

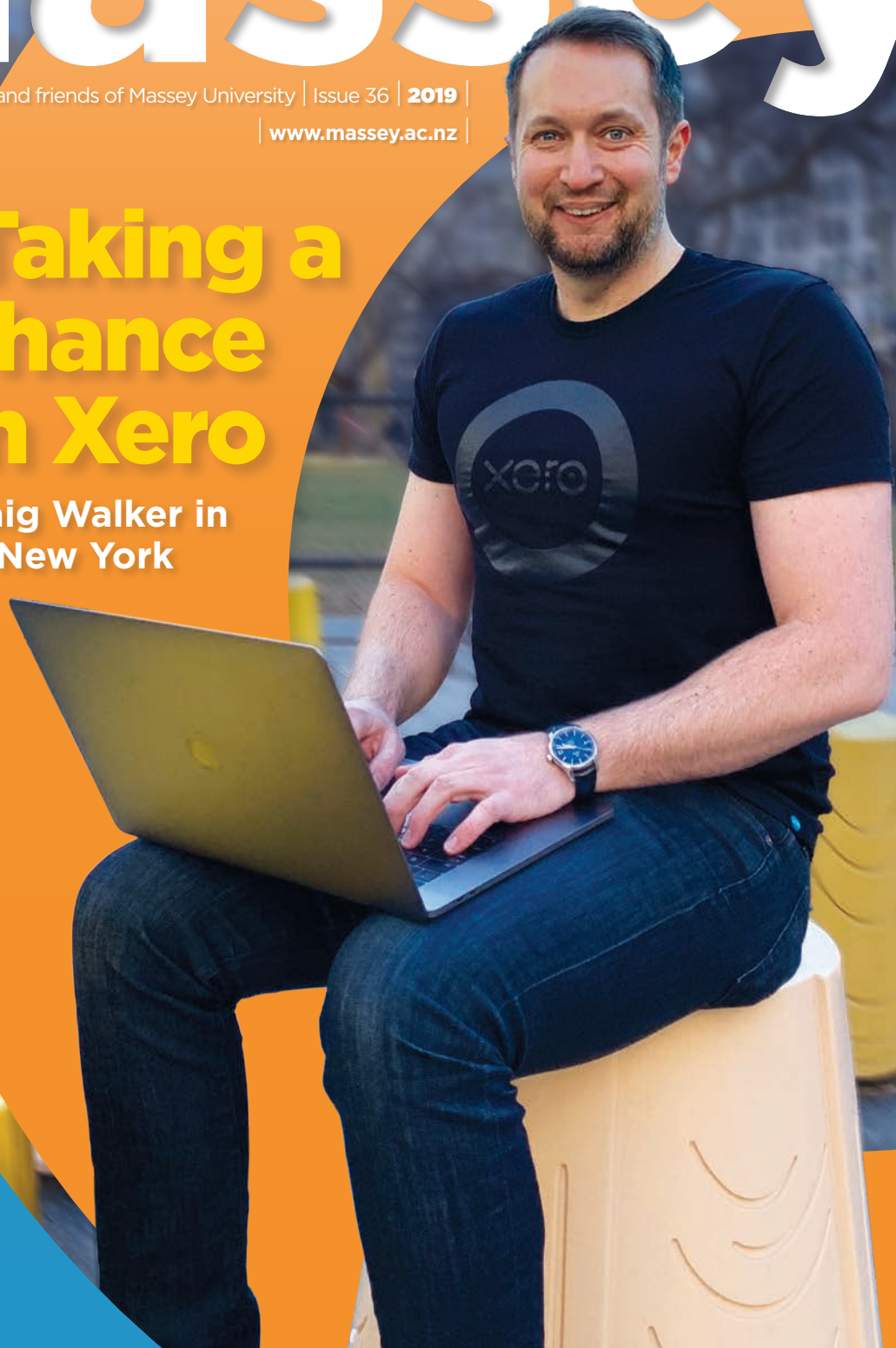
# Massey

The magazine for alumni and friends of Massey University | Issue 36 | 2019 |

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## Taking a chance on Xero

Craig Walker in  
New York



- ✦ Shihad singer's labour of love
- ✦ Going strong - Sir Mason Durie at 80
- ✦ Memory issues - reassuring new research



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TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND



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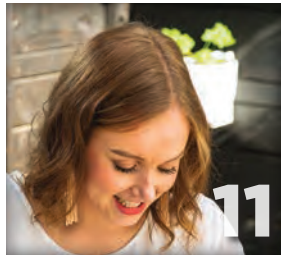
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**MASSEY UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION**



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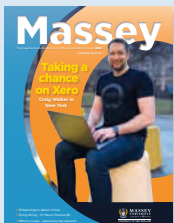
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Celebrating the achievements of Massey's alumni and staff.

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Readers of MASSEY magazine can now view much of the content online. Go to [massey.ac.nz/alumni-magazine](http://massey.ac.nz/alumni-magazine) to see many of the stories and images featured within these pages. If you have any feedback please email [alumni@massey.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@massey.ac.nz)



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# Massey will continue as a safe place from which alumni can fly



I write this just a few days after the tragic March 15 massacres in Christchurch that rocked our nation and shocked the world.

As I said in a message to staff that I sent out two

days later, on a Sunday, I felt distracted, sad and angry all at the same time. I was not alone.

We have many connections with Canterbury, including more than 600 students and staff based there along with more than 4000 alumni. Additionally, many hundreds of internal students at all campuses call Christchurch or Canterbury home.

Our first thoughts were for them, to establish that people were safe, and the outrage and despair we all felt as details of the events unfolded was tempered slightly but only slightly when we learned none were among the dead or injured. Our friends at Lincoln and the University of Canterbury did have students injured and, in at least one case, killed. At the time of writing details were not official.

We followed police advice and shut down the Islamic prayer spaces on all campuses, which naturally caused some concern at a time when Muslim students were desperately in need of those spaces.

We also decided to postpone the Defining Excellence Awards from 20 March 20 to 31 July. No one could really countenance the prospect of gathering to celebrate the achievements of

alumni and staff just five days after the horror that was still being played out in wall-to-wall news media coverage.

In the editorial I wrote before the shootings, I noted that while the University is woven into the fabric of New Zealand's economy and culture, it is also a conduit to the wider world.

After the Christchurch attacks, these words take on a new light. While the University is a launchpad to the wider world, we must also process and respond to, and prepare for, unwelcome developments from the wider world. As we have done in the past, Massey will continue to ask and help develop answers to tough questions.

In this issue, we feature several alumni who began their careers with Massey qualifications, and who are now visible on the world stage. Craig Walker, now in New York, sat down at a kitchen table with Rod Drury a few years ago to nut out the internationally successful accounting software company Xero. The wonderfully understated Professor Rosemary Horne, based at Melbourne's Monash University, is a world leader on sudden infant death syndrome whose research has helped save lives around the world. Dr Jim Young started out as a veterinarian in the Waikato but now works throughout Asia to improve food safety and food security. Captain Preston Wilson is literally flying high - for British Airways working out of London Gatwick.

Some alumni stay local and make their contribution from here. Dr Bridget Burmester is



breaking new ground in understanding age-related memory issues. Shihad frontman Jon Toogood worked with musicians at the School of Music and Creative Media Production to produce a new album that combines up-and-coming local talent with the sounds of northern Sudan.

In this issue, we celebrate the outstanding career of Massey's first head of the School of Māori Studies Te Pūtahi-a-Toi, Sir Mason Durie, who received an honorary doctorate days before his 80th birthday at the end of last year. He had just finished a busy year as a panel member of the Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry.

Massey's international students, too, are using the skills gained here in life-changing ways. Kisione Manu has graduated twice from Massey as he continues his quest to improve teaching and learning in Tonga.

I remain confident that Massey University will continue as a safe place for students and alumni to learn and grow, and for the work that we do to be as relevant as ever in contributing innovative solutions to the issues New Zealand and the world faces.

Professor Jan Thomas ■

## First aviation students complete Qantas training program



Aviation students Grayden Ecklein, Vanessa Brill-Holland and Darcy Clure with Captain Ian Griggs (second from right).

The first four School of Aviation students selected by Jetstar New Zealand for the Qantas Future Pilots Program are now working as first officers for the airline.

Cameron Nayler, Chase McDonald, Vanessa Brill-Holland and Darcy Clure completed the third and final stage of the Qantas' Airline Transition Course in

November 2018 at the airline's training centre in Sydney.

Senior base pilot for Jetstar New Zealand, Captain Ian Griggs, says Qantas' chief pilot was impressed with the group's professionalism and motivation and is looking forward to the next four Massey students entering the Qantas Future Pilots Program. Two students, Grayden Ecklein and Jacob Houghton, have already been selected.

Massey University was the first tertiary institution outside of Australia to join the program when it signed a partnership deal with the airline in May 2018. It offers aviation students a pathway to flying for Jetstar New Zealand.

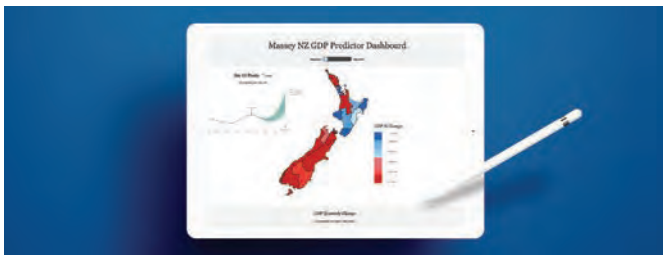
Captain Griggs says the airline partnered with the School of Aviation because of an expected shortage of pilots globally and the school's high standard of training.

School of Aviation chief executive Ashok Poduval says the partnership will be a game changer for pilot training in New Zealand. "For our best students, this programme is an amazing opportunity to transition into a reputable airline," he says.

## New portal tracks GDP in real time



Professor Christoph Schumacher.



Massey University has launched a real-time gross domestic product (GDP) tracker, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

Called GDPLive, the online portal uses machine learning algorithms and the most up-to-date data possible, including live data sources. It allows users to instantly see estimates of how the New Zealand economy is performing on a daily basis, and provides GDP forecasts.

