

definingnz

FEBRUARY 2009



Worlds apart

Actress Antonia Prebble mixes English literature with the outrageous Wests

Secrets of Auckland's volcanic siblings

Busting the Einstein dyslexia myth

The fastest Shakespeare on wheels



Massey University

ALBANY MANAWATU WELLINGTON EXTRAMURAL
www.massey.ac.nz



Steve Maharey

At the heart of how we see ourselves

Welcome

Antonia Prebble features on the cover of *DefiningNZ* this issue. She will be a familiar face to most New Zealanders because she plays the role of Loretta in the smash hit television series *Outrageous Fortune*. Both Antonia and the success of *Outrageous Fortune* go to heart of what Massey University is about.

Antonia is taking advantage of Massey's ability to reach out to learners in New Zealand and internationally by studying English extramurally. She told Radio New Zealand National listeners recently that she was studying for her degree because she wanted to be a well educated person. Her family (yes the well-known Prebble family) places a high value on education and Antonia shared that view.

So does Massey. At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to excellence in teaching and research because we believe in the intrinsic value of tertiary education. We want to help prepare our students for life in the broadest sense. Antonia reflects the value we place on the importance of education and we applaud her for that.

Outrageous Fortune is an important television programme because it demonstrates that New Zealand drama can win and hold a very large audience. This should not in itself be an achievement but, as we all know, New Zealand television has struggled to win audiences. We still see a steady diet of British, American and Australian programmes on our screens.

Change has been taking place slowly over the past decade. New Zealanders like seeing themselves, they like watching their own stories and they respond to hearing their own voices. But they will not watch a programme just because it is a made by New Zealanders. They want quality. *Outrageous Fortune* has delivered.

Massey University is a very New Zealand institution. We could not be located anywhere else but New Zealand. The nation defines us and we, in turn, help define the nation. We are champions of everything Kiwi.

This does not make us parochial. While we are embedded in New Zealand we see ourselves as a world centre of learning. We have a responsibility to take the best of New Zealand tertiary learning and research to the world. We see ourselves as an international gateway into New Zealand.

So we are delighted to have Antonia Prebble from *Outrageous Fortune* on our cover. Antonia is in good company. This issue includes articles on Professors David Penny and Mike Hendy whose groundbreaking work will be celebrated in this the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday; Shakespeare as you have seldom known him; Massey's involvement in the development of a super car; and Shane Cronin's work on Auckland volcanoes plus much more.

If what you read here is interesting you can read more through <http://news.massey.ac.nz>. You can also subscribe to our regular e-mail newsletters.

Thanks for taking the opportunity to learn more about Massey. ❖

“The nation defines us and we, in turn, help define the nation. We are champions of everything Kiwi.”



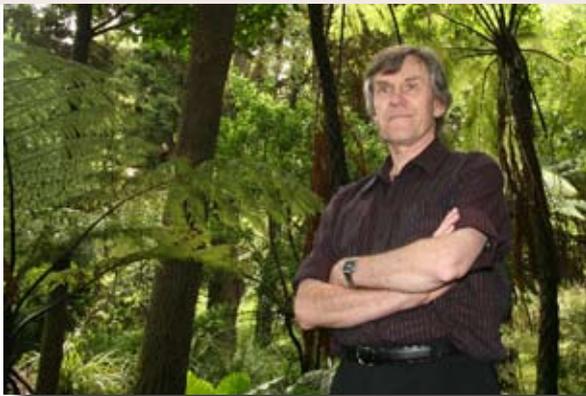
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COVER: Antonia Prebble
Photograph: Jae Frew
© South Pacific Pictures

Loretta, literature and limitless scope

*Antonia Prebble finds common ground between
Shakespeare and the outrageous Wests*

With an alter-ego like the feisty but ethically flawed Loretta West, it is hardly surprising actor Antonia Prebble decided studying law was not for her.

After earlier intending to combine her blossoming acting career with an LLB, she has opted to study English extramurally – a decision which is turning out to be Massey University’s good (outrageous) fortune too.

The 24-year-old is channelling any spare energy, from her television role as the youngest of the wrong-side-of-the-tracks West clan, into studying extramurally for a BA majoring in English literature.

The dedication required to complete at least one paper each year on top of a demanding production schedule is something her on-stage persona, who at one point pays a homeless girl to impersonate her at school, would shake her head at.

First screened in 2005, the show about the “West by name Westie by nature” family with an old fashioned code to committing crime quickly stole the hearts of viewers. Its racy storylines, snappy dialogue and expertly crafted characters could have stepped off the pages of a Shakespeare play. The comparison is not so outlandish, with the show’s title *Outrageous Fortune* and episode names all borrowed from the bard’s works.

“You wouldn’t automatically equate life in West Auckland with Shakespearean life,” Antonia notes. “But after more than 50 episodes the titles are more proof of how eternally relevant Shakespeare is.”

She should know. Last year, in between filming scenes of Loretta trying to sell off her new born baby and being involved with accidentally burning down a pet store, Antonia was also immersed in solitary studies including a paper on love and revenge in Shakespearean England.

“The type of work you do when studying English literature lends itself to correspondence style study, where obviously you work away on things by yourself,” she said. “It’s also quite relevant to my career as I hope to act in plays by Shakespeare and other playwrights that I’ve studied, at some point in the future.”

Her interest in theatre was already well developed by her teens, though screen work came to dominate her waking hours with roles in *Mirror Mirror 2* and *The Tribe*.

“I’ve had to find the balance between acting and study since the age of 12. So I’ve always been a pretty diligent person and tried my best at things.”

