over \$80,000 in energy costs since May.

Numbers of postgraduate students have increased and we held a very successful evening lecture and networking event for them. Two distinguished alumni, Dame Margaret Bazley and Grant Davidson were awarded honorary doctorates at our May graduation ceremonies at which over 600 students graduated.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences organised our first Writers Read series. This wonderful series included our very own tutor, Mary McCallum, who won two awards at the Montana book awards. We also organised a series of five very well attended public lectures.

Academics from several colleges are working with Grow Wellington, the regional economic development agency to develop its Centres of Excellence and the College of Sciences has launched a Rain Water Harvest Project with Wellington East Girls' College.

Our close relationship with Te Mata o te Tau continued with the annual Whanganui-a-Tara lecture delivered by the Children's Commissioner, former Massey academic Cindy Kiro. Our new regional Maori Community Liaison Coordinator strengthened relationships with Mana Whenua and key Maori stakeholders and community networks.

A buddy system has been established for Pasifika students and we look forward to having a Pasifika Community Liaison Co-ordinator in 2009.

The Litmus Research Centre in the College of Creative Arts hosted a One Day Sculpture Project and the College recently presented its splendid Blow Festival which this year again included an Iwi Creativity exhibition.

We look forward to the future with a new Vice-Chancellor who has not only met many Wellington staff and stakeholders but also performed a siva/taulunga (solo dance) at our dinner to celebrate Pasifika student achievement.

Professor Nigel Long, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)

Despite an increasingly competitive funding environment Massey this year continued to build on the \$57m of external research funding it received last year.

Of particular note was the range of research areas where we obtained Marsden Fund Grants.

These included IVABS, Fundamental Science, Information and Mathematical Sciences, Commerce, English and Media Studies, Molecular Biosciences, Psychology and the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, demonstrating the breadth of our research excellence.

Other outcomes of importance were the FRST funded grant to Professor Robyn Munford for \$3.5 million, the HRC grants awarded to Professor Kerry Chamberlain for his work on the use of medicines in society and Dr Lis Ellison-Loschman for her work with Maori health. Professor Mason Durie was also awarded \$2.5m from TEC to continue the excellent work with Manu AO Academy.



Professor Nigel Long.

The Riddet Centre completed its transition to a Centre of Research Excellence. Funding commenced and a board was constituted. The centre has entered into a strategic relationship with Zespri to realise a world class Health and Nutrition Research Strategy. The Agilent Foundation gifted \$100,000 of scientific equipment to the centre.

Co-director Professor Harjinder Singh received the prestigious William C Haines award from the Californian Dairy Research Foundation in March. He is the first New Zealander to be considered for the honour. He also received the Massey University Research Medal – Individual, in October.

Recognition of Massey University as a pre-eminent provider of university-level distance education has been consolidated through the attainment of accredited member status of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE), which is the leading professional organisation throughout the world for distance education institutions.

A new Learning Management System, Moodle, was selected for implementation during the period 2009-2011 and will provide the foundation for an investment programme in distance education and elearning. The investment programme will position the University for excellence and innovation in the delivery of its academic portfolio as well as the services it provides for students and staff.

The office supported the University through its fourth Academic Audit which began with a self-evaluation against the Investment Plan.

The outcomes of the evaluation were presented in an Academic Audit Portfolio that was approved by the Academic Board for submission to the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit.

A panel of national and international experts visited the University in October and met with approximately 150 staff and students in order to provide a comprehensive report on the systems and processes in place to support the achievement of the University's objectives.

The Library's upgraded online catalogue including Web 2.0 features was implemented and Encore, a new Google-like search interface for the catalogue, launched.

The latter was a first for New Zealand university libraries. Other purchases included Scopus and Early English Books Online full text databases.

An 0800 telephone number was established for extramural student library enquiries in February. In Wellington, a mini-information commons of 24 PCs opened in the second semester. Construction began on Albany's new Library building in August.

Last month the University Library won the New Zealand Library Association's 3M Award for Library Innovation for its use of Adobe Connect software to share computer screens for database searching assistance to extramural students and remote library users.

The University also gained membership of International Council for Distance Education, selected Moodle as its new learning management system and provided sponsorship and intellectual contribution to the Distance Education Association conference.

Professor Mason Durie, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Pasifika)

Tena koutou katoa.

This year has seen some remarkable developments. First, the implementation of the KIA MAIA strategy commenced. With assistance from the Priorities for Focus fund (Tertiary Education Commission) it was possible to engage with sectors and a wide range of Māori professional organisations.

Co-ordinators were appointed to each College and each Campus to extend the reach of Massey's engagement with iwi, Māori communities and Māori professionals so that we can better understand – and respond to – the needs of the workplace.

Second, the Massey web-based Doctoral Portal was launched. It enables doctoral students to access lectures, resources, news items and methodological workshops. Massey University is now a partner with Ngā Pae ō te Maramatanga and is a contributor to the MAI doctoral programme. The Doctoral Portal will be an important component of our effort.

Third, the weekly seminars broadcast live to Māori academics in all other universities were widely regarded as worthwhile enough to repeat in subsequent years. We hope that the series can be reinstated in 2009 as soon as funding from TEC can be arranged.

Meanwhile, there have also been significant developments for Pasifika staff and students. Professor Sitaleki Finau was seconded to the Niue Government as Director of Health and will be away from Massey until 2010. Sione Tui'tahi made himself available to fill the role of Acting Director and has set in train a number of initiatives that will advance the Pasifika@Massey strategy, especially in relationship to community liaison and research capability building.