Professor Christoph Schumacher from Massey University's School of Economics and Finance says GDPLive's use of cutting-edge machine learning technologies provides informed forecasts, making it a valuable decision-making tool for businesses. He says it will be a significant improvement on government reporting, which releases national GDP figures quarterly and regional figures annually.

"We've been told by companies that relying on three-month old data is too much of a lag in this day and age and they want live data to enhance their decisions," he says. "Our forecasts should also help businesses to look into the future to determine what their industry might look like in two or three months."

The GDPLive project ([www.gdplive.net](http://www.gdplive.net)) has been developed by the University's Knowledge Exchange Hub, headed by Professor Schumacher. Users can view historic data, current national and regional GDP figures and forecasts, as well as see a performance overview of a large range of industry sectors.

## Managing fatigue and shift work in hospital-based nursing

The Safer Nursing 24/7 Project has released a draft national code of practice for managing fatigue and shift work in hospital-based nursing for public consultation.

The project, led by Professor Philippa Gander, aims to improve health service delivery by improving both patient safety and the safety, health, quality of life and retention of nurses. Professor Gander is director of Massey's Sleep/Wake Research Centre.

Funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, the Safer Nursing 24/7 project includes researchers from Massey University and the New Zealand

Nurses' Organisation, and an advisory group with broad representation from across the sector.

The draft code is informed by a national survey of nurses' work patterns, and includes guidance on scientific principles for fatigue management and roster design, how to use the fatigue risk assessment tools, educational materials, and guidance on organisational and personal fatigue-risk mitigation strategies.

Professor Gander says sector knowledge and experience is a vital component of this new approach, which also draws on the latest fatigue science and international best practice.



Professor Philippa Gander.

## Pūhoro academy boosts Māori achievement



Part of the Pūhoro graduating class.

A Massey academy, which has been labelled a breakthrough in Māori education, has seen its first members graduate. The Pūhoro STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) Academy is

designed to boost the numbers of Māori students in the STEM subjects. The black-tie event in Palmerston North saw 67 students graduate, many of whom are now studying at Massey. The University has

contributed scholarships worth \$150,000 towards their study.

The Academy is the brainchild of director Naomi Manu, who saw the need for a STEM academy for Māori secondary students to provide a long-term skills pipeline from secondary school, through tertiary and into employment. It began in 2016, providing a wrap-around support programme for 97 Māori secondary school students in the wider Manawatū area.

Within a year, students who had not been on an academic pathway previously were exceeding expectations by passing the National Certificate of Educational Achievement at rates higher than the national average. Three years later, the Manawatū-based programme is the most comprehensive indigenous STEM programme in the world. Pūhoro has spread to Horowhenua, Bay of Plenty, Kapiti and South Auckland with 439 students taking part across years 11-13.

## Designer wins top prize with modified saddle

Industrial design graduate Holly Wright's specialised saddle for disabled riders won the top prize in the New Zealand section of the James Dyson Award at the end of last year. The global competition celebrates the next generation of design engineers.

Wright's saddle, called Contak, focuses on safety, experience and adaptability for the rider, volunteers and the horse involved.

"My design brings the rider 60 per cent closer to the horse which is important as the rider responds to the movement and gait of the horse. The further away from the horse they are, it's less stable and riskier.

"Putting a rider on a horse gives the rider the feeling of walking without assistance and means they are effectively walking on the same plain as able-bodied people."

Her design uses high-density polyethylene plastic, foam and felted wool, rather than wood and leather. "It will fit any shaped horse of any size," she says.

Prize money will aid the manufacture of a small run of prototype saddles for local testing. Market research suggests there is a niche international market.

Runners-up for the award included another Massey industrial design graduate, Georgia Fulton, who designed a sensor jacket for farm pigs that prevents piglets from being crushed by sows.



James Dyson award winner and Massey University industrial design graduate Holly Wright with her therapeutic equestrian saddle for disabled riders.

## New Gender Dashboard launched



Greta Parker with her grandmother Marian Lawson, a member of the National Council of Women.

She's one of the brains behind the campaigns and the kaupapa of Gender Equal NZ – Bachelor of Communication graduate Greta Parker has been with the Wellington-based organisation since its inception in 2017. The group is led by the National Council of Women of New Zealand.

Now, she's been pivotal in launching the Gender Dashboard, which brings together data on gender and equality to tell – in accessible stories – what that data means for us all. She's also rolling out the Gender Attitude survey again this year to measure shifts over time.

Her interest in communications for social change – to "make a difference" – was galvanized through her work experiences with Age Concern New Zealand and the National Council of Women. A Bachelor of Communication is, she says, "Not just about promotion and publicity" but also "fostering authentic two-way communication and understanding the benefits and value of that for organisations – what that can mean for society and the good it can do in communities."

# The many reasons for memory difficulties

Everyday memory difficulties are common and become more frequent with age. Dr Bridget Burmester talks to **Jenna Ward** about different ways to explain their cause.



Dr Bridget Burmester at her graduation.

Everyday memory difficulties can result from a combination of three factors: what kinds of tests are used to measure the memory difficulties, a person's emotional wellbeing and their brain speed. Research in this area by Massey University doctoral graduate Dr Bridget Burmester is a first of its kind in New Zealand.

She conducted a survey with 400 people and worked one-on-one with 94 people to look at their abilities in more detail.

"My results suggest that when clinicians or doctors are assessing age-related memory difficulties, it's important for them to also assess the person's emotional wellbeing. Even if it's not severe or doesn't qualify for an official diagnosis, it can still affect their memory.

"My thesis also showed that it's important for people who experience the odd memory difficulty, like forgetting someone's name, to cut themselves some slack, because lots of factors can affect this and it doesn't necessarily mean there's anything wrong at all."

Dr Burmester was surprised by how common these kinds of everyday memory difficulties are. "I am so grateful to have had so many people keen to take part in my research, and who were willing to share personal details of their lives with me so

that we can understand better how our brains work."

The 32-year-old, originally from Whangarei, gained her Bachelor of Science with Honours in psychology, and undergraduate degrees in mathematics and linguistics from Victoria University of Wellington. She now lives in Lower Hutt with husband Dane, and they're expecting their first child, a boy, in May. "It's exciting and scary at the same time," she laughs.

**"My thesis also showed that it's important for people who experience the odd memory difficulty, like forgetting someone's name, to cut themselves some slack, because lots of factors can affect this and it doesn't necessarily mean there's anything wrong at all."**

- Dr Bridget Burmester

So what does she think about the phenomenon known as "baby brain"?

"I have noticed it a few times during my pregnancy actually. Just absent-mindedness or difficulty concentrating. Generally though it's nothing you wouldn't expect given the extra work our bodies are doing, and would normally just brush off without a second thought. I think it's only because we have

this construct of 'baby brain' that makes us think it's down to that, when really we are probably just tired and a bit preoccupied."

Dr Burmester says the phenomenon is quite similar to what she noticed when working with participants in her PhD research. "Often people worry about memory loss being a sign of age-related symptoms when actually we don't give ourselves enough credit for just having what is a really normal experience for our age, situation, job, current stress level and all those other circumstantial factors that influence how well we can remember things on any given day."

Dr Burmester is currently working as a researcher for the Ministry of Social Development. "My background in psychology is central in my mission to improve New Zealand by making sure that the decisions we make are based on both sound research evidence and an understanding of what makes us all human."

She also recently began teaching weight classes at Les Mills, after discovering group fitness classes around the same time she began her PhD. "While doing my PhD was an amazing journey and I'm so glad I did it, it certainly came with its share of ups and downs. For me, attending gym classes was such a great way to keep myself healthy, both physically and mentally." ■

# ‘I’m starting my next big thing – you start Monday’

Faced with such a proposition, would you chuck in your job and risk it all? This is exactly what Xero founder Rod Drury asked chief technology officer Craig Walker, writes **Ryan Willoughby**.

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**M**assey alumnus Craig Walker took the night to think over the offer but decided it was a no-brainer. Who would refuse the chance to be on the ground floor of a global accounting software company, which now employs over 2000 people in 20 offices around the world? But on that night it wasn't a global company, not even close.

Walker was being asked to sign up with a company without an office, a name or even a single employee. But come Monday he would begin work, tasked with translating

the company's vision into technical reality as the chief technology officer, from the kitchen table of his apartment.

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## “Are you about done with this contracting bullshit?”

– Rod Drury

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A common theme of Walker's re-telling of how he came to this position is luck. “I am kind of the living embodiment of, ‘It's not what you know, it's who you know,’ ” Walker says. “But at the same time, the

only way that benefits you is if you work hard and earn people's trust – for them to bring you along on their journey, so you in effect make your own luck.” One of those people for Walker was Rod Drury, who proposed the job to Walker at Drury's 40th birthday.

“We had a five-second interaction in which he said, ‘Are you about done with this contracting bullshit? I'm doing my next big thing, you start on Monday.’ I think I took the night to think it over but I was never saying no. I had trust in Rod – we had worked together previously.



“At the time I was a small business owner, operating my business on an accounting system that was awful. So, to commit to a new venture that would solve problems that I was having myself just made sense. Rod had been talking for years about starting a company around online accounting services for small businesses. It was, in his view, the biggest modernisation opportunity on the web at that time. He





was just waiting for the right time to do it.

“Our challenge was in building the solution, but not creating a market need. The need was already there. A lot of start-ups are solutions looking for problems, but in our case we had a problem in need of a solution. We figured it would be a slam dunk if we did deliver the technology.”

That said, the man who could see what Xero could become had struggled to decide what he even wanted to do for much of his life. As a child, Walker dreamt of being an astronomer, as a teenager he reckoned he would be a pretty decent criminologist, and upon leaving high school he was going to join his brothers studying law. But at the last minute he withdrew his application to Victoria University and followed his mates to Massey’s Manawatū campus.

After his mum was able to grind down the accommodation staff, he secured his choice of place in the halls of residence and began studying. But rather than study computing he pursued a Bachelor of Business Studies, not knowing what to specialise in.

When he took an information management paper as part of his first-year, that choice became clear. “I realised I liked it, and I was also quite good at it, so I switched

to a Bachelor of Science. I began learning about IT management, databases, information architecture. These were topics I had never thought about before and my brain latched onto them.