The Wellington-raised woman comes from an academic background, and while her father John, a barrister and solicitor as well as a tax law professor, was pleased at her initial decision to also study law, he remains more than happy she is continuing her education.

“It’s totally my own choice and I do find it stimulating, and find that my brain functions a lot better with all that studying,” she said. “And the benefits outweigh the stress you can get at the examination time of the year.”

Since 2006, Prebble has taken one paper a year, and has a goal of completing her degree by age 30.

Studies for her correspondence work involve a two-day contact course at the Manawatu campus.

“I find it really useful and nice to get that sense of camaraderie among fellow students even if it is only for two days; otherwise it is a bit of a lonely way to study. It’s not so much about the piece of paper as the process and the knowledge I’ll gain in getting my degree. But I have no further academic plans as yet. I really want to be an actress and put my time into that.”

Her screen and occasional stage work has also been complemented by acting studies including a brief period in Paris – a decision which met with the approval of her late grandfather Kenneth Prebble, no slouch in the acting game himself.

The retired Anglican clergyman, who died last year aged 93, gained TV recognition of his own appearing in programmes such as *Close to Home*, *Hercules* and *Xena*, being sought after in the latter two shows as an old man or a priest. He remains the only other member of the Prebble tribe to have taken a professional theatrical path.

Some might argue that Antonia’s uncles, recently retired State Services Commissioner Mark Prebble and former Labour Cabinet Minister and ACT Party leader Richard Prebble, also know what it is to play to an audience—particularly the latter who was no stranger to

hamming it up in the Parliamentary debating chamber.

“I guess you could say that their careers have involved some elements of performance, so perhaps at a genetic level I’ve picked up on some of that desire to express myself but I don’t think I’ve been directly influenced by their careers.”

While Richard is a fan of *Outrageous Fortune*, her grandfather “almost couldn’t believe that a family like the Wests could actually exist,” she recalls.

Another of Prebble’s uncles, Dr Tom Prebble, is an education consultant and Emeritus Professor of the University. While he had no involvement with her choice to study at Massey, she sometimes stayed at his house when in Palmerston North for the contact course.

One of the show’s core relationships is the close connection between Loretta and her on-screen grandfather Ted – so has art imitated life for Prebble in terms of the memories of her own grandfather?

“He was a wonderful man. I really loved him and we were close, but our lives weren’t intertwined as Grandpa and Loretta’s are.”

From series one of the show, the “great gift” of a role of the ever-scheming Loretta has continued to evolve for the actress.

“There are still some really big stories for her this [fifth] season. Her character is still developing hugely. She’s never really standing still, I think she’s got limitless scope actually.” The same could be said for Antonia, who before Christmas branched out into professional stage theatre, a discipline she hopes to repeat. “You need very different skills and you hone your craft in a very different way.”

One other actress’ career she has closely followed is that of Natalie Portman, who has a psychology degree from Harvard University. “She [Portman] also really values education and wants to integrate that into her life. I look to people like her and think ‘oh good, other people are trying to study and work at the same time, and they’re managing so I’ll just keep plugging away’.” ❖

In between filming scenes of Loretta trying to sell off her new born baby and being involved with accidentally burning down a pet store, Antonia was also immersed in a paper on love and revenge in Shakespearean England.

Shane Cronin surveys Auckland's volcanic field from Mount Eden.

Beneath the surface of our largest city lies a volcanic field many New Zealanders spare little thought for, but one which Auckland's future planners cannot afford to ignore – and new clues about its potential and risk are coming from as far afield as Korea.

Future roads, buildings and infrastructure in the region are likely to be based on volcanic risk models developed from ancient eruptions that occurred on a South Korean island.

Massey University researchers have won \$960,000 in funding to lead a New Zealand consortium to work with South Korean counterparts in developing statistical and economic models on the likelihood and impacts of future eruptions on the Auckland region.

The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology will provide the funding over the next three years to the team led by Associate Professor Shane Cronin from Massey's Institute of Natural Resources.

Cronin says the collaboration will allow his team to take a "sister-volcano" approach to the problem.

"The youth of the Auckland Volcanic Field is problematic, because not enough eruptions have occurred to generate robust statistical models," he says.

"We've found a sibling volcanic field at Jeju Island in South Korea, which is geologically and economically matched to Auckland but four or five times older, with hundreds of eruptions and several Rangitoto-like episodes. We're essentially trying to look into the future in Auckland, using the Korean site and results from their parallel research program as a guide."