The Hon. Winnie Laban was guest speaker at the Pasifika graduation at Albany and was able to congratulate a record number of graduates. The first ceremony to honour Pasifika graduates at Palmerston North was held in November 2008. It was well attended by families, community representatives and by Steve Maharey, Vice-Chancellor. Prior to the ceremony, four books authored by Pasifika writers were launched.

The year ahead promises to be challenging but also exciting. Additional resources (from TEC) will enable the appointment of two Pasifika community liaison officers and a fulltime research officer, KIA MAIA will continue to forge new relationships with industry and strengthen existing links and we expect to appoint a doctoral studies coordinator.

On 19-20 November, we will host a national conference, Taumata Paerangi. It will explore Māori futures beyond 2020 and is expected to attract around 300 Māori tribal and industry leaders.



Professor Mason Durie.

Professor Lawrence Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Business

[View the College of Business defining moments presentation. \(PDF 2.6mb\)](#)

The year was a defining one in many respects. We met a significant milestone on the road to achieving AACSB accreditation (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) when our self-evaluation report was sent to the AACSB office on 1 December. This took much effort by many academic and general staff, all of whom are to be congratulated. The progress we are making to improve the quality of our programmes is tangible and our student and business stakeholders will see differences in what we do as early as next year.



Professor Lawrence Rose.

In April we initiated a significant programme to recognize and celebrate excellence in our undergraduate student

body by launching our 'Dean's List'. This recognizes our top undergraduate students and it was fascinating to see many of these students appear later in the year as scholarship winners, leaders in business student groups and as high performing sports people.

Our academics continue to be recognized for their excellence. Examples include Professor Anne de Bruin who received a Fulbright scholarship to the USA, Professor Tony Vitalis who was selected for a Massey Research Medal for Supervision as well as being honoured by the NZ Ergonomics Society for the advancement of Ergonomics, Professor Janet Hoek and Dr Heather Kavan received Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Sustained Teaching Excellence, as did Dr. Hamish Anderson. Dr Anderson also received a national award for sustained excellence in teaching.

Research success includes significant external grants received by Dr Ian Laird for research into noise-induced hearing loss; Dr. Steffen Lippert and Dr. Simona Fabrizi for work on venture capitalists and intellectual property; and Associate Professors Frank Sligo and Margie Comrie and others for research into health literacy and literacy training in apprenticeships.

Additionally numerous staff have contributed to our community engagement efforts. At school level we have provided support to activities as varied as the Young Enterprise Scheme, Global Enterprise Challenge, NZ Business Week and the Deloitte sponsored National University Business Case Competition. We have expanded our involvement in regional business awards processes, delivering real value to participants through our judging contributions.

International appointments include Professor Claire Massey being re-elected to the board of the International Council for Small Business, Dr Craig Pritchard elected program chair of the Critical Management Studies Interest Group, Academy of Management and Professor Martin Young was appointed to a global curriculum advisory panel of the Financial Planning Standards Board, the first New Zealander to serve in this capacity.

Given the efforts of all the people in the College of Business during 2008, I wholeheartedly believe 2009 will see even greater College success as we embark on the Road to 2020.

Professor Sally Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Creative Arts

2008 has been another excellent year for the College of Creative Arts. Once again, our staff and students achieved recognition nationally and internationally. For example, industrial design graduate Alexander Wastney won first prize at the Dyson awards, and other Massey graduates featured strongly.

The supreme winner at WOW 2008 was Nadine Jaggi, a Massey graduate, along with two other finalists. At the 2008 BeST Awards, Massey University students achieved 29 awards, 10 of which were golds. Massey University was the most awarded tertiary institution in the country, with design students from the school taking away more awards on the night than all of the nations other tertiary institutions combined.

The Head of IDIE, Professor Tony Parker, won a silver award in the non-consumer category. CoCA alumni were winners in the professional categories, including the prestigious 'Stringer' Award for best overall design.

The One Day Sculpture Litmus initiative, an international level collaboration between all of New Zealand's leading galleries, Creative New Zealand, the University of the West of England, Massey Foundation and the Goethe Institute was launched and was highly successful, receiving good media coverage.

At the annual CoCA Research Awards, Oliver Neuland and Kura Puke won Early Career Research Medals; Simon Morris and Caroline Campbell were awarded Mid-Career Research Medals; and I was awarded the Esteemed Researcher Award.

Following the success of 2007's inaugural annual creative arts festival, this year's festival – Blow 2008: Nga hau e Wha - was a terrific accomplishment. The festival showcased the vast talents of staff, students, visiting national and international experts in a programme that included exhibitions, animation screenings, performances, symposia, workshops, public lectures and our graduate fashion show. Thousands of visitors attended and the festival received much national media coverage.



Professor Sally Morgan.

We were particularly honoured to welcome three more inductees into the Hall of Fame, namely industrial designer Mark Pennington, fashion designer Kate Sylvester, and (posthumously) artist and printmaker Gordon Walters.

Professor James Chapman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Education

Significantly for 2008 the College of Education has formalised a new international partnership that will see the University's Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – International, offered to students in Malaysia from next year.

It is an exciting development that I hope will lead to further collaborative links, and most excitingly, provides an important opportunity for our staff to share their educational expertise in new and innovative ways.