“They have been critical, foundational skills for me throughout the rest of my career. In a nutshell, what I do is build data architecture and tools for data analysis. Essentially, turning data into useable information.”

However interested he may have been, the now-driven businessmen describes himself then as a “lazy student” who would only fire on all cylinders when he had a project to work on that he was passionate about. This work ethic never ceased to antagonise his teachers but would end up landing him his first job.

Systems. I sent an email to the company based on that poster. I’d never heard of them, and I probably would’ve never heard of them if I hadn’t been paying attention [to the poster]. And that’s how I got my first job.”

After a few years with Glazier, his career began to gain speed and Drury singled out Walker to join his new spinout company VIATX after seeing Walker develop a new way of building software.

“The new company was selling software as a service, before this was even a term. I went from being a graduate developer to being an intermediate developer suddenly, then a chief technology officer of this little start-up. We ran it for a couple of years, and it died,” he says cheerfully. “I think any true serial entrepreneur has had failures.

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## **“I remember a tutor had pulled me aside in class telling me off about how I didn’t pay enough attention.”**

– Craig Walker

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“I remember a tutor had pulled me aside in class telling me off about how I didn’t pay enough attention,” he says. Coincidentally, right behind his tutor was a poster for graduate positions at Glazier Systems.

“That was one of Rod Drury’s and Andrew Kissling’s first ventures and I got the joke - they were a Windows development company and they called themselves Glazier

I wouldn’t class myself as one but that’s how you learn. The learnings from that I took into my next role.”

After running a virtual chief-technology-officer consulting company for a number of years thereafter, Walker decided to pop along to his old boss’s birthday party, where he would be asked the question that would change his professional life. ■



# How Xero took form

“My first days at Xero were at my kitchen table. It was fun. We would get there in the morning and fly by the seat of our pants. Designing and building on the fly and having arguments, but good arguments. Throwing ideas at the wall and seeing how they stuck. We didn’t want to build an accounting system that was re-hashing what other accounting systems were doing. We wanted to build something new. Take a fresh look at the problem.

“If you had told me we would be a multi-million-dollar company with over 2000 employees worldwide and over one million customers, I would’ve laughed at you. I had no idea how big it could be. But I knew what we were trying to do. What’s weird for me, despite doing this for 13 years, is that Xero still feels early in its lifecycle. There’s more I want to achieve here – more growth I want to help the company pursue, more milestones around the corner.”

Walker is working on achieving some of those milestones in the United States, where he runs a New York City-based engineering team that builds new solutions for Xero’s customers. “I’ve always wanted to live in New York, ever since I was a kid. My first stop in the United States was in San Francisco. Once that office was up and running, New York was the clear next stop.

“The thing I’m most proud of is the teams that I have built. I’ve worked with some incredible people who possess what people in the technology world call ‘soft skills,’ but I hate the term. Soft skills are core skills. I don’t really care about a technology background. Technology can be learned.

“Things that can’t be learned are core skills like empathy, which is critical to understanding who the customer is, what the customer wants, what makes them tick, why you are building something. ‘Is this something that a customer truly wants?’ ‘How does it make the customer feel?’

“Those are questions that get a little lost sometimes. Sometimes product teams outsource these questions to designers, creating silos. Product managers worry about this stuff, and the technical people worry about other things.

I just don’t buy into that. I feel that it is everyone’s role to understand why they are building what they are building and to remember that there is a real person using this thing.” ■

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**“If you had told me we would be a multi-million-dollar company with over 2000 employees worldwide and over one million customers, I would’ve laughed at you.”**

– Craig Walker

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# Shihad singer's labour of love

For Jon Toogood, a master's thesis was a musical marriage of minds with his tutors – and inspired by his wedding and the Sudanese culture he married into. He talks to **Jenna Ward**.



**T**he Shihad frontman, who also leads side project The Adults, worked on this band's second album *Haja* to explore the music of the northern Sudanese people as part of his master's research. *Haja* is a respectful term for an older, experienced Sudanese woman.

The recording of the album itself – a celebration of the Sudanese music performed by women called Aghani-Al-Banat, interweaved with the music and lyrics of some of New Zealand's rising stars – also formed part of his research project.

His master's supervisor, Dr Oli Wilson, and the album's producer, Devin Abrams, are both senior lecturers at Massey's School of Music and Creative Media Production. Both are also practicing musicians, working as keyboardists in The Chills and Pacific Heights (a solo project for Abrams) respectively.

Toogood met wife Dana, the daughter of a former United Nations diplomat, at an event at the Auckland Museum and ended up visiting her northern Sudan homeland and converting to Islam. He also fell in love with what he describes as the country's "organic dance music".

Toogood was first exposed to Aghani-Al-Banat during his wife's wedding dance on the third day of his traditional Sudanese wedding ceremony in Khartoum. The

melodic mix of percussion and vocals reminded him of punk and hip-hop music, and he was keen to use it with some bass lines of his own. Aghani-Al-Banat, which roughly translates as "girl's music", is considered low-class in Sudan.

"I initially recorded renditions of my wife's wedding dance on an iPhone. I then went into a recording studio to work on it, but because of the nature of this form of music in Sudanese society, it's not seen as a recorded form of music, it's music that's performed live, so we hit a few road blocks," he says.

"Both the artists and recording engineers were uncomfortable. Because they were uncomfortable, the recordings and performances weren't as good, so I went back to the original iPhone recordings where the performance was on fire.

"It was a mono-compressed digital file. How do you make that presentable to people in the West who want to hear things in high fidelity, and sonically are used to hearing at a certain standard? All of the instruments I recorded over the top were recorded using high quality gear, but the mono files of the women sat in the middle of the mix really beautifully, and I could build up a sonically-superior landscape around it.

"However, I did really need Devin's skills to make that work," Toogood says. "I knew

I needed someone who came from the dance music world to articulate what I was hearing."

At the same time Toogood was recording music and enlisting the support of some of New Zealand's up-and-coming artists for the album, such as songstress Chelsea Jade, rapper Raiza Biza and hip-hop artist Kingz, he was also researching the cultural influences of where the music originated.

Toogood concedes the theoretical learning process was a bit of an adjustment after nearly 30 years as a working musician and, by his own admission, being a less-than-diligent student at Wellington High School.

"Coming from a New Zealand working class background and marrying into [an upper middle class] family where the mother would not want her daughter playing Sudanese music like Aghani-Al-Banat is a bit jarring. But it made me love it even more. I've always liked music to have a voice for those people who don't have a voice." ■





# Bags that!

Some unwelcome medical news set entrepreneur Bridget Scanlan on course for a career in making and selling a special kind of designer bag. She talks to **Sidah Russell**.

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**B**ridget Scanlan had just finished working out at the Massey campus gym when she got the phone call that would change her life. It was her doctor with the news that she had Type 1 diabetes.

“It’s a distinctive uni memory,” Scanlan says now, and she still clearly remembers the shock.

“I was previously really healthy but I just had a few weird symptoms that I thought

## Profile

I would get checked out. I certainly didn't expect it to be anything major."

At 20, Scanlan suddenly found herself lumped with a bagful of medical equipment and a requirement to self-administer blood tests and injections. At first, she wasn't comfortable with doing either and didn't want people to know about her condition.

"Social events are a central part of being at uni and I had this really big, brown tote that went with me everywhere, regardless of outfit," she says. "I'd go to the bathroom to do my tests and injections because I didn't want my stuff spilling out in front of everyone. It wasn't really that safe or discreet.

"From the beginning, I wanted a bag that was more suited to my needs. I definitely looked for it at the time and nothing existed."

Scanlan went on to graduate with a conjoint business and arts degree, which gave her a good mix of skills for her future as an entrepreneur. She also studied at NZ Fashion Tech and gained the technical sewing skills she needed to make that perfect bag a reality.

The push she needed to turn her idea into a business came when she was accepted into a programme run by Project Fashion Wellington, an initiative to help local designers launch a fashion label.

"I hadn't run a business before but my business degree at Massey was focused on entrepreneurship so I had a concept of what it would be like, and an idea of all the things that needed to be considered when starting a business," she says. "But the rest of it you just work out as you go by making lots of guesses and mistakes."

Scanlan says her time at Massey also led to crucial connections with mentors, including those at business incubator Creative HQ where she now shares space with other entrepreneurs.

She officially launched KYT (Keeping You Together) bags in May 2018 and is working on her fourth production run after a busy Christmas sales period. She's also in the design phase for a new men's bag and options for people living with allergies or cancer.

"We have definitely filled a gap in the market for a sophisticated handbag," she says. "Internationally, there are some companies that make accessories for people with diabetes, but they are still very medical-centric. KYT bags are special and sophisticated."



Scanlan says her biggest challenge was the mental shift required to put down her tools and move away from her sewing machine.

“It’s so easy to get tunnel vision when you’re working on a prototype, and you kind of presume that if you make it, somebody will buy it. But, actually, the selling of the bags and making people aware and excited is another huge part of the job.”