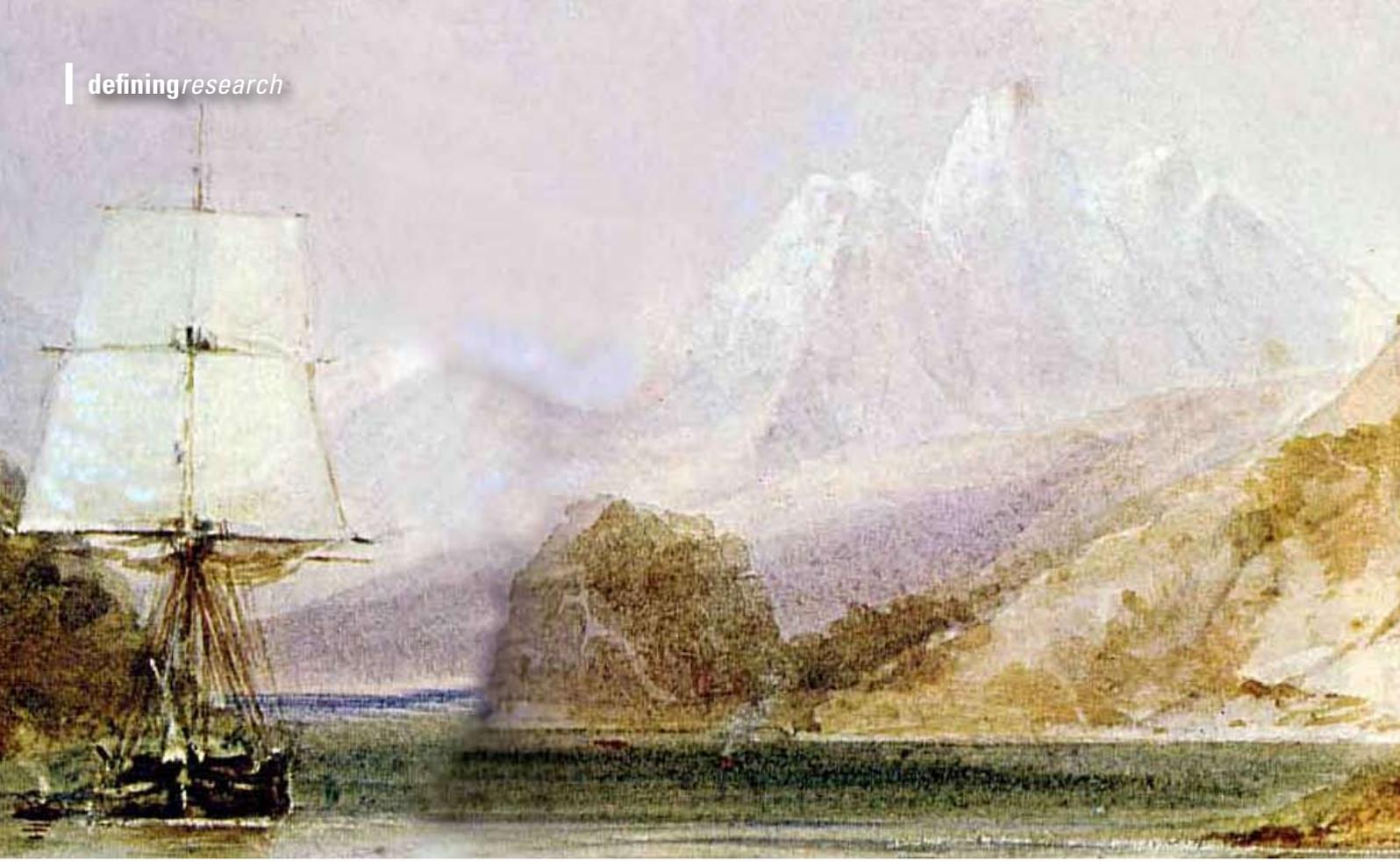
Stakeholder groups in the region, including the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group, the Auckland Regional Council, the Earthquake Commission and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, will use the results to develop appropriate volcanic-risk management strategies.

"The research will help dictate where major infrastructure projects are located," Cronin says. "It will help in the planning of electricity lines, water, evacuation routes, bridges, high-rise buildings, schools and roads."

Cronin has assembled a national research team comprising volcanologists, statisticians, economists and planners from Massey and Auckland universities, GNS Science, Kestrel Group Ltd and Market Economics Ltd. ❖







HMS Beagle in the seaways of Tierra del Fuego, painting by Conrad Martens during the voyage of the Beagle (1831-1836).

Darwin's Ark

On the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, scientists worldwide are celebrating the work of the man who created the study of evolution, including the founding directors of the Massey-hosted Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, Mike Hendy and David Penny.



A Southern-Hemisphere centric map of the world pinned to the wall provides an insight to the work of both Darwin and the Allan Wilson Centre. On it is traced the voyage of the HMS Beagle, the survey ship on which Charles Darwin sailed from Plymouth in 1831. On its return four years later, the young Darwin had produced a detailed scientific field journal, covering the biology, geology and anthropology of what he had seen.

Importantly, as centre founding director Professor Mike Hendy explains, all but one of Darwin's destinations were in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The Beagle spent four years in the Southern Hemisphere, a lot of it, of course, in the Eastern Pacific, in Chile and the Galapagos [Islands]. And there's a lot of evidence his ideas on evolution developed later from his observations there.

"For example, while he was in Chile he witnessed a major earthquake, saw the earth being uplifted and the harbours being drained. He combined what he learned there with his expedition up the Andes, where he could see the layers ascending and marine fossils at altitude where the layers were becoming older. That gave him recognition there was a long timeframe involved. He came to understand the earth was not fixed, it was dynamic. Looking at the ages of the fossils, he saw the progression back through time."

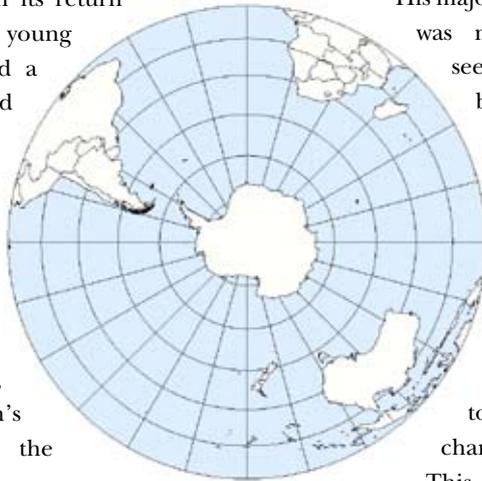
"That's what convinced him," Professor David Penny chimes in.