It is a credit to the quality of staff that Massey was approached by Cempaka Schools in Malaysia to teach our qualification. It shows a recognition of the excellence in research and teaching that we strive to uphold and defines us as a preferred teacher education provider on a much wider scale than perhaps we have previously recognized.

There is much cause for celebration as I reflect on achievements that showcase the depth of knowledge and commitment to excellence of our staff, students and alumni. The College's own research symposium, held in September, was a worthwhile platform to share this commitment with our peers and to acknowledge the breadth of research being conducted across various departments.

Our number of doctorally qualified staff has again increased and ensures we remain on the cutting edge of any New Zealand College of Education. Our graduates continue to achieve extraordinary things in diverse and often challenging fields. They perform on stage, coach athletic stars, educate new leaders, contribute to policy and make a difference in their communities. All exemplify the nature of education.

It is a vast and varied field in which challenges are many and constantly changing, but so are the opportunities. Our graduates are flexible, forward thinking, and passionate – as are our staff. I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to all who have embodied this spirit in 2008 and offer my best wishes for the year ahead.



Professor James Chapman.

Professor Mason Durie, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Acting)

Professor Barrie Macdonald's retirement as Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in March this year brought to an end a decade of dedicated leadership. He oversaw the merger of the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences and the eventual establishment of eight schools, a Centre for Defence Studies and seven stand-alone research centres.

Barrie's efforts to build a college with high standards of scholarship were rewarded during the Humanities Professorial Lectures, a series of public addresses that attracted large audiences and covered a range of topics delivered by Professors within the college. Professor Kerry Howe launched the series with a review of the theories about early Polynesian voyaging to Aotearoa. Sadly, Kerrie will also be retiring this month after many years of teaching and research at Palmerston North and Albany. The good news, however, is that both Barrie and Kerrie will maintain links with Massey University as emeritus professors.



Professor Mason Durie.

This year the college was able to deliver a solid performance in teaching and research and meet its wider

community obligations. Of a student population of over 4000 EFTS, half are distance students and nearly 30 percent are enrolled in postgraduate studies. To meet these trends there has been a significant investment in video software so that postgraduate programmes can be offered simultaneously across campuses. A symposium on e-learning for academic staff and the appointment of an e-Learning Facilitator will also greatly assist the college as it moves towards a blended teaching mode with increasing reliance on e-learning. The BA degree remains a touchstone for the college and, following the Undergraduate Arts qualification review, has been reshaped this year to ensure it meets the needs of students and community expectations.

Some stunning college achievements have occurred this year. A record number (23) of students graduated with doctoral degrees and among the staff Lisa Emerson received the Prime Minister's Supreme Teaching Award while the SHORE/WHARIKI research team received the Massey University Team Research Medal. In fact all of the College research centres have performed above expectation and it is likely that the Research School of Public Health will assume a major University-wide role next year.

Looking ahead, the college is confident that it will make substantial contributions to the University's 2020 strategy and beyond the University we will contribute to the national economy and to the wellbeing of our communities. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Susan Mumm when she arrives from Nova Scotia early in 2009.

Professor Robert Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Sciences

During 2008 the senior leadership team in the college completed a major strategic positioning analysis to assist with the University-wide project led by the incoming Vice-Chancellor - the compilation of The Road to 2020 Strategy for the University.

The latter document stands to have a profound impact on the University and the college needs to ensure that it is well placed to meet the heightened expectations that have now been set. A particularly significant outcome from the college deliberations is a succinct statement on its distinctive platforms and commitments going forward.

The college purpose is to enhance the prosperity of industry and society through excellence in higher education, research and knowledge transfer. Its success in meeting that purpose is reflected, in part, by the awards and achievements of members of staff and students. In that regard, 2008 was a year of outstanding achievement.

Distinguished Professor David Parry was awarded the Rutherford Medal by the NZ Royal Society (the supreme award in science for the nation), Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin was awarded the Hector Medal by the same Society and Professor Mick Roberts was elected to a Fellowship of that Society. Associate Professor Simon Hall won the Fonterra Prize for his contribution to science commercialisation, Professor Michael Hendy won the NZ Mathematical Society Research Award and Associate Professor Ulrich Zuelicke won the NZ Association of Scientists Research Medal.

Within the University, Professor Harjinder Singh and Dr Vyacheslav Filichev were the winners of the University Research Medals for Individual and Early Career respectively. Professor Singh also secured the 2008 William C Haines Dairy Science Award which is a prestigious worldwide commendation. The Ian Syminton Prize which is awarded by the International Institute of Refrigeration was won by Professor Don Cleland.

The college derived particular delight from Matt Brodie being named overall runner-up in the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Award for 2008, winning the Future Sciences and Technology category. This is the first time that a Massey student has achieved this level of success within this highly prestigious awards exercise.

In terms of its qualification portfolio, a highlight for the college in 2008 was the re-focusing of the applied programmes leading to new degrees and qualifications in AgriCommerce, AgriScience, Environmental Management and Logistics and Supply Chain Management. These developments are a direct reflection of the resurgence in the support of the land-based and related sector nationally.

The offering of the Bachelor of Food Technology through a partnership in Singapore was an important new initiative and, so too, the project led by Dr Eva Heinrich to develop a college-wide e-portfolio system for students.



Professor Robert Anderson.

New majors in Product Design Engineering (in association with the College of Creative Arts) and Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering for the BE (Hons) degree at the Wellington Campus were developed for introduction in 2009.