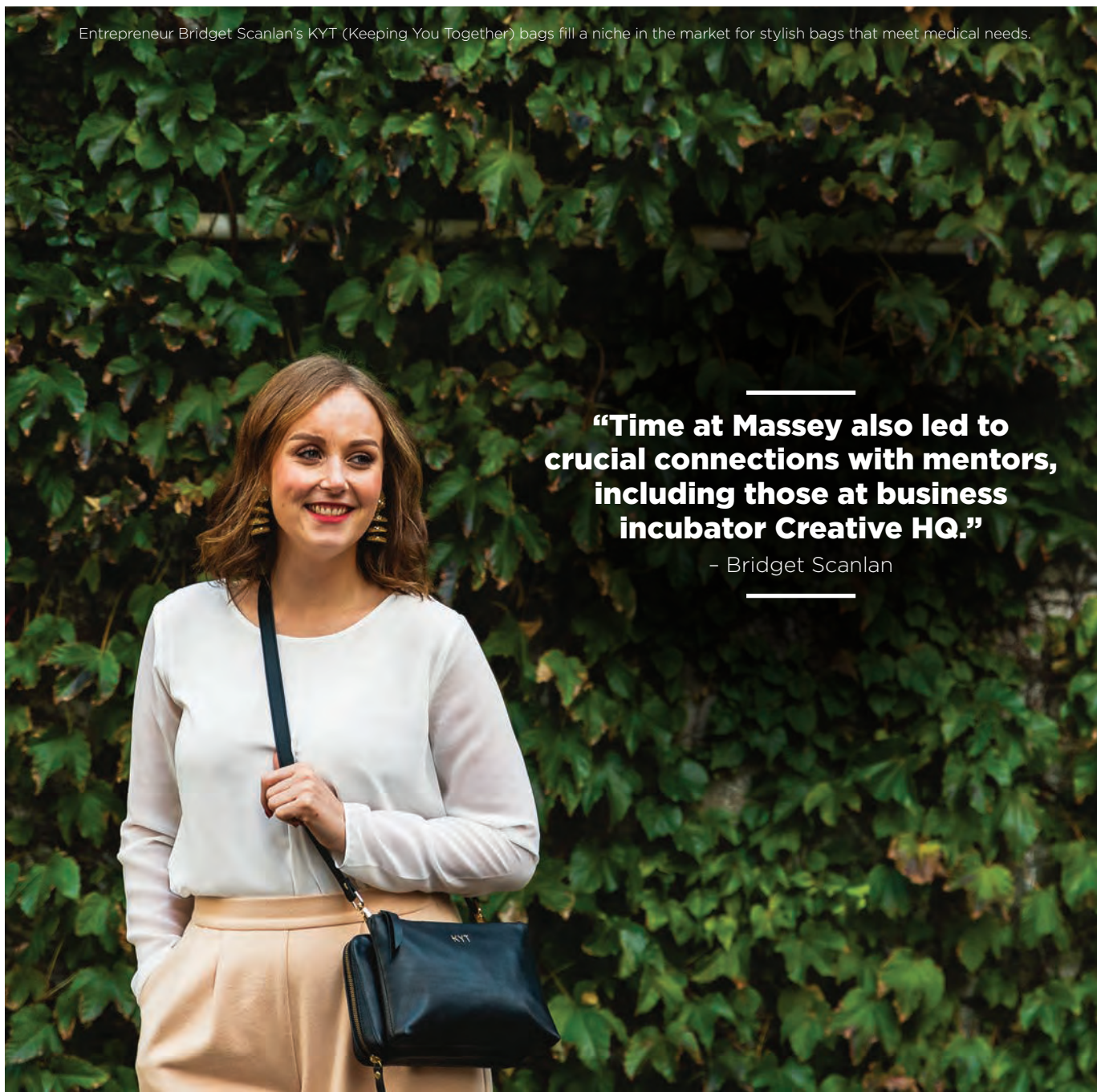
She says connecting with the diabetes community was what really made the bags “come to life”. Before that, she was creating largely for herself and it was an important shift to make sure she was solving other people’s problems too.

“The minute I made it a priority to embed myself in the diabetes community, it really became clear what my priorities were and what my design should be like,” she says.

This approach brought both personal and business rewards.

“What I love about working in a niche business is the emotional reaction people have to KYT – the stories that they send us about how something as simple as a bag has changed their day-to-day lives,” she says. “It’s exciting because our customers are really engaged and really impacted by our work.” ■

Entrepreneur Bridget Scanlan's KYT (Keeping You Together) bags fill a niche in the market for stylish bags that meet medical needs.



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**“Time at Massey also led to crucial connections with mentors, including those at business incubator Creative HQ.”**

- Bridget Scanlan

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# On the ball

Studying at Massey has become a whānau affair for Apirana Pewhairangi and his siblings, at the same time as he's pursued an international sporting career, writes **Jennifer Little**.

**A**s debate was firing up over Pacific rugby talent being poached by affluent northern hemisphere clubs, rugby star Apirana Pewhairangi, Ngāti Porou, flew in the other direction, returning home after a five-year stint in Ireland and England.

The rugby league five-eighths wasted no time on arrival in New Zealand and soon successfully trialled for the Vodafone Warriors, the team he'd played for in 2015 - the year after he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Māori studies and te reo.

Alongside his rugby career, Pewhairangi is now continuing his academic pursuits with a Masters in Māori studies by distance at Massey, with plans to do his thesis on his experiences as a Māori player in professional sport. He also has a role with Massey's Te Rau Tauawhi Māori student support.

His time living overseas has, he says, given him fresh perspective on his homeland - and the value of whānau and turangawaewae - as well as on how he approaches the next phase of his life in rugby. At the time of writing, he was on a semi-professional contract and playing for the Warriors' reserve team.

While he is glad to be back in the Pacific, it was family ties as well as rugby opportunities that inspired him to head to Ireland. His grandmother, born in Lucan, died when Pewhairangi was two years old but her nationality meant he qualified to play for Ireland. The first time was in the 2013 rugby World Cup, when he played in two of Ireland's tournament games. In 2015, he joined the rugby union side, Connacht.

Meeting his extended family in Ireland was a great experience, especially as most of them are avid rugby fans, he says. The Irish people were "so kind and welcoming - I could really see some similarities between them and Kiwis."

After two seasons and having recovered from an anterior cruciate ligament injury incurred while playing in Castre, France, he swapped the charmed but slow pace of life in Galway, with its 200 pubs, for busy, crowded London. There, he played league for the London Broncos for two-and-a-half seasons.

Pewhairangi says that having a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Māori studies, helped him during his time in Ireland and the UK with cultural encounters and strengthening his own sense of





Te Ataakura and Te Aorere Pewhairangi at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Manawatu graduation ceremony.

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**“As younger players, you have a lot of free time – getting an education is so important to have that life balance. And it gives you something to build on for the future.”**

– Apirana Pewhairangi

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identity. “The knowledge I have gave me confidence, in knowing who I am and where I come from.”

And it also helped him understand and empathise with the challenges of the Irish people in revitalising their native language, which hasn't yet developed to the level of te reo Māori in New Zealand, he says. A fluent speaker, te reo was his first and only language until he was 13.

Besides being a rugby player, Pewhairangi will continue to be involved as a coach and mentor, and in working to encourage young Māori athletes in the sport. One thing he will tell them is to make time to study – even if they want to pursue professional sport. “As younger players, you have a lot of free time – getting an education is so important to have that life balance. And it gives you something to build on for the future.”

Raised in Palmerston North, Pewhairangi attended Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Mana Tamariki immersion school. In 2009, at 17, he signed with the Newcastle Knights for three years, before

signing to play in the National Rugby League for the Parramatta Eels in 2013 on a two-year contract. When he has had the chance to be in Palmerston North, he has coached and mentored young high school rugby league players. He also represented New Zealand in rugby league, for the Junior Kiwis in 2012 and the New Zealand Māori side in 2013.

He says his parents Tu and Irene Pewhairangi, both teachers, instilled in him the value of education. His sister Te Ataakura (Bachelor of Arts in Māori studies) and brother Te Aorere (Bachelor of Communication) also studied by distance at Massey, both graduating last year. Since then, his brother has completed a master's in media studies through Waikato University. Now, all three are bringing their knowledge and experiences back to Massey's Auckland campus, in Albany, in a range of roles – Apirana is with Te Rau Tauawhi Māori student support, Te Aorere is a senior Māori advisor and Te Ataakura is a te reo lecturer in Te Pūtahi-a-Toi, the School of Māori Knowledge. ■

# Scaling up market research



By using virtual reality in groundbreaking ways, PhD candidate Alexander Schnack is creating a new kind of market research business. **Sidah Russell** explains.

**A**lexander Schnack started out with a fairly standard marketing topic for his doctoral thesis, but he couldn't find a reliable way of measuring consumer responses. The process of solving this problem has led to a new virtual reality (VR) market research business.

"I wasn't happy with the usual survey approaches like questionnaires," Schnack says. "With my master's research I had some problems where I felt people would say they would buy particular things, when in reality they wouldn't."

"So I was looking for a different way of observing actual consumer behaviour when I came across VR. I wondered why no one was using it for market research. I thought the time was right to jump into this VR gap."

He called on a computer programmer friend to help him build a VR system using an existing game engine. His PhD supervisor, Professor Malcolm Wright, saw its potential immediately. This led to the system being licensed by Massey University spinout company Consumer Insights.

Professor Wright, a director of Consumer Insights, says the market research company is commercialising the system, allowing New Zealand companies to use VR to test such things as product packaging, store layout and shelf positioning.

"We are now working with potential clients both nationally and internationally," Professor Wright says. "Our business model scales up nicely, it's internationally portable, and there are many related VR services we could launch. We hope to give VR shopper research a really strong push, and see how far we can take it."

Meanwhile, Schnack's thesis changed to determining if purchase behaviour in a virtual environment closely resembles behaviour in a real environment.

"I've compared the results of desktop simulation and VR simulation and VR is better in terms of usability and telepresence, which describes the degree of involvement in a virtual environment. The higher the telepresence, the more realistic people's behaviour will be," he says.

"VR simulations mimic a real shop, for example, you have to bend down to pick something up from the bottom shelf, unlike a desktop simulation where you are just clicking on items.

"So it offers a good trade-off between cost efficiency and realism. It's much better than rudimentary tools like questionnaires, which are cheap, and a lot less expensive than test market initiatives, which cost millions because they require retailers to reconfigure their stores."

Schnack is developing a new study to analyse brain activity while shopping in a virtual store using electroencephalography (or EEG).

"We are looking not only at purchase outcomes, but also at brain activity while the person makes purchase decisions," he says. "The software calculates the emotions people are feeling as they shop, including excitement, interest and stress."

He hopes to compare how people feel when they use different methods to move around the virtual world, and how this ultimately impacts on what they buy.

"When you are hooked up to a VR system, you're limited in the distances you can travel so we're currently constrained to a small convenience store environment," he says. "If you want to test a large scale supermarket or warehouse store, you need to find a different way of moving through it."

The most common way of moving in gaming environments is teleportation, where the player simply points to a location and they instantly move there. Schnack's exploratory study will investigate whether using teleportation affects consumers' decisions.

"If you want to use techniques like teleportation in market research, you really have to understand how it might impact your results. That's the only way you can make informed decisions when designing the research project," he says.

Both Schnack and Professor Wright believe VR will have an impact on online sales as well.