"He [Darwin] argued that you could explain the geology of the past by what is going on now.

"The gorgeous thing was that [prior to the Beagle journey] someone had given him a copy of Charles Lyell's book [*Principles of Geology*, detailing his theory that the present was influenced by the past]. Darwin has said it was interesting but he didn't believe the main storyline that you could explain the past by mechanisms

you can study in the present – well he [Darwin] was not convinced!

"After the Beagle, he said he could see no barrier to how small changes in time could lead to a major change and developed this idea of a continuum.



"His major premise was there was nothing he could see that could not be accommodated through a series of small successions. He speculated there must be a mechanism whereby genetic information passed from parents to children and small changes resulted."

This fluidity between disciplines resonates with the centre.

"When he went back to London he joined the geological society not the zoological society," Penny says. "He saw himself as a geologist, and it was only once he had those ideas he thought 'you can extend this to look at the mechanisms of evolution'. So his interest in the natural sciences was broad."

And the expertise too at the AWC is broad, Hendy says.

"We have a structure that enables scientists from many disciplines to have a common frame and we benefit from input from computer science, from maths, from statistics, from botany, zoology, biochemistry and genetics."

Hendy confesses that although he is a professor of molecular mathematics, he didn't read Darwin's seminal *On the Origin of the Species* until "quite recently". Penny, on the other hand, as a biologist, has been "a very deep scholar of the Origins".

"I think I was just interested in where the ideas came from. My conclusion is that the ideas very much came from geology, the young Charles Darwin was a geologist who took the ideals of Lyell and developed them."

So how did Penny, a confirmed theoretical biologist who completed his PhD at Yale, and Hendy, a mathematician

and himself an internationally sought scholar – come together to form an evolutionary partnership that has spanned close to 35 years?

"Well I went to see one of the statisticians, Bruce Weir, with an evolutionary question," Penny says. "He asked if I would give a seminar to the maths department and tell them about the issue. I was terrified," Penny laughs. "I can't talk to mathematicians. Of course the mathematicians thought it was an interesting problem and would solve the problem in a few weeks but of course there were more and more layers."

Hendy adds that the Massey of the time in 1973 was much smaller, newer and a place where work could start "on breaking down the barriers between disciplines".

"It was a brilliant place to be in the early years. It could be done because as a new university there hadn't been the barriers put up there yet, and we were all young and looking for new things to do."

From there a group began to form between Penny and Hendy's postdoctoral researchers and students. Meetings in

Creative approach broke down barriers to study of evolution

The Allan Wilson Centre commemorates the life of one of New Zealand's greatest scientists, who revolutionised the study of human evolution.

Wilson was one of the first to apply molecular approaches through biochemistry and biology to the study of evolution. His 1987 announcement on the "Mitochondrial Eve" hypothesis, which said that mitochondrial DNA passed from mother to child showed that all modern humans could be traced back to one woman in Africa who lived more than 150,000 years ago, made Wilson one of the most controversial biologists ever.

Wilson is credited with giving scientists new tools to understand how life on earth evolved. He died of leukaemia in 1991.



Mike Hendy

remote locations ensued, to ensure staff could focus on the evolutionary business at hand. Work progressed intermittently, the major issue the short-term funding of New Zealand science.

When the Government of the time announced the establishment of long-term funding for Government “Centres of Research Excellence” in 2001, Hendy and Penny already had an established group of researchers – many at Massey on the Manawatu campus, others at Victoria, Auckland, Canterbury and Otago universities.

Their application was successful, and the Allan Wilson Centre became one of the five establishment CoREs. Last year, they were delighted to learn the centre had again secured funding.

That second-term secured, the pair both decided to hand over the reins to Professor Paul Rainey, who was appointed the centre’s director in October. Hendy and Penny remain as principal investigators, with a specific focus on several research projects.

“Early on I said I should learn more about biology,” Hendy laughs, “but David said no, as then he would be redundant.”

Penny agrees: “We do need specialists,” he says, “and we need generalists.

“What we really need of course is to have them talk across the boundaries of the disciplines, that’s where the advances can be made.”

Darwin, the geologist, would agree. ❖



David Penny

Mathematician has evolutionary insight

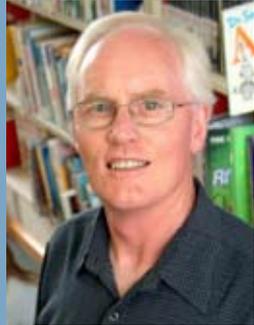
– Professor Mike Hendy’s contribution to mathematical biology was recognised in this year’s New Years Honours List where he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Hendy was awarded a 2008 New Zealand Science and Technology Award by the New Zealand Government for his “mathematical approach to molecular ecology and evolution [that] has transformed these fields and led to the acceptance that evolution is testable – a massive step forward. His quantitative methodology now forms an integral part of the phylogenetic software packages used worldwide”. To top off a great 2008, Hendy was also awarded the New Zealand Mathematical Society Award for “his innovative mathematical approach to molecular ecology and evolution which has transformed the field. 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”. A Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand since 2000, Hendy was executive director of the AWC from July 2002 to 27 October 2008. He remains a principal investigator.