The college has continued to enjoy major success securing external funding to support its extensive research portfolio, now approximately 40 per cent of total revenue.

A particular success in 2008 was the securing of a Marsden Grant, one of nine in the College, by Professor Nigel French in the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences in association with AgResearch colleagues within the co-located Hopkirk Institute.

These highly sought after grants are the 'province' of the 'fundamental' scientists, and it is a major achievement for a team within a more applied context to gain an entry to the fund.

Finally, this summary would be incomplete without mentioning that, thanks to much effort and perseverance on the part of Professor Richard Archer, 2008 saw the construction and opening of the first micro-brewery at a New Zealand University by the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Cheers 2008!

Date: 12/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences; Maori; Palmerston North; Research; Vice-Chancellor; Wellington



Heather and Ivan Morison, *Journée des barricades*, 2008, commissioned by Litmus Research Initiative, Massey University for One Day Sculpture. Photos: Stephen Rowe.

Stout St barricade stops traffic in the name of art

It will be visible for just 24 hours, but the creators of the One Day Sculpture believe the exhibition artwork in central Wellington today should live long in the memory.

A barricade across Stout Street was erected overnight – and the striking temporary sculpture, commissioned by Massey University, will be gone by tomorrow morning.



Journée des barricades under construction.

Titled *Journee des barricades*, the arresting piece is by British artists Ivan and Heather Morison who gained prominence in 2006 for an installation of a jack-knifed lorry that had spilt its load of 25,000 flowers across Bristol's city centre.

This latest work is a further commentary on the social implications of an uncertain environmental future.

The artists have said of the work, “We're interested in the history of politics on the street, of barricades as social sculptures and wonder what would it take for the residents of Wellington to take to the streets and build their own barricade? We've also been thinking about wash outs, storm surges and the detritus that wash up after these kinds of environmental or climate events.”

Their artwork is one of a series of sculptures set to pop up all over New Zealand for a strictly 24-hour period.

Five one-day sculpture projects have been realised to date, another will appear in Dunedin next Saturday, and the remainder will enliven public spaces until June next year.

The artworks are all located in the public domain – away from conventional galleries or museums.

Journee des barricades was commissioned by Litmus Research Initiative, based at Massey University's College of Creative Arts, School of Fine Arts.

The Morisons will discuss their latest work with Litmus director David Cross and Massey's head of performance design at the college, Dorita Hannah, on Wednesday between 6pm and 7.30pm.

The presentation will be held in the Museum Building Theatre (10 A 02) at the University's Wellington campus entrance D on Buckle St.

The British Council, Wellington City Council's public art fund, University of the West of England, Massey University Foundation and Massey University College of Creative Arts provided major funding support for the Morisons' work.

Date: 14/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

Urgent need to tackle Fiji poverty

Poverty reduction measures must be undertaken in Fiji before things deteriorate to a point of no return, a University economist is warning.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Contemporary Fijian Studies* this month, Dr Rukmani Gounder researched poverty levels and suggests policy changes needed to tackle them.

Dr Gounder, Associate Professor of Economics at the University's Manawatu campus, says behind the tranquil blue skies and golden sand lie a huge social and economic downturn.

"Fiji has a paradise image but behind that there are huge problems of poverty," she says. "In the 1970s about 10 per cent of population were living in poverty, increasing to 25 per cent in 1990/1991 and rising to 34.4 per cent in 2002/2003.



Dr Rukmani Gounder.

"Looking at the poor economic climate since the coups in 1987 and the rising poverty figures, we can assume that up to 40 per cent of the population could now be living in poverty."

Dr Gounder, who is from Nadi in Fiji, said the country's poor economic performance, political instabilities and economic crises have pushed more people into poverty without recourse. Falling income, rising malnutrition, poor health, drop in public services, increased pressure on women and violence are some of the actual problems. This leads to a cycle of people falling deeper and deeper into poverty, she says.

"If you do not improve their wellbeing then they are in danger of becoming vulnerable. With large numbers of children living in poor conditions, they drop out of school and become street kids," says Dr Gounder.

"The sugar industry is not performing well and the gold mining has closed down. Tourism has become the key industry but requires political stability to maintain tourist inflow.

"People need to secure livelihoods to improve their circumstances. The lessons of the last three decades give us the chance to rethink and cultivate a genuine public spirit to get to the bottom of the problem and set development priorities."

Date: 16/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Festive cheer for first-time buyers

First-time buyers will be cheered by the news that national home affordability has improved 4.6 per cent in the past year, according to the latest figures from Massey University.

It is now much easier to get on to the housing ladder in Southland with affordability – a measure that factors in average prices, pay and interest rates – improving by 21.2 per cent.

Other regions showing improved affordability are Wellington (7.4 per cent), Waikato/Bay of Plenty (6.4 per cent), Auckland (5.9 per cent), Canterbury/Westland (5 per cent) Otago (4.9 per cent) and Taranaki (4.5 per cent).

Manawatu/Wanganui (0.1 per cent) remained stable, while declines in affordability affected Central Otago Lakes (18.4 per cent) followed by Hawke's Bay (5.6 per cent), Northland (1.9 per cent) and Nelson/ Marlborough (1.9 per cent).

Central Otago Lakes remains the least affordable region, followed by Auckland and Nelson/Marlborough.

Southland is the most affordable region, followed by Otago and Manawatu/Wanganui.