"It will make shopping online an entertainment experience," Schnack says, "as retailers offer an immersive retail environment to build their brands." ■

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**"I wasn't happy with the usual survey approaches like questionnaires."**

– Alexander Schnack

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Kisione Manu pictured after his graduation ceremony in Palmerston North last November with family members. From left: Roseta Tausala, Lili Sinoti, Amelia Manu Junior (front), Manu, Lupi Manu, Ruby Tausala Junior (front), Leva Sinoti and Barry Scotts.

# Unleashing resources within the learner

Kisione Manu has graduated twice from Massey as he continues his quest to improve learning in Tonga. He talks to **Jennifer Little**.

**K**isione Manu has loved science since he was a high school student in Tonga. It was one particular teacher’s inspirational style that got him hooked, he recalls, despite her disavowal of evolution because it did not align with her staunch Christian views.

Manu’s passion for science led on to a Bachelor of Science at Massey ten years ago, which in turn led to a commitment to science education. For a decade, he taught chemistry and biology at Tonga High School then began a job in 2015 as a senior qualification analyst at the Tonga National Qualification and Accreditation Board, in Nuku’alofa.

He noted gaps in local knowledge and structures about how best to support students to achieve educationally – so he returned to New Zealand to complete a Master of Education at Massey’s Institute of Education, again through a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand Scholarship initiative.

His thesis continues his quest to ensure Tongan secondary and tertiary students receive the best possible learning opportunities. His research explored a critical aspect of educational achievement – the ability of a student to gauge how they are progressing, and to determine what further support or resources they need to succeed.

Recognising the relevance of Pasifika ways of learning, and the role self-assessment can play in Pasifika students’ success, has been one of the highlights of his educational journey, he says.

“Self-assessment requires the Pasifika learner to examine the ‘self’ on how, what, where their learning is, at different points. It pushes the Pasifika learner out of their comfort zone, from not always seeing ‘the help’ coming from elsewhere, but unleashing resources from within the ‘self’ as a learner.”

Research on Pasifika students’ success has consistently voiced the importance of nurturing respectful relationships between teachers and students, he says. Another important aspect is the cultural capital students bring to the learning situation – this also applies to Pasifika students in New Zealand.

**“Self-assessment requires the Pasifika learner to examine the ‘self’ on how, what, where their learning is, at different points.”**

– Kisione Manu

Pasifika students’ success is influenced by various factors, including language differences; cultural, family and communal commitments; socio-economic factors; unfamiliarity with academic culture, and the appropriate behaviours and actions in such a context; lack of communication and help; and Pasifika shyness.

He says tertiary education is still in its infancy in Tonga and he hopes his work as a senior qualification analyst, equipped with new understandings from his postgraduate research, will contribute to high standards.

“I think there is still work to be done at the university level to ensure that Pasifika students feel that they are entering into an environment where they belong,” he says. “Having a Fale Pasifika space is a good start but more can be done through teachings and creating learning materials that are Pasifika user-friendly.” ■

# Massey's first Asian graduate travelled far

A remarkable life's work in anthropology and plant biology, including prestigious awards, began for Doug Yen in Palmerston North. **Ryan Willoughby** explains.



Above: 1972, Doug Yen en route by helicopter to Tasaday with Mai, a tribal leader of Tboli, as guard and guide.

Right: 1971 on Anuta, a Polynesian island in the Solomons. Yen with Pu Notau (3rd right) and family who adopted him.



**S**tories of tribes untouched by the modern world have enthralled humanity for hundreds of years. In 1972, Massey alumnus Doug Yen was packing his bags to investigate one such tribe in the middle of a rainforest of Mindanao in the Philippines. But how did a man from New Zealand, whose father

had envisioned him as a medical doctor, end up in a rain forest in South East Asia? Born in Wellington to Ernest Hai and Lily Yen, Yen says his father wanted what every Chinese father wanted – a doctor in the family. So he sat an exam in Wellington. But an opportunity to study agriculture at Massey or Lincoln presented itself. So

he packed his bags for Palmerston North in 1944.

Things were a far sight different back then as World War II had stripped what was then known as the Massey Agricultural College of most of its staff, and students were away in the war. “I admit, I didn’t know the first thing about agriculture,”

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## “The work we did together is what I look back on with pride.”

– Doug Yen

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says Yen. “I didn’t know one end of the cow from the other. So they made me go early and stay in the old hostel next to the refectory for some introductory work. Our freshman degree class numbered about six.”

But the classes were later augmented by returned servicemen completing their degrees and new students from the establishment of horticulture.

In 1947, Yen made college history as the first student of Asian descent to graduate, with a Bachelor in Agricultural Science. He followed this with a field husbandry thesis on root development in grasses and clover and a Master in Agricultural Science in 1948. “Students would be shocked at the equipment I was using then. You wouldn’t believe how primitive it was, but we made do with what we had.”

Out of university, he began work with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. First, as a plant breeder at Lincoln, then in 1953, in charge of the vegetable section of the division, where he bred varieties (garden peas and horticultural beans and tomatoes) with resistance to various diseases.

In 1957, he began research on the sweet potato, arguably his best-known work, receiving grants from the Rockefeller Institute, which took him all over the world to collect samples. However, DSIR decided the collection was becoming too vast to upkeep. So Yen sent the collection to Japan where it was preserved in a special germ plasma bank, protecting what would otherwise have been lost. The New Zealand samples would eventually make their way back for preservation in New Zealand and for researchers to study here.

After this, Yen decided to head to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, becoming

an ethnobotanist, a person who studies a region’s plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of a local culture and people. “The Bishop Museum appointment was significant, not just to my career, but to Pacific prehistory in general.”

The most significant project was the Southeast Solomon’s Project with Professor Roger Green of the University of Auckland. Financed with two major grants from the US National Science Foundation in 1972 and 1976, it significantly contributed to the archaeology and knowledge of agricultural systems of the Melanesian and Polynesian islands, as well as in developing the careers of younger archaeologists who participated.

In 1972, Yen’s curiosity took him to the Philippines to investigate the Tasaday tribe, a group of 26 tribespeople, claimed to be isolated from the outside world for hundreds of years. He led a team of two botanists from the National Museum, Manila, and linguist Dr Richard Elkins.

“We followed the withdrawal of two Philippine anthropologists due to gunfire from unknown attackers. Due to illness, Dr Elkins had to leave after four intense study days, and I asked for him to be replaced by Carol Molony, from Stanford University, who was in Manila at the time.”

Yen was there for 38 days to see the hunter-gatherer group. A lot of controversy followed about the tribe, but it was a massive adventure for the man from New Zealand.

In 1980, he continued to globetrot when he was offered a professorship at Australia National University in Canberra. “This professorship offered me the opportunity to compare the Australian Aboriginal hunter-gatherer with the agriculturist of neighbouring Papua New Guinea, as well as experiencing a desert and its plants for



Doug Yen with his granddaughter Lily Clayman.

the first time.” These included the desert Ipomoea, of which there are many species, including those producing edible tubers like sweet potato.

Yen retired in 1990 as a Professor in Prehistory. He was named a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, a very prestigious title, but he is most proud of the Elsdon Best Memorial Award, awarded by the Polynesian Society as a medal and prize to those who have had a bearing on Māori ethnology, social anthropology, archaeology, prehistory or linguistics.

But he shies away from praise. “I was apparently so successful, but in my career it’s the people I have had the privilege to work with who matter. Their skills. I owe them a lot. The work we did together is what I look back on with pride.” ■

# Sleep, baby, sleep

Professor Rosemary Horne is one of the world's leading experts in paediatric sleep and sudden infant death syndrome. She talks to **Jenna Ward** about her distinguished career.

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Professor Rosemary Horne has an international reputation in her field, with her research changing how sleep disordered breathing in infants is treated.

**N**ow heading up the Infant and Child Health theme at The Ritchie Centre, Monash University in Melbourne, Professor Rosemary Horne originally wanted to be a vet.

She began her studies at Massey in the 1970s, completing a Bachelor of Science in zoology and physiology, and a Master of Science in zoology.

“I really enjoyed my time at Massey. It was a time when the university was just developing. It was quite a dynamic zoology department and set me up really well for later education and my career,” she says.

“When it came time to do my PhD, ten years after finishing at Massey, it was the foundation of that research that set me up. Doing a double major for my undergraduate degree gave me the versatility to change career paths later down the track.”

Professor Horne met her husband Tony French, also a Massey graduate, while at Massey, and towards the end of her master's study, the couple decided to spend three months driving around Australia. It was this

there, before getting a job at the Australian Antarctic Division.”

Professor Horne's pioneering attitude shines throughout her career – she was one of the first women working in biology to

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**“I really enjoyed my time at Massey. It was a time when the university was just developing. It was quite a dynamic zoology department and set me up really well for later education and my career.”**

– Professor Rosemary Horne

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trip that spurred the couple to make the move across the ditch in 1978, fleeing the Muldoon era and a lack of job opportunities.

“As soon as I handed in my thesis we made the move, settling in Ballarat where Tony got a job at a law firm. I worked at the hospital

travel to the Australian Antarctic Division in Antarctica.

She worked at the division for around three years, before getting a job at Monash University at the Queen Victoria Hospital in central Melbourne in 1982.



Professor Rosemary Horne (centre, bottom row) with her team at the Infant and Child Health Research Group at The Ritchie Centre, Monash University.

“It was here that I was offered the chance to do my PhD. I did it part-time, over six years while working full-time, and submitted my thesis just before our second child was born.”

Professor Horne’s research has made major contributions to understanding the mechanisms that underpin the risk factors for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and the translation of this research into reducing SIDS risk through public education. World-recognised safe sleeping guidelines are a result of Professor Horne’s 30 years of research.

“My PhD thesis was about sleep and arousal responses in lambs. So when I returned to Monash in 1995, this research set me up well to work on a project looking at the effects of sleeping position on arousal in babies. We know sleeping babies on their tummies puts them at the biggest risk of SIDS, so we wanted to better

understand the mechanism which causes that.”

Professor Horne developed the programme in SIDS research, and has since diversified into other areas of sleep in babies and young children.

Included in her many accolades, Professor Horne was awarded the 2014 Australasian Sleep Association Distinguished Achievement Award for her contributions to paediatric sleep research and mentorship of early career researchers, and last year she received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the International Society for the Study and Prevention of Infant Death for her contributions to SIDS Research.