History in the genes – Distinguished Professor David Penny and his research group are actively interested in a wide range of evolutionary questions where DNA sequences are critical. The two aspects of the research are devising better methods for extracting information from DNA sequences and asking important biological questions for testing. Penny is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. In 2000 he was awarded the Marsden Medal in recognition of the contribution he has made to science in New Zealand. In 2004 He was awarded the Rutherford Medal, New Zealand’s top science honour, in recognition of his distinguished contributions in theoretical biology, molecular evolution and the analysis of DNA information. Penny’s contribution to science was recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 2006 when he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services for science. Penny was co-director of the Allan Wilson Centre from its inception in 2002 until October 2008. He remains a principal investigator.

Understanding dyslexia

Contrary to popular belief, Albert Einstein was not dyslexic and neither was Winston Churchill, according to some of the world's leading authorities on the learning disability.

Dyslexia affects more than 70,000 New Zealand children. It was officially recognised by the Government only two years ago, but not all experts agree what causes it.



James Chapman

Massey University College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says a misunderstanding of dyslexia has led to common misconceptions about the disability, and that it must first be correctly identified and understood before it can be effectively addressed.

He says there are two differing views on dyslexia: a scientific, and a broader spectrum view.

"The scientific view is that dyslexia is first and foremost a reading disability, arising from difficulties with phonological and language processes," Chapman says.

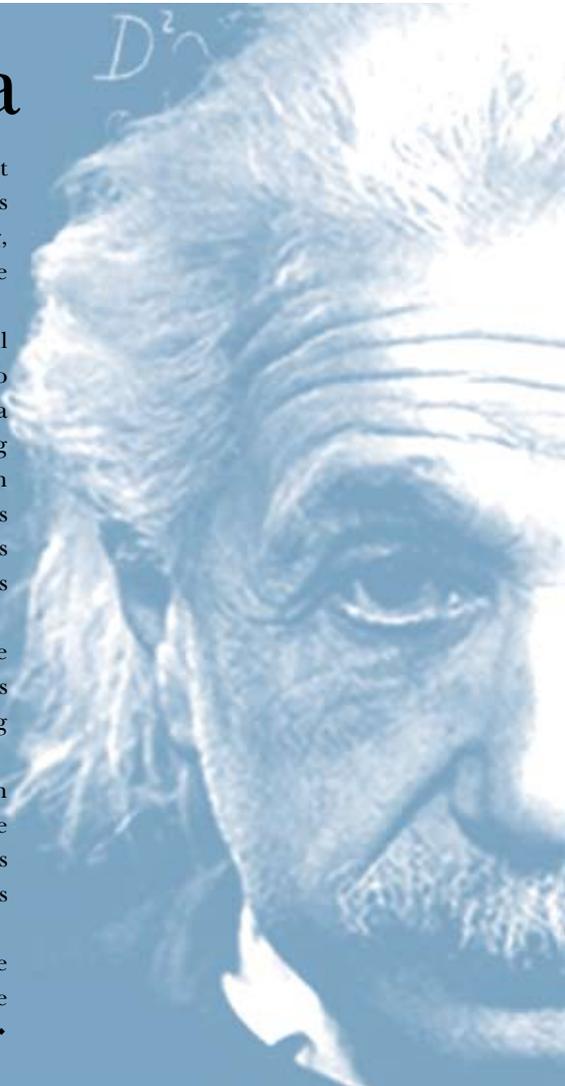
"The spectrum view however, is that dyslexia involves a range of disabilities that may inhibit learning, which may not necessarily be reading-related."

Both Einstein and Churchill were not dyslexic, according to the scientific view that dyslexia is a persistent literary learning difficulty and Chapman believes the spectrum view is difficult to support, despite its acceptance by administrations and foundations around the world.

He says incorrect diagnoses of those with learning disabilities inhibits progress in understanding and addressing learning difficulties.

"In order for the Ministry of Education to deal with dyslexia, with appropriate resources and policy, there must be a focus on what leading research says dyslexia is – a literacy problem," he says.

"Dyslexia occurs when an otherwise bright and verbal child has extreme difficulty in learning to decode words." ❖



Supercar makes tracks with help from racing legend

Motor racing legend Chris Amon took the Massey-designed Hulme Can Am for its first laps on the race track last month.

Designer Professor Tony Parker from Massey's Wellington Design School was trackside with Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey for the launch, at the A1 GP at Taupo.

Mr Amon says the car gave a "huge performance".

"I was pushing it in the corners and it feels like it has really good road-holding. I think it's brilliant."

The car, expected to reach a top speed of 300 km/h, will feature innovative, ultra-lightweight composite bodywork and race-orientated chassis, suspension and braking and is powered by a hand-built seven-litre V8 Chevrolet.

It's nearly seven years since entrepreneur and former Rolls Royce engineering apprentice Jock Freemantle yearned to



Hulme designer Tony Parker, racing legend Chris Amon and Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey discuss the car's road-handling at its launch at the A1 GP in Taupo.

see a low volume exotic car designed and built in New Zealand and established a company, Supercars Limited, to do it.

Massey design school transport design

lecturer Bruce Woods from the Albany campus put Mr Freemantle in touch with Parker who saw the project as a good research opportunity. ❖



Nutritionist's advice helps test umpire take the heat



Jennifer and Billy Bowden

Cricket umpire Billy Bowden no longer fears wilting during 10-hour stints in 40 degree temperatures at five-day tests in India, Pakistan, Australia and the West Indies. The international umpire has his wife, Massey graduate and nutritionist Jennifer Bowden, to thank.

New Zealand's only umpire contracted to the International Cricket Council's elite panel says her advice – drink water and eat regularly throughout each day – has dramatically improved his on-field performance, fitness and health.

“I've found I don't get as tired during cricket matches, especially the five-day tests,” says Mr Bowden, who spends up to eight months a year umpiring in hot climates overseas as well domestic matches back home in the summer.