In the past quarter, a 2.2 per cent increase in the national median house price has outweighed the 1 per cent increase in wage rates and static interest rates, resulting in a 1.4 per cent overall deterioration in affordability.

But Professor Bob Hargreaves, director of the Massey University Real Estate Analysis Unit, says not to read too much into this surprise statistic.

“The median house prices statistic may be skewed upwards due to stricter lending criteria leading to reduced sales volumes for lower cost homes,” he said.

Over the past quarter, six of the 12 regions showed improved affordability: Southland (10.3 per cent) Waikato/Bay of Plenty (5.7 per cent), Otago (4.8 per cent), Wellington (2.5 per cent), Auckland (0.7 per cent) and Manawatu/Wanganui (0.7 per cent).

Regions showing declines in affordability were Northland (11.9 per cent) Hawke's Bay (8.7 per cent), Central Otago/Lakes (7.4 per cent), Taranaki (5.1 per cent), Canterbury/Westland (2.8 per cent) and Nelson/Marlborough (2.6 per cent).

The December quarterly survey of the Massey University Home Affordability Report is available at: <http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/>

Date: 17/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

Native birds feel no fear when facing foes

Endangered native birds are at risk of losing their instinct to recognise and flee mammalian enemies when moved between predator-free and predator-filled sites, says a Massey researcher.

Sarah Whitwell, a biology master's student at Massey's Institute of Natural Resources in Albany, designed an experiment using a pulley system to dangle a stuffed stoat and morepork at nesting North Island robins to test their fear responses. She says most robins in areas free of introduced predators, such as stoats, failed to get into a flap at the sight of an enemy, albeit a fake version.

Her research adds to growing evidence that native birds' responses to mammalian predators are not genetically hard-wired.

"That's because introduced mammal predators have been here a relatively short time, whereas native birds have been here for millions of years."

She says already endangered native bird species would be at increased risk if moved back to wilderness sites with mammalian predators after inhabiting mammal-free conservation areas without some form of predator-recognition training.

The responses of robins in predator-controlled Wenderholm Reserve and Tiritiri Matangi Island near Auckland were compared with those in the central North Island, where the birds have long co-existed with native and introduced predators.

Most of the robins in the predator-free zones did not react to the presence of the stuffed stoat but did react strongly to the morepork - a native predator with a long history of association with the robins. Real versions of both of these predators prey on native birds and their eggs and chicks.

Those in central North Island forest patches near Bennydale reacted to the stoat model by either flying away, or when there were eggs or chicks in their nests, by hopping, flicking or spreading their wings. In some cases, they called out to attract other birds to create a ruckus designed to scare the enemy.

"The birds at Bennydale could recognise the stoat because it's a predator they probably deal with on a regular basis. But those on Tiritiri Matangi who have been isolated from stoats for at least one generation have lost the ability to recognise the stoat as a result of isolation from them," she says.

A number of endangered native New Zealand bird species - including kakariki, bellbirds and saddle-backs - now thriving in protected conservation offshore islands are being moved back to areas inhabited by predators in a bid to increase the population spread and gene pool.

"My research suggests there might be a need for birds from mammal-free areas to undergo pre-release training in predator recognition," says Ms Whitwell.

This could be done by mixing birds from predator-free areas with birds capable of recognising predators in an enclosure, then using a mock predator to prompt a fear reaction. Fearless birds would model new behaviour by witnessing the response of birds whose fear instinct was active, she says.

She says although the stoat and morepork in her experiments were not real, they are still convincing enough to prompt real fear responses from the birds.



Sarah Whitwell with the stuffed stoat and morepork she has been using to test fear responses of the North Island robin.



North Island robin.

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Sciences

All aboard for Summer Shakespeare

Manawatu Summer Shakespeare will showcase one of Palmerston North's most popular attractions – the Esplanade railway – in *All's Well That Ends Well* in March.

Walking through Victoria Esplanade scouting for locations, director Peter Hambleton says he was taken with the scenic railway that winds its way through the park.

“It was charming and I thought it would be wonderful to use it,” he says. “In the play many of the characters go on journeys and learn life lessons so it is appropriate to extend upon that imagery.”

The train will be in the production, bringing actors to and from the action. Wheels of all kinds will feature in the show, with bikes, skateboards and rollerblades all making an appearance.

One of Wellington's most experienced actors and directors, Mr Hambleton will direct the production during his time as visiting artist at the University's Manawatu campus. Massey sponsors the visiting artist programme in conjunction with the Palmerston North City Council and the Square Edge Community Trust.

Manawatu Summer Shakespeare is an annual production run by the School of English and Media Studies and held in the Victoria Esplanade.

Mr Hambleton says this year's cast of more than 30 people is made up of experienced and new performers. A number of actors are still at high school.

“I grew up in an artistic family in the Hutt Valley and was fortunate to have some very good drama teachers at school, so while I'm not a teacher as such I feel with this production I can impart some of the knowledge I've gained over the past 25 years.”

Mr Hambleton chose the play in part because of its obscurity.

“It's not one of Shakespeare's more well-known works,” he says. “But I think it still has all the qualities one expects from a work of Shakespeare: the language, the characters and the sheer outrageousness. We were working on the final scene the other day, which is an incredible sight, like something out of Oprah or Jerry Springer. I think audiences will love it.”

An experienced Shakespearean actor, Mr Hambleton was awarded a Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand International Artistic Fellowship in 2002 and spent a month training at the Globe Theatre in London.