Born in Hastings, Professor Horne went to school in Auckland, first at Devonport Primary School and later at Westlake Girls’ High School. The couple’s three children, Rachel (32), Thomas (29) and Kate (26) were all born in Australia, and Professor

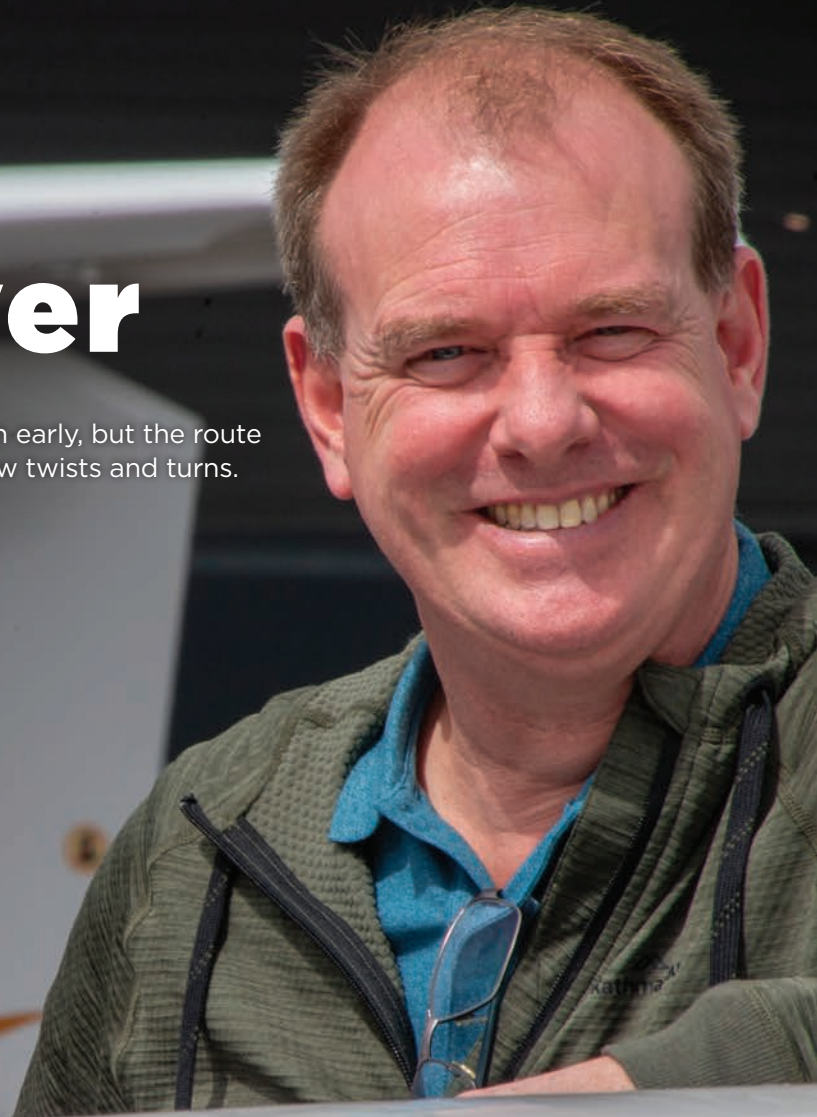
Horne and Tony recently became grandparents to Rachel’s daughter Nora.

“We are immensely proud of our kids. Our eldest, Rachel, lives in Berlin and both she and Kate are lawyers, like their dad. Kate is based in Canberra and regularly visits Melbourne where she is completing her master’s degree. Thomas works in Melbourne for a large company, running all of their IT across the country and in China.”

Professor Horne loves gardening, Tai Chi and being part of a book club with friends, and says she’s thankful to have been able to travel a lot during her work. “Probably my favourite place was visiting the Galapagos Islands. I had a conference in South America and we went there afterwards. I had always wanted to go – probably the zoologist in me. It was fantastic, just like the David Attenborough programme.” ■

# High flyer

Preston Wilson set his sights on a career in aviation early, but the route to captaining his first commercial flight took a few twists and turns. He talks to **Ryan Willoughby**.



“It’s the only thing I’ve ever wanted to do,” Captain Preston Wilson says. “My uncle took me flying when I was eight or nine and I felt somewhat queasy by the end of the flight, but I was hooked.” After getting his Private Pilot License at Bridge Pa in Hawke’s Bay in 1986, Captain Wilson tried enlisting with the Royal New Zealand Air Force. But he was turned down because his eyesight was not up to the required standard.

He decided that pinning all his hopes on one career might be unwise. His back-up plan came in the form of a four-year Bachelor of Technology majoring in manufacturing at Massey’s Manawatu campus. Unfortunately for Captain Wilson, Massey’s School of Aviation was yet to open.

“Back then I thought I enjoyed engineering, but I figured out through my degree I wasn’t much good at it. I don’t regret anything. Aged 18 I was too young to go flying professionally. Getting that life experience was really important. I was always thinking of aviation, but I needed something to fall back on.

“Massey gave me a set of tools, and it gave me a method of learning – the ability to knuckle down and get stuff done when it needs to be done. Another benefit was the friends I had when I was at Massey. We all went to London at a similar time. We’re still mates.”

Once graduated Captain Wilson began working at the Aluminium Smelter at Tiwai, Southland. After that job, he decided to do something that interested him more: computing.

“It was literally the making of me.” He worked on meat processing software for freezing works in both the South and the North Islands – lots of responsibilities, delivering projects on time, and a continued focus on learning new skills and techniques. “I would have stayed but the time had come for me to take the big OE.”

The young man from Havelock North jumped on a plane for London. After contracting in the IT industry for three years, his wife suggested it was time to realise his dream of flying. He signed up as a cadet pilot with British Midland in 1998, completed





British Airways Captain Preston Wilson on a tour of Massey's newly revamped School of Aviation.



## Never fazed

As a young Māori woman, Tabitha Winiata stood out at last year's graduation ceremonies with her beautiful korowai and gold Wings brevet pinned to her robes – the brevet showing she had attained her commercial pilot's licence. The Bachelor of Aviation graduate was a rarity in a programme of mainly male students.

Winiata, Te Arawa, Ngāti Tamaterā, told Māori Television she was never fazed by being part of such a small minority group.

"It's nearly unheard of," she said. "But I was really lucky that a couple of the girls that I started my course with were actually Māori and female, and doing aviation just like me. They've been really good role models."

Winiata was the first in her family to graduate with a university degree, despite originally going to her school careers advisor to find out about becoming an air hostess.

"The advisor said, 'You're too smart for that, you need to broaden your horizons.' She got me some trial flights up in Hamilton, and from the first take-off I was so hooked I couldn't do anything but think of aviation."

She's now hoping to establish a career as a commercial pilot and would love to see more young Māori women choosing tertiary education. ■

18 months of training, and first flew the Airbus A320 in February 2000. "I spent six very enjoyable years flying around Europe and the UK, learning my craft as an airline pilot."

In 2006 he joined British Airways as a first officer on the Boeing 777, flying long haul routes. "Some of the sights we saw were amazing, around the world, and from 35,000 feet, but wanting to be home more often drew me back to the short haul world."

He's been a British Airways captain since 2015 based at London Gatwick. "Being the commander brings a different mindset in terms of getting people from departure to destination safely, efficiently and on time. I really enjoy the day-to-day work of both flying and managing the plane.

"Teamwork (an overused phrase, sometimes) is literally at the hub of what we do, no one person could ever get a commercial aircraft to fly, on her or his own."

He is still drawn back to Massey thanks to Massey University Foundation director Mitch Murdoch, who met Captain Wilson in their university days. He now serves on the board of the UK Friends of Massey, a charitable trust for those looking to donate to Massey researchers and students.

Returning to the Manawatū campus some 27 years after leaving, he recalls, "I always enjoyed the campus, with the trees and park-like surroundings. It seemed a pleasant contrast and break from lecture theatres and science laboratories, which I think helped my learning." ■

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**"Massey gave me a set of tools, and it gave me a method of learning – the ability to knuckle down and get stuff done"**

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– Preston Wilson

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# Giving and receiving

Sir Mason Durie has received an honorary degree from Massey University at the same time as his work to improve New Zealanders' health continues.

**Jane Blaikie** looks back.

**A**fter a long and successful career, some might be tempted to step back and take it easy. But not Sir Mason Durie, who was presented with an honorary doctorate shortly before turning 80 at the end of last year.

Sir Mason, Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Raukawa, is well known for his work in Māori health and for his years at Massey University, which culminated in him being the instigator of Massey's

College of Health, which opened five years ago.

In 2017 he received the Blake Medal, New Zealand's premium award for leadership, and in 2018, he spent the year as a panel member of the Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry. The panel held hundreds of meetings, read thousands of submissions, and delivered 40 recommendations for reform.

Sir Mason began his career as a psychiatrist, becoming the second Māori

psychiatrist in New Zealand, after Dr Henry Bennett. Key to dealing with growing community concern around the issue of mental health has been changing the focus on hospital treatment to a focus on community leadership.

The move away from over-reliance on hospitals has been a welcome change from a century ago when New Zealand had among the most psychiatric hospital beds per capita in the western world. The shift in the 1970s toward community mental health care was

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**“You can’t have wellness if you have social and economic inequalities such as poverty, educational failure and unemployment. In that respect, achieving optimal standards of health and wellbeing cannot be left to the health sector alone.”**

– Sir Mason Durie

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Photo: Brendon O'Hagan, Sir Peter Blake Trust

welcome but the next step will be an even sharper focus on wellness, Sir Mason says.

“You can’t have wellness if you have social and economic inequalities such as poverty, educational failure and unemployment. In that respect, achieving optimal standards of health and wellbeing cannot be left to the health sector alone.”

In early 2019, Sir Mason was announced as one of three finalists for Senior New Zealander of the Year. He is currently an advisor to the Māori health organisation, Te Rau Matatini; a trustee of Aorangi Marae near Fielding; and a patron, with his wife Lady Arohia, of Arohanui Hospice in Palmerston North.