Not all cricketers adhere to what might seem the obvious, with some drinking less than they should to avoid frequent toilet breaks, which disrupt play. Mrs Bowden says hot weather also tends to suppress appetite.

“There's a lot at stake, especially at the elite level, for athletes and umpires,” she says. “If you start the day a little bit dehydrated or deprived of nourishment, it builds up and affects concentration. You're asking for errors to happen. If there are 40,000-50,000 people in the stadium watching a game, you can't afford to make errors, which end up as the next day's headlines.”

Her high-profile husband is not the only person Bowden shares her nutritional expertise with. As well as writing a weekly nutrition column for *The Listener*, she recently launched her own website www.thinkingnutrition.co.nz

The idea for a well-researched, accessible, science-based website to help distinguish fad from fact in all the new information circulated on diet and food struck her soon after she completed a Master's in Science with distinction in human nutrition a year ago.

While other graduates from Massey's Albany and Manawatu-based Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health find jobs in food product development and nutrition research, Bowden says her penchant for writing about nutrition was encouraged by her

master's thesis supervisor senior lecturer Dr Carol Wham.

Her site offers regularly updated articles and blogs on issues ranging from caffeine intake to managing high cholesterol and suggestions for healthy snacks, as well as advice on nutrition for babies and children.

One of her basic principles is to encourage people to choose real food over a supplement, unless they have a diagnosed deficiency – such as iron or zinc. The former IT project manager says she once gulped vitamin pills and copious cups of tea to sustain herself in a stressful job.

“If you think you're getting more vitamin C by taking a tablet instead of eating an orange, you need to consider that with the tablet you are just getting vitamin C, whereas if you eat an orange you are getting a whole raft of nutritional compounds, fibre and much more.

Common sense rather than compulsive calorie counting drives her nutrition ethos. “Eating is a social activity, something that brings pleasure. It should be good for the body and the soul.

“Basically eat as much fruit and vegetables every day as you can, stick to low-fat dairy products, lean meats and fish and whole grains, but don't get obsessed over whether you've eaten something from the five colours (of fruit and vegetables) recommended on the back of the bus advertising.” ❖



Mark Brown

Stream to enhance interactive online learning environment

A new learning environment being introduced at Massey this year aims to bring the classroom into the living rooms of students.

Stream will provide teachers and students with an environment in which the transfer of knowledge, opinion and support will be a seamless experience, Distance Education Director Associate Professor Mark Brown says.

“Learning is not an armchair sport,” he says. “It’s a life-long process of constructing knowledge and rather than pumping large volumes of information into students’ homes, *Stream* aims to build a more vibrant digital learning culture.”

Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey says *Stream* symbolises Massey’s commitment to providing an exceptional and distinctive experience for all students.

“It will offer a rich interactive environment for knowledge transfer where students learn for tomorrow, today,” Maharey says.

Brown says *Stream*, which is based on the open-source programme *Moodle*, will help to promote greater engagement between staff and students.

“For distance students, online discussion forums will create a social experience, something which they may have been missing before. And internal students will be able to extend the learning networks they already have on campus.”

The new environment supports a dynamic flow of information, including access to the latest journal articles and short video and audio clips. *Stream* will also allow students to electronically submit and receive feedback on assignments.

“Another key feature will be the opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and present a showcase of their accomplishments in Massey’s international award-winning electronic portfolio,” Brown says.

But he stresses that *Stream* will not replace conventional forms of learning or the teacher.

“Massey is committed to quality teaching by blending the best of traditional media with new online resources, but only when they offer a clear advantage.”

For example, after attending a lecture or extramural course students will be able to enter *Stream* at their own convenience to watch a “video nugget” or listen to an “audio byte”, which poses questions and issues for classmates to vote on and discuss in the online forum.

“The intention is to promote active learning,” Brown says. “The traditional way of filling students with lots of information and then testing their short-term memories has no place in the modern university.”

Maharey says the move to *Stream* is the first in a number of initiatives that will form part of a larger strategy aimed at broadening and enriching the learning experience for all 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,” Maharey says.

Brown says *Stream* will be available this year to just a few carefully selected programmes.

“It will be rolled out gradually over the next year or so, as it’s important to focus on quality rather than quantity of paper offerings. We want to provide a consistent and transformative learning experience across a whole programme of study, not just single papers.” ❖





All aboard for the fastest Shakespeare on wheels



Actors Meg Andrews, Sean Sexton and Brendan Kinch take a scenic trip during recent rehearsals.



"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."
- Director Peter Hambleton

It's billed already as "the fastest Shakespeare on wheels" and it's well on-track to make its own unique mark on a popular annual production of the bard's works – now in its seventh year.

This year's Manawatu Summer Shakespeare will showcase one of Palmerston North's most popular attractions – the Victoria Esplanade railway – in *All's Well That Ends Well* next month.

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, Hambleton will direct the production during his time as visiting artist at the 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.

Hambleton says this year's cast of more than 30 is made up of experienced and new performers. Some are still at secondary 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."

Hambleton chose the play in part because of its obscurity.

"It's not one of Shakespeare's more well-known works, 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."

The season begins on March 5 and runs on the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, then again for two nights the next week from March 18.

All performances begin at 7pm at the train station near the Park Road entrance of the Esplanade. ❖



Where do we go from here?

Ben Jacobsen is Professor of Finance at Massey University

“...since greed fell from its pedestal, Europeans and Americans rediscover that most good things in life are still free and that money comes at a price.”