The recipient of a 2007 Winston Churchill Fellowship to study Shakespeare production in the UK, he travelled there earlier this year and saw 15 productions while meeting with leading directors and actors.

Mr Hambleton has won several Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards as an actor and has directed *Cymbeline* for Victoria University Summer Shakespeare, *Pericles* for Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Circa Theatre, where he is also a council member.

The 2009 season of *All's Well That Ends Well* begins on Thursday 5 March and runs on the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, then again for two nights the next week from Friday 13 March. All performances begin at 7pm at the train station near the Park Road entrance of Victoria Esplanade.

Date: 18/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Palmerston North



Peter Hambleton.



From left are Grace Smith, Ruairaidh Birnie (back), Charlotte Drahohs, Erin Birnie, Grayson Lodge and Rosalind Smith.

Apples or pears dilemma for orchard visitors

Pre-schoolers had a chance to select their own fruit tree at the Manawatu campus today – choosing a pear tree which they will harvest in March.

The four-year-olds from Palmerston North's First Steps early childhood education centre are taking part in the University's Rent-a-Tree programme.

The group visited both the apple and pear blocks, as well as hearing first-hand from orchardist Tyler McComb how the crops are grown. They viewed the kiwifruit vines and asparagus paddock before settling on a pear tree.



Robyn Kent and children from the First Steps Children's Centre heard first-hand about growing kiwifruit from orchardist Tyler McComb.

Plant growth unit manager Steven Ray says once fruit is ready to harvest, staff contact groups.

“They can then come into the orchard on Friday afternoons and Saturday morning and pick their fruit. We recommend picking fruit during the first two to three weeks of the harvest window for each variety, so the birds don't get more of their share.

“Groups get the total crop from the tree – the yield can vary in each season but it is at least 50kg and often 20 to 30kg more.”

The fruit trees scheme has been running for nine years, with groups able to select their own tree on site or select a variety and have staff assign them a tree. The \$50 cost covers all costs, with groups able to pick on-site during the harvest. The trees are cared for using industry best-practice standards, giving staff and students a hands-on project, with varieties including organics, Braeburn, Pink Lady and Pacific Rose apples, and Doyenne Du Comice and Buerre Bosc pears.

Date: 19/12/2008

Type: University News

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



Massey School of Aviation General Manager Ashok Poduval receives the award from Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport Lim Hwee Hua.

Promotion of excellence wins Singapore award for Massey aviation school

Massey's School of Aviation has received an appreciation award from the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA) in recognition of the school's promotion of excellence.

The award was presented to school general manager Ashok Poduval by the Singapore Government's Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport, Lim Hwee Hua, at the academy's 50th anniversary celebrations in front of 300 senior industry officials this month.

It recognises the partnership between Massey and the SAA in providing expertise to promote excellence in aviation education and training.

Mr Poduval says it is a significant honour and underlines the value of the partnership to both the academy and the school. "This partnership has opened the doors to students in Singapore and surrounding regions to access Massey University's undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in aviation management through Singapore Aviation Academy," he says.

"Delivered as a combination of distance learning, and block courses facilitated by Singapore Aviation Academy, the flexibility of these programmes makes them popular with employed aviation professionals seeking to further their careers, and those with a passion to pursue a career in aviation."

Date: 22/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation; International

Success shows Massey means business

Fresh ideas including an innovative way to support high-flying business undergraduates have capped a ground breaking year for Massey University's College of Business.

College Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose says the Dean's List recognises the talent of top performing undergraduates, raising their aspirations and helping recruiters target employees of the future.

"It was fascinating to see many of these students appear later in the year as scholarship winners, leaders in business student groups and as high performing sportspeople," says Professor Rose.

Community engagement had been a priority for 2008 with the college providing support to activities including the Young Enterprise Scheme, Global Enterprise Challenge, NZ Business Week and the National University Business Case Competition.

A scholarship was launched in memory of the late Professor Brian Murphy, a widely respected educator in marketing, which is fundraising to support postgraduate research in the college.

And Grant Dalton, chief executive of Team New Zealand, who restored pride and passion into New Zealand sailing was honoured with the Massey University Services to New Zealand Sponsorship Award.

Academic staff recognised for their excellence include Professor Janet Hoek, Dr Heather Kavan and Dr Hamish Anderson receiving Vice-Chancellor's Awards for teaching excellence.

Professor Tony Vitalis received a Massey Research Medal for Supervision as well as being honoured by the New Zealand Ergonomics Society and Professor Anne de Bruin secured a Fulbright Scholarship to the US.

Researchers also secured significant external funding. Dr Ian Laird won funding for research into noise-induced hearing loss while Dr Steffen Lippert and Dr Simona Fabrizi secured support for work on venture capitalists and intellectual property. A team led by Associate Professors Frank Sligo and Margie Comrie won a Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) grant for research into health literacy and literacy training in apprenticeships.

International appointments included Professor Claire Massey being re-elected to the board of the International Council for Small Business, Dr Craig Pritchard elected programme chair of the Critical Management Studies Interest Group of the Academy of Management and Professor Martin Young was appointed to the global curriculum advisory panel of the Financial Planning Standards Board, the first New Zealander to serve in this capacity.

"Given the efforts of all the people in the College of Business during 2008, I wholeheartedly believe 2009 will see even greater College success as we embark on the Road to 2020," Professor Rose says.

The Road to 2020 is Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey's strategy to ensure Massey becomes New Zealand's defining university and a world centre of tertiary learning.



Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton accepts the Massey University Services to New Zealand Sponsorship Award.

Date: 22/12/2008

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business

Te Rau Puawai scholarship for nurse

Counties-Manukau District Health Board and Massey University have named mental health nurse Maitera Tutahi as the inaugural recipient of the Raniera (Barney) and Vera Kirkwood Te Rau Puawai Partnership Scholarship.

A ceremony was held at Whatapaka Marae in Karaka on Wednesday 10 December to celebrate the scholarship and the new partnership between the University and the district health board.

Ms Tutahi (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāi Tahu, Te Atiawa, Ngāti Ranginui, Tainui) was unaware she had won the scholarship until she arrived at the marae. "It was mind boggling at first, now I'm excited to have the opportunity to study again and meet new people."



Te Rau Puawai Scholarship recipient Maitera Tutahi (left) and kaumatua Taui Thompson.

Ms Tutahi has been primary health coordinator since 2006 when she was employed by the board's Māori Mental Health unit. Her work involves developing better understanding about Māori mental health consumer needs with GPs and other health services in the region. She says she has been able to reconnect with her Tainui heritage since being in her role and has been supported culturally by Whaea Taui Thompson, who is also employed by Māori Mental Health in the Taumata Kaumātua Team.

Te Rau Puawai co-ordinator Monica Koia says the scholarship was named after Mr and Mrs Kirkwood in recognition of the Māori mental health work they did developing services and programmes in the Counties-Manukau region. Te Rau Puawai is the Māori mental health scholarship programme within Massey's Humanities and Social Sciences College located at the School of Māori Studies (Te Pūtahi-a-Toi) at the Manawatu campus.

"Through the scholarship programme recipients are supported to complete health-related qualifications at Massey. Ms Tutahi will enrol as an extramural student and begin her study next semester."

Te Rau Puawai has seen over 200 students graduate in the past 10 years. The scholarship provides recipients with fees and some course-related costs, a mentor, assistance with study planning and skills and access to Māori community and student networks.

Date: 22/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

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

Gaming machines affecting well-being of New Zealanders

 [Watch the 3 News item](#)

Electronic gaming machines have a detrimental impact upon the lives of those who use them and their associates, according to new research.

The Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation and Te Ropu Whariki carried out the Assessment of the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in New Zealand for the Ministry of Health.

More than 7000 participants from across the country were interviewed for the study, allowing researchers to create a picture of how gambling affects the well-being of people and their families.

More than 60 per cent of respondents had participated in some form of gambling in the past 12 months, although most of that number was made up of people who bought lottery products, which more than 50 per cent of the population had done.

Participation in other modes of gambling was much lower, with fewer than 10 per cent betting at a racetrack or TAB. Electronic gaming machines were used by four per cent of respondents in clubs, eight per cent in bars or pubs and eight per cent in the casino.

Researchers found playing gaming machines was associated with self-reported poorer physical health and mental well-being. It also affected people's feelings about relationships with family and friends, feelings about self, overall quality of life, and overall satisfaction with life.

This contrasted with other types of gambling such as betting at the racetrack or TAB or playing poker, which did not elicit the same negative feelings from respondents.

The research also showed that Maori and Pacific people were more likely to play gaming machines than other ethnic groups and that there were significant associations between gambling participation and poorer self-rated quality of life in those groups.

Researcher Dr En-Yi Lin says respondents viewed gaming machines as more detrimental to their lives than other forms of gambling.

“Of all the forms of gambling, gaming machines, particularly when played in bars, elicited the most negative responses from people of all ethnicities,” she says. “This contrasts with other forms of gambling which in some cases had positive aspects, perhaps because of their social nature.”

Date: 22/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; School of Health Sciences; Video Multimedia



New ways to look for love

Blindfolded speed dating, weight loss clinics for larger lovers and bonding over toothpaste brands are among new techniques dating agencies could use to help the lonely find love.

Dr Marco van Gelderen says life is loveless for an increasing number of unattached people, and dating agencies need to find new ways to bring romance, intimacy and friendship to those who seek it.

A senior lecturer in the Department of Management and International Business at Albany, Dr van Gelderen says the dating service industry has grown in recent years as a result of greater demand and rapidly evolving technology including the internet. But too many potential clients remain stuck in "singledom" because of a lack of industry awareness of their needs as well as ambivalence about using dating services.



Dr Marco van Gelderen.

"The dating industry has a number of special problems in being successful in connecting people," says Dr van Gelderen. "First, people don't like to admit that they are lonely. Loneliness is something that happens to other people.

"There is a social stigma to loneliness and even to being alone. There is also the perception that dating services are for losers."

Nicknamed "Dr Love" by one dating agency owner, Dr van Gelderen interviewed dating service owners from Australia and New Zealand to discuss recent findings on the singles market and to brainstorm ideas for playing Cupid to loveless strangers.

The participants, from a range of online and off-line dating services, were presented with information on what causes attraction and bonding, such as proximity, appearance, similarity and cooperation, and then asked to consider this knowledge while dreaming up new ways to enhance their services.

Dr van Gelderen's study is one of three in which he has applied business techniques to generate ideas for entrepreneurial opportunities relating to the fundamental themes of existence – loneliness, death and meaninglessness. Along with exploring the entrepreneurial potential for the dating service industry, he has looked at the undertaking business, and providers of New Age courses in The Netherlands. The idea of blind speed dating was suggested as a way of circumventing stereotyping that often forges initial attraction but can be based on false assumptions and can result in disappointment or heartbreak.