At Massey, Sir Mason was a key member of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences team and helped to establish of Te Pūmanawa Hauora, the Māori Health Research Centre, in 1993 and the School of

Māori Studies, Te Pūtahi-a-Toi in 1988. He was head of the school for 14 years before being appointed as Massey’s first assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori), a role which expanded to include Pasifika and then new migrants.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley, who put forward the honorary doctorate nomination, says that Sir Mason belongs among the two generations of “ground-breaking” Māori in modern New Zealand. One generation emerged early in the 1900s, and the other at the end of the 20th century, where Sir Mason stands alongside leaders such as Dr Ranginui Walker, Sir Robert Mahuta and Sir Tipene O’Regan, “... but of the latter, Sir Mason’s influence was the most comprehensive and powerful”, Professor Spoonley says.

Sir Mason’s determination to develop the

aspirations of Māori students eventually led to a tenfold increase in those completing doctorates over a 10-year period.

Sir Mason says there has definitely been a growing awareness and interest among New Zealanders in learning te reo and recognising the potential of indigenous cultures to enrich modern societies.

“It’s a far cry from when I was growing up and you only had 10 minutes of Māori news on the radio at 6pm on Sundays. The Te Reo Māori Act (2016) has helped.

“We have become something of a showcase for other indigenous languages struggling to retain their [own] language.”

Family and colleagues all deserved a share of his honorary doctorate, Sir Mason says. “The accolades are deserved by a wide group including colleagues, students, those working on marae and within their communities over a long period of time.” ■



## Committed to improving animal health in Asia

A fascination with Asia has led veterinarian Jim Young to a PhD and a passion for helping developing countries with food security. He talks to **Ryan Willoughby**.

**G**rowing up in the Waikato, Jim Young never saw himself vaccinating dairy herds in China or developing disease diagnostic kits for governments, but he quickly realised his veterinary career would not be in New Zealand.

“Both my father and grandfather were vets, and Mum was a nurse and a vet nurse, so I grew up in and around veterinary clinics,” Dr Young says. “I think from about the age of three I was going on vet calls with Dad.” This meant that studying for a Bachelor of

Veterinary Science at Massey was almost inevitable.

Then in 2004, he secured a place on a student trip to South Africa. “This was a highlight of my student experience, and

along with 90 vet students from around the world we toured multiple game parks and got up close and personal with wild cheetah, elephant, lion and rhino that had been darted for sampling, pregnancy testing and health checks. I convinced the wildlife vet manager to let me do a rectal exam on a heavily sedated four-tonne wild elephant.”

On completing his degree he returned to hometown Te Awamutu to work with dairy cows. There he may have stayed, save for a phone call which set his journey on an entirely different track.

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**“It was one hell of an adventure. I remember my first day, vaccinating a large herd in minus 20C! My bones hurt and the vaccine kept freezing.”**

– Jim Young

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“I got a call in 2007 asking if I wanted to go to China and help set up large-scale dairy farms for Fonterra. I think I was just in the right place at the right time, and they needed someone quickly. My clinic manager was supportive so within a week I had a visa and jumped on a plane with about 50kg of veterinary equipment and drugs – basically prepared for anything!

“It was one hell of an adventure. I remember my first day, vaccinating a large herd in minus 20C! My bones hurt and the vaccine kept freezing between the rows of cattle.” A planned two-month stay turned into nearly a year.

By then Dr Young was hooked on international work, Asia in particular, and he began looking for ways to get back into the region.

“I talked to a lot of people and it became clear vets in Asia were needed to work on large-scale disease control programmes,

so I was encouraged to upskill in the field of epidemiology.”

That resulted in a Master of Veterinary Public Health Management at the University of Sydney in 2009, which led to three years with the Mekong Livestock Research team in a project manager role in Cambodia and Laos. The experience ignited Young’s further interest in learning more about how livestock disease control is connected to wider food insecurity and poverty in the region.

He started a PhD in early 2013 and completed it part-time over four and a half years while employed full-time working as project manager. It focused on how to improve disease control and biosecurity in smallholder farms and their wider communities in Cambodia.

He has found working in diverse cultures both challenging and rewarding. “There is a massive need for basic animal husbandry,

nutrition and animal health, especially in countries that have experienced recent war.

“Some of the people we were working with had a very low annual income, under \$US1000 a year – it’s amazing and humbling to see people who are so happy and generous with their time and welcoming of help.”

Dr Young has also kept an eye on the battles in New Zealand. In 2017, he released Close the Gate, an online training tool designed in response to the *Mycoplasma bovis* outbreak. The course is designed to be completed on a smart phone, and can even be taken on the back of a quad bike while a farmer waits for the cows to walk up the race.

He is currently based in Singapore as the Asia Pacific regional market development manager for Thermo Fisher Scientific, which builds diagnostic kits. These are used by governments and private laboratories for animal disease, including *Mycoplasma bovis*, foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza and African swine fever – all of which are currently causing significant problems in the region.

“Our diagnostic technologies are used to help governments identify, control and eradicate these diseases. I’m really enjoying the challenge, as we have different countries at different stages of development and all facing a range of challenges to protect their food security and food systems. We also have technology in genomics and next generation sequencing that is being applied more and more in livestock and other agricultural applications.” ■





# Cyber abuse damaging for many workplaces

New findings on cyber abuse at work are a wake-up call.  
Dr Natalia D'Souza talks to **Sidah Russell**.

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Dr Natalia D'Souza

**T**he newest member of Massey's Healthy Work Group is tackling a pervasive problem in many workplaces – how to deal with cyber abuse.

Dr Natalia D'Souza, who graduated with her PhD last year, wrote her thesis on workplace cyberbullying in nursing. She found nurses not only experience bullying by other staff, but also by patients and their families.

During the process of interviewing victims, she heard some appalling stories.

"I was told about one case where a nurse was being bullied by a patient's mother, and the mother used her son to gain access. She would call to ask for help for her son, but then start abusing the nurse, but the nurse was hesitant to block the calls in case it was a genuine emergency."

Despite the well-documented problems with bullying in the health sector, Dr D'Souza realised the factors that make cyberbullying so damaging apply to just about any organisation.

Since joining Massey's School of Management as a lecturer, she has broadened her research focus to include all forms of cyber abuse in organisations. She recently produced a report for online safety organisation Netsafe about the prevalence of workplace cyber abuse and the barriers to reporting it.

"I found that nearly half of targets experienced multiple forms of cyber abuse, including cyberbullying, cyber discrimination, cyber stalking and cyber sexual harassment, and that really increases the harm," she says.

Cyber abuse also has some additional impacts when compared to face-to-face bullying and abuse. Dr D'Souza found that, in 66 per cent of cases, the cyber abuse occurred in a public forum, including on social media, and one-third of incidents were perpetrated anonymously.

"We really need more research on what can be done when the perpetrator can't be identified because organisations tend to deal with workplace bullying through

mediation. That doesn't work with anonymous cyber abuse."

Dr D'Souza says her most worrying finding was that over three-quarters of those surveyed said they did not report the cyber abuse to their organisation. And of those who did report abuse, more than one-fifth found there was no organisational response.

"We know that a lot of organisations actually don't have any policies around this stuff, and when they do intervene, it's often with mediation or counselling, which does not always address the underlying issues."

Survey respondents said being able to block the abuse was the most useful response, while organisational policies and interventions were ranked as the least useful.

"That should give organisations some food for thought," Dr D'Souza says, "as either there are no cyber abuse policies in place, or employees don't trust that organisations will be able to do anything about it if they report an incident." ■

# Successful year for Massey University Press

It's been another successful year for Massey University Press, with five books longlisted for the 2019 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Since launching in 2015, we have published 47 books and secured a respected place in the New Zealand publishing sector. Below is a selection of upcoming titles.



## **Poetry New Zealand Yearbook 2019, edited by Jack Ross**

*Poetry New Zealand Yearbook*, this country's longest-running poetry magazine, showcases new writing from New Zealand and overseas. It presents the work of talented newcomers as well as that of established voices. Issue #53 features 130 new poems — including work by featured poet, Stephanie Christie — essays and reviews of 30 new poetry collections. Publishing March 2019.

## **John Scott Works, by David Straight**

This handsome book is a rich and loving tribute to the work and cultural significance of one of New Zealand's most influential but least well-documented architects, John Scott (1924–1992). Over 40 projects, from Scott's famous Futuna Chapel and the Werry House to the Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre and the Martin House, are beautifully photographed by David Straight. With essays by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, Hana Scott, Bill McKay and Julia Gatley, and Gregory O'Brien. Publishing March 2019.

## **Hazel and the Snails, by Nan Blanchard**

Six-year-old Hazel tends her colony of shoebox snails while observing, with varying degrees of understanding, her father's illness and final decline. Impending loss forms the heart of this story but it's charming and funny, too, with black-and-white illustrations by Giselle Clarkson. Richly rewarding and cleverly layered, adults will be as drawn to it as children. Nan Blanchard's assured eye is a rare quality in a new writer; seldom is the world of a young child so delicately or acutely observed. *Hazel and the Snails* takes you straight to the heart of childhood's mysteries and delights. Publishing March 2019.

## **Heartland Strong: How rural New Zealand can change and thrive, by Margaret Brown, Bill Kaye-Blake and Penny Payne**

The future of New Zealand's rural communities is often in the news. Empty shops, depopulation and lack of jobs are offered as signs that many towns are dying. However, the strength of social ties and development of digital technologies, the innovations in rural entrepreneurship and the functioning informal economy suggest that some rural communities are in good health. This important book, based on years of research, shows how, and provides useful insights into, the ongoing process of change in rural communities and the resources on which they draw to support their resilience. It offers a positive message and blueprints for progress. Publishing April 2019.

## **Finding Frances Hodgkins, by Mary Kisler**

Frances Hodgkins needed to be out in the world to paint. For over 40 years she travelled ceaselessly through Europe and England; only war confined her. Why did she need to travel so often? And what was her life like in the tiny, often poor, communities in which she worked? In *Finding Frances Hodgkins*, art curator Mary Kisler turns art-detective and travel writer to find out. Richly illustrated, steeped in scholarship and brimming with the author's admiration for Hodgkins and all she endured and achieved, this vivid book is a marvellous insight into a major figure in New Zealand and international art. Publishing May 2019.