The All Blacks have not lost recently. Nevertheless even in God's own there is growing concern a crisis is heading our way: an economic tsunami resembling the 1930s. Worldwide we ignored how economies became gradually addicted to overspending.

We have just entered the “cold turkey” phase. Financial markets signal a tough road ahead for the economy. After several financial “Black Days” we moved on to the real economy. CNN described January 27 as “Bloody Monday” due to 74,800 job losses announced that day. How hard will New Zealand be hit? I am optimistic.

Just like addictions (so a friend tells me) it boils down to perception and psychology. Some people quit smoking without a second thought, others keep bickering and moaning about it. If you make it “issue #1” – as the US media did – “issue #1” it shall become.

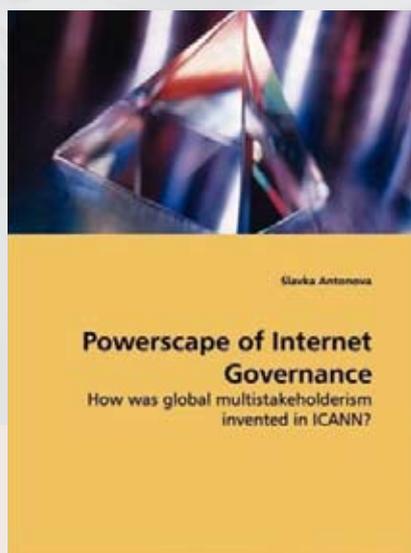
A “she'll be right”-attitude helps. Recession or not, people need to eat. With a low Kiwi dollar our exports should hold firm.

And if needed the Reserve Bank can lower interest rates further and keep New Zealand products competitive. A lower Kiwi dollar also increases tourism. Add lower commodity prices, few local banks, tax relief, infrastructural government spending and the World Cup in 2011 to this mix and we are well equipped to see this storm out.

But if that does not reassure you, the famous Dutch philosopher Johan Cruyff once said that every downside has its upside. OECD rankings and “The Economy” were becoming the new religion in the past two decades in both Europe and the US.

There, they had forgotten that you work to live rather than the other way around. But since greed fell from its pedestal, Europeans and Americans rediscover that most good things in life are still free and that money comes at a price. If you remain a sceptic I have one consolation left.

In the Kosinski novel *Being There*, Chauncey Gardiner points out that like the garden, the economy also goes through its own seasons. Once the deadwood is cleared, the economic winter will be followed by a spring where new ideas will take shape, and new developments will blossom. It is human nature. ❖



Powerscape of Internet Governance. How was global multistakeholderism invented in ICANN?
Dr Slavka Antonova
 (VDM Verlag)

More than a billion people surf the internet but few have googled to find out how this rapidly-growing global resource is controlled.

Ten years after its creation, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is considered one of the most powerful private corporations in the world.

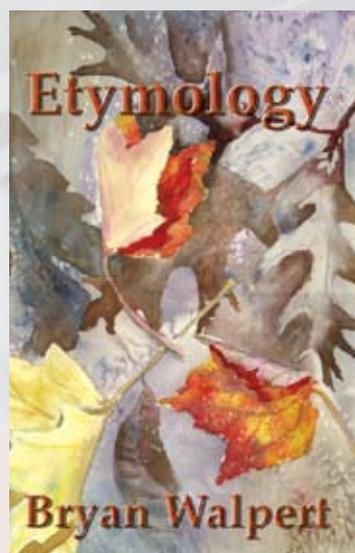
Lecturer Dr Slavka Antonova looks at the process of setting up the internet governance regime in her new book - *Powerscape of Internet Governance. How was global multistakeholderism invented in ICANN?*

She considers how ICANN, which is under the United States Government's policy supervision, was established as an "experiment" in multistakeholder global governance.

The starting point of Antonova's investigation is the conceptualisation of "power" along Foucault's decentralised model of power relations in networks.

Her book looks at the long-term effects of the ICANN "experiment" and answers such questions as: How is power shared among the stakeholders – Internet developers, businesses, non-governmental organisations, and governments - participating in the policy making process?

She has been invited to present the research and her book at a conference organised by the International Communication Programme available from the American University in Washington, next month. ❖



Etymology
Dr Brian Walpert
 (Cinnamon Press)

"In *Etymology* Bryan Walpert communicates with graceful humor and sharp intelligence his fascination with the lineage, history, and origins of words. ...a brilliant, playful and heartfelt calculus demonstrating that metaphor is poetry's etymology and as such he reminds us that the power of language is rooted in the contrarities of human speech." – poet Michael Collier.

Etymology is the debut collection from award winning poet, and senior lecturer in English Dr Bryan Walpert.

Walpert uses language with dexterity pushing at the boundaries of perception and meaning to take risks, tell stories or smuggle in-jokes.

Moving deftly between touching, but never sentimental, observations of human relationships and luminous accounts of objects, natural phenomena that take on meaning, *Etymology* is an intelligent, innovative lyric inquiry into discourse and sense.

Walpert's poems have appeared in such publications as *AGNI*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *New Zealand Listener*, *Poet Lore*, and *Tar River Poetry*.

He won the 2007 New Zealand Poetry Society International Poetry Competition, is poetry editor of *Bravado* and winner of a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for teaching creative writing in New Zealand. ❖

Decade of Māori mental health workforce leadership

An ambitious bid made a decade ago to secure funding for health scholarships has led to more than 200 Māori students gaining qualifications in mental health.

A symposium to mark the 10th anniversary of Te Rau Puawai, a scholarship programme administered by Massey and funded by the Ministry of Health, was held at the Manawatu campus on Friday, February 13.