"Although beauty attracts, people tend to choose partners as pretty as themselves, or a little bit prettier. People even choose partners with the same relative weight."

Combining a dating agency with a weight loss clinic was seen as a way of helping bigger people to bond. "Daters will do their best to look more attractive," says Dr van Gelderen.

And overcoming the awkwardness of a first date by encouraging potential partners to share preferred toothpaste brands, sandwich spreads or sunglasses – as one web-based dating service has – was applauded as a positive way of breaking the ice rather than discussing loaded topics such as past relationships or the number of wished-for children.

Dr van Gelderen says the rise of dating agencies is a result of major lifestyle changes in Western cultures. These include the increase in the number of singles as younger people switch relationships a number of times before they cohabit or marry, and people marrying later, if at all.

The increase in the number of divorces and separations among middle-aged people and an increase in the average life span – increasing the number of widows and widowers – also meant there are more unattached people

The newness of these demographic trends means that people have few role models to learn from, he says. "For example, someone who divorces at the age of 48 and who is looking for a new partner has to learn appropriate courtship behaviour for a person of 48. But what is appropriate?"

Growing individualism and increasingly high expectations for romantic relationships, as well as the anonymity of

urbanised living and increased mobility of workers, make it harder to form and sustain relationships, he says. "With so many people seeking friends or a partner, the problem seems to be one of coordination than scarcity."

He says his latest research on dating services is far from frivolous, as some critics have suggested, because dating services are addressing a fundamental human need for love and belonging.

"Western societies place a high value on friendship and romantic love. To be successful in both is part of cultural norms. Without friends or an intimate partner, people can easily experience a sense of failure."

Caption: 'Dr Love' aka Dr Marco van Gelderen, says dating services need to find new ways to help the lonely find love.

Date: 30/12/2008

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Massey staff and alumni feature in 2009 New Year's Honours list

Massey University Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey, Professor Mike Hendy, Associate Professor Dean Halford and University Council member and former staff member Professor Ngatata Love are among recipients of New Year's Honours announced today.

Professor Love, a former dean of Massey's Faculty of Business Studies, is made a Principal Companion of the NZ Order of Merit (PCNZM) for services to Maori. Now with Victoria University, he is chairman of the Wellington Tenths Maori Land Trust and the Palmerston North Maori Reserve Lands Trust, a director of several companies and member of many boards. In 2001 he was made a companion of the Queen's Service Order for his contribution to Massey University and Te Puni Kokiri.



Mr Maharey is made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services as a Member of Parliament, from 1990 to 2008, representing Palmerston North. His ministerial portfolios included Broadcasting, Crown Research Institutes, Housing, Research, Science and Technology, Social Development, Employment, Community and Voluntary Sector, and Tertiary Education. Before entering Parliament he was a senior lecturer in sociology at Massey and a Palmerston North City Councillor from 1986-89. He took up the role of Vice-Chancellor in October.

Professor Hendy and Associate Professor Halford are made Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to mathematical biology and for services to education, respectively.

Professor Hendy is the co-director of Massey's Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution whose work in mathematical biology has attracted international attention for more than 40 years. His research focuses on modelling natural and biological processes using applied mathematical techniques and tools. He has contributed widely to professional organisations and professional journals as a writer and editor, and was made a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2001.



Dr Halford has been at Massey since 1964 and prior to that was a junior lecturer at the Palmerston North University College. He was head of the Department of Mathematics from 1995-97 and deputy head of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences from 1997 until his retirement in 2006. Since then he has returned to the University contract teaching mathematics for a semester in each of the past two years. Dr Halford was heavily involved in educational administration nationally, at government level and in Manawatu, as chair of Awatapu College board of governors and president of the Secondary School Boards Association.

Mr Maharey congratulated his colleagues, saying "the University should be proud of the achievements of Mike and Dean and delighted that their achievements have been recognised by the wider community".



He also paid tribute to Professor Love. "He has had a long association with Massey, was a founding member of the business school and has had a significant impact on management education both nationally and internationally, and continues to contribute as a member of the University Council."

Massey alumni who are recipients of New Year's Honours include Jane Hunter (CNZM) for services to the viticulture industry, Felicity Price (ONZM) for services to the arts and business, Betty Armstrong (MNZM) for services to early childhood and education, Perry Nicholas (MNZM) for services to the police, Louis Thomas (ONZM) for services to the visually impaired, Dr Lesley Rothwell (MNZM) for services to medicine, Professor Janis Swan (MNZM) for services to engineering, Jenn Broom (QSO) for services to the refugee community, Gavin McFadyen (QSO) for services to the police, Gwen Nagel (QSO) for services to special education, Reverend Charles Waldegrave (QSO) for services to social policy, Mary Busch (QSM) for services to education and the community, Gill Kalwant (QSM) for services to ethnic communities, Gary Severinsen (QSM) for services to the community, Dr Margaret Southwick (QSM) for services to the Pacific Islands community, Mary Woods (QSM) for services to volunteering, Neil Roberts (Distinguished Service Decoration) for services to the Royal New Zealand Navy, and Sean Trengrove (DSD) NZ Army.



Caption, from top: Steve Maharey, Professor Ngatata Love, Professor Mike Hendy, Associate Professor Dean Halford.

Date: 31/12/2008

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; Wellington