The symposium showcased increased capacity and leadership made within the Māori mental health workforce and how Te Rau Puawai has contributed to the mental health sector. Speakers included Riki Nia Nia, one of the first graduates of the programme, who is the Capital and Coast District Health Board's Director of Māori Health.

Mr Nia Nia was managing a public health service in Whanganui when he enrolled in the Master of Philosophy (Māori Studies) programme extramurally under the supervision of Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Pasifika) Professor Mason Durie, then Head of the School of Māori Studies.

"The mentoring and financial support I received from Te Rau Puawai was pivotal in enabling me to achieve my Master's degree," Mr Nia Nia says. "The programme itself has contributed to the increase of professional capacity and capability in the mental health workforce and has enabled many Māori health workers to achieve academic success.

"It would be great to have similar programmes running in other areas, particularly where there are workforce shortages. It was a privilege to participate in the programme, I strongly recommend it to other potential recipients and I am committed to supporting current and future students."

Te Rau Puawai, which translates as the First 100, is offered internally and extramurally. As well as being one of the largest scholarship programmes at Massey, it also has the highest success rates. Since 1999, students have had a pass rate of 85 per cent and in the past two years that increased to between 90 and 95 per cent.

Professor Durie recalls when he and Professor Tairahia Black were due to meet with the former Health Funding Authority to discuss their proposal to fund 100 scholarships and did not think they would get what they asked for.



Te Rau Puawai programme manager Monica Koia, Ministry of Health Director-General Population Health Dr Janice Wilson and Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori and Pasifika Professor Mason Durie.

"Initially our proposal was for a scholarship programme for Māori health. The best we thought we might get was five to 10 scholarships. The authority offered to fund the entire programme as a workforce development programme specifically for mental health. The agreement was that the authority would provide funds for scholarships and administration and Massey would guarantee 100 graduates over a five-year period."

The target for the first contract was met. When the authority was disestablished the Ministry of Health's Mental Health Directorate took over funding the programme with consequent targets consistently met and exceeded.

Durie says the programme has pioneered a new approach to learning support built around active outreach to extramural students. "Te Rau Puawai has a whānau philosophy, uses expert tutoring, twice-yearly hui, course advice, regular telephone counselling and has created a wide network of graduates in the mental health sector."

Monica Koia has been managing the programme for Massey for the past seven years and is based at the Manawatu Campus in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She attributes the success of the programme to having support for learning from the students' workplaces, whānau and the university's academic staff as well as not having the stress of finding money to pay for fees. ❖

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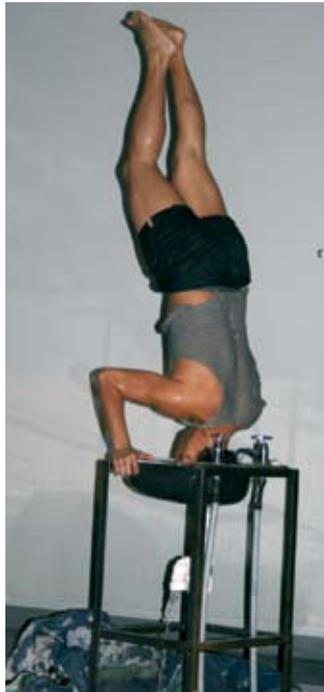
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22



Orientation and induction programmes commence for new students at the Albany, Manawatu and Wellington campuses.



Theatre production *Sleep/Wake* is a collaboration between renowned sleep expert Professor Philippa Gander of Massey University's Sleep/Wake Research Centre and the Playground NZ Ltd, a company headed by Wellington director and designer Sam Trubridge.

The performance, which merges art and science to explore the science of sleep, is being staged at the Auckland Festival 2009 from March 7-10 in the Auckland Town Hall. The production has been refined since its premiere at last year's NZ Fringe Festival.

The University's top vet and equine staff are available on-stand throughout the Horse of the Year show in Hastings.

Dr Chris Rogers, equine major leader, says a medical and surgical experts will be available for "consultation" on the stand from 10am to 3pm each day, with assistants – all vet lecturers – manning the tent for the whole day supported by final-year vet students and the Team Massey elite rider programme students and mentors.



The Sport and Rugby Institute will host an open day on 22 March between 9am-2pm on the Manawatu campus.

Built as a joint venture between Massey University and the New Zealand Rugby Union in 1999, the facility quickly established itself as a world class training and development resource for New Zealand's national game including the All Blacks.

While maintaining its status in the rugby fraternity, SRI has evolved into a leading edge training facility for a diversity of sporting codes and a venue for corporate team building, conferences, launches and functions.



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More than 200 schoolchildren meet business experts at the Manawatu campus for the Young Enterprise Scheme 'E-day'.



City-bound Aucklanders should ditch cell phones, iPods and laptops and bond with nature instead, a Massey graphic designer is urging.

Megan van Staden, 22, has created a series of love poems dedicated to Auckland Regional Parks in the hope others will be inspired to share the “bliss and peace of mind” she discovered there.

The project *Daydream* is part of a degree in visual communication. It took nearly a year to create, consists of four books of photographs celebrating the region’s natural beauty and includes images of her own love poems inscribed in sand, or made with twigs and leaves and set against sea and landscapes of Muriwai, Tawharanui, Long Bay, Pakiri and Wenderholm regional parks.

While researching the project at Massey’s School of Design in Albany, van Staden learned that psychological gains from immersion in natural surroundings include reducing depression symptoms.



Megan van Staden at one of Auckland’s west coast beaches.