## **We Are Here: An atlas of Aotearoa, by Chris McDowall and Tim Denee**

A unique and different atlas of New Zealand, this mix of graphs, maps and illustrations is both beautiful and enlightening. It tells us where we are, here, in 2019. Each stunning graphic answers a question: Who visits us? How many fish are in the sea? Where do our cats go to at night? Essays by some of New Zealand's best thinkers complete the package. Publishing October 2019.



To read more go to [www.masseypress.ac.nz](http://www.masseypress.ac.nz)

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND



# Alumni

notes and news




A phenomenally busy and successful career didn't stop dancer Lucy-Margaux Marinkovich studying English literature by distance learning. Now she's won one of the world's most prestigious arts residencies.

**Jennifer Little** explains.

See page 32.

Lucy Marinkovich in full make-up for her 2018 performance of *Lobsters*.

Photo: Philip Merry/Borderline Arts Ensemble.

To view upcoming reunions and events, visit  [alumnionline.massey.ac.nz](http://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz)



## Snapshot

Mitch Murdoch  
Director Alumni Relations

The shootings at two separate mosques in Christchurch on March 15 shocked our nation to its core. Regardless of race, creed or colour, the event touched us all deeply and has made New Zealanders pause to both mourn and to reflect.

We have reflected on what it means to be a New Zealander, what it means to participate in society and to truly love each other, and how, as a nation and as individuals, we can prevent such senseless violence from ever again happening in Aotearoa.

No Massey alumni were injured or killed in the event, and the alumni office has reached out to the 3000 alumni living in Christchurch. Many will have been deeply impacted by the shootings and our thoughts are especially with them during this time.

Massey also postponed or cancelled several events after the massacre, including our Distinguished Alumni Awards, as a sign of respect both to

those whose lives were taken and to those whose lives we wish to celebrate. The Distinguished Alumni Awards were due to take place on March 20 and have been postponed until July 31. We apologise for any inconvenience to those attending, but under the circumstances it seemed appropriate to take this action.

While we acknowledge that life will never quite be the same, we would be letting violence and hatred triumph if we did not allow life to return to “normal” at some point. I wonder if the new normal might be a nation that is a little more mindful of its cultural diversity and a little more protective of communities and groups within society that might occasionally need collective support and protection.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Mitch Murdoch

# The moving art of Lucy Marinkovich



Photo: David St. George.

Lucy Marinkovich performing (*An Ironic Dream of*) A Common Language by Kristian Larsen for Footnote Dance Company at the Auckland Art Gallery.

**S**urrealist lobsters, a medieval dancing plague in Strasbourg, modern Ethiopia – these are a few of the eclectic ideas infusing the work of award-winning and boundary-pushing dance artist and choreographer Lucy-Margaux Marinkovich.

Since graduating three years ago with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English literature, she has been unstoppable. As well as setting up her own company Borderline Arts Ensemble, she’s



Photo: Philip Merry/Borderline Arts Ensemble.

Dancers Lucy Marinkovich and Emmanuel Reynaud in *Lobsters*, in Wellington at Circa Theatre.

been in demand at home and internationally to teach, perform and choreograph, working with professional dancers, school kids and people with disabilities alike.

Following a month in Taiwan and Japan early this year supported by Creative New Zealand to research future collaborative opportunities for new dance and choreographic work, she was back home in Wellington at the end of summer for the opening of her new work, *Thursday*. This romantic duet, inspired by the 1945 British film



Lucy Marinkovich with a toucan at a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Peru, during a three-month stint volunteering in South America. She was studying English Literature by distance at the time.

**“I question how we treat each other, how we communicate, how we hurt, how we love, how we look, how we feel.”**

– Lucy Marinkovich

classic *Brief Encounter*, premiered in the Performance Arcade at Wellington’s Railway Station amidst the travellers, passengers and commuters.

In a slightly more bizarre take on love and attraction, *Lobsters* was the title of a daring work she created, choreographed and performed in at Circa Theatre, Wellington in 2017. Inspired by the Surrealists’ theories and artworks, including Spanish artist Salvador Dali’s infamous *Lobster Telephone* (also known as *Aphrodisiac Telephone*, 1936), it won three Wellington Theatre Awards and was also performed at the Nelson Arts Festival, earning rave reviews. Other works she’s choreographed and directed for Borderline include *Good Good Fortune* (2016-17, Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia) and *The Shyness of Trees* (2017, Singapore).

Marinkovich began studying by distance with Massey while she was a full-time company member of Footnote Dance Company touring through Aotearoa and overseas, yet making time to write assignments for anthropology, history, classics and women’s studies papers.

“I was taking papers extramurally whilst in Palestine and Israel for dance workshops, when I backpacked through Vietnam, while I was studying at a dance intensive in Berlin, whilst I was teaching at the New Zealand School of Dance, and at the same time that I was presenting my choreographic works at dance festivals and performance events in New Zealand,” she says.

In early 2018 she performed as a guest artist with the New Zealand Dance Company in *OrphEus - a dance opera*, choreographed

by Michael Parmenter and performed in the New Zealand Festival and the Auckland Arts Festival. The day after the last show she flew to Christchurch to begin a job with the Royal New Zealand Ballet as their Dance Educator, teaching dance to students aged four to 18 throughout New Zealand schools, including NCEA workshops, and reaching over 30,000 New Zealanders with dance activities.

“There was a large community aspect to this role which I loved, beginning training to teach dance to people with Parkinson’s disease, and facilitating the Royal New Zealand Ballet’s Touch Tours for blind and vision impaired peoples, which were held alongside the audio described performances.”

Midway through last year, she choreographed a new work for the New Zealand Dance Company for their Tamaki Tour called *Awesome Robots*, inspired by the research trip Marinkovich took with her partner, composer Lucien Johnson, to Ethiopia in 2016. The work explored themes around Afrofuturism, science fiction and retro aesthetics, with costumes designed by Kate Hawley, in the form of dazzling patterned suits and dancers wearing LED glasses.

The culmination to all this came at the end of 2018 when she was jointly awarded – with Johnson – the prestigious Harriet Friedlander New York Residency, worth \$100,000, by the US-based Arts Foundation. This enables the pair to live in New York “for as long as the money lasts us!”

The residency was designed by arts patron Harriet Friedlander for artists to live in, and be inspired by, her [Harriet’s] favourite international city. “Being recognised by the Arts Foundation is the highest accolade for an artist from Aotearoa, and being granted one is made even more special by the fact that you cannot apply for these awards – you just get a magical phone call offering you this incredible thing,” says Marinkovich, who started taking ballet classes as a kid. “I am still pinching myself!”

More fantastical ideas and visions abound in her choreographer’s imagination. In April, she’ll begin development on Borderline Arts Ensemble’s next full length show, *Strasbourg 1518*. It’s inspired by the true events of a dancing plague that struck Strasbourg in 1518, in which dozens danced themselves into a frenzy for days without rest, resulting in a number of deaths.

Her work, she says, reveals how a tertiary degree that fosters a love of literature, of complex, challenging ideas, and a curiosity for weirdly fascinating historical and biographical stories, can help inform and inspire a bold, edgy approach to making art.

“I know that I don’t make art because I have answers that I feel compelled to share with everyone, but because I have questions,” Marinkovich says, when asked about what inspired *Lobsters*. “I question how we treat each other, how we communicate, how we hurt, how we love, how we look, how we feel. My body of work has a strong interest in the absurd and the irrational and how these manifest in everyday life.”

For more information on Marinkovich’s work visit: <https://www.lucymarinkovich.com/blog>. For her company Borderline visit: <http://www.borderlinearts.com/lucy-marinkovich/> ■

# Events

## The Class of 1958 returned to the Manawatū campus in 2018

The class toured the campus and enjoyed dinner at Wharerata where they were joined by Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Thomas.



The Class of 1958 gather outside the Refectory.



The Class of 1958 Reunion on the oval at the Turitea Campus.



From left to right: Robin Fenwick, Peter Harvey, Val Harvey, Wayne Sanderson and Shayne Parker at the Class of 1958 Reunion.



Geoff Miller presents a cheque for \$112,000 to Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Thomas on behalf of the Class of 1958. The funds will support the restoration of the Refectory.

## Catching up at ground Xero in New York

Alumni from the New York region were entertained by guest speaker Craig Walker from Xero at the Cornell Club.



Hong Dong, winner of the Whittaker's prize.



From left to right: Ben Phillips, Steven Taylor, Celia Taylor and Mitch Murdoch in New York.



New York alumni gathered at the Cornell Club to listen to Craig Walker, co-founder of Xero.



Alumni Relations Manager Cassie Rowe chats with Massey alumni at the New York event.



From left to right: Celia Taylor, Jeremy Lancer, Alexandra Schenck, Richard Udy, and Hong Dong at the Cornell Club in New York.

## A fabulous meeting of minds on a balmy December day

Emeritus professors from across New Zealand gathered in the grounds of Tiritea House for a luncheon hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on the Manawatū campus.



Norma and Malcolm Chick at the Professor Emeriti Luncheon.



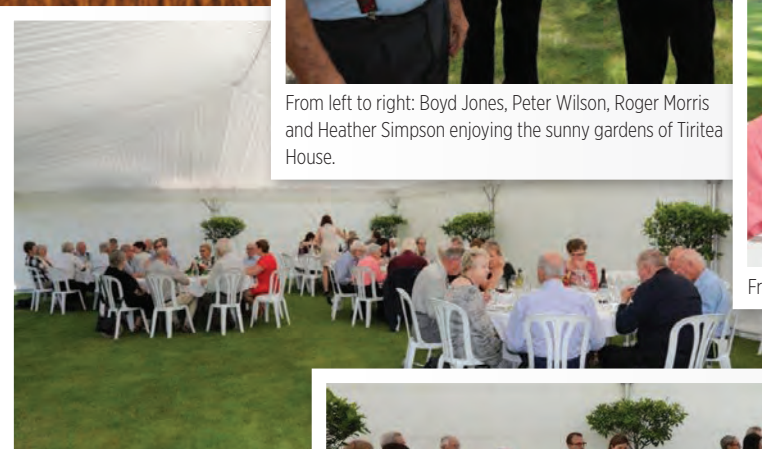
From left to right: Barrie Macdonald, Ian Warrington, Maureen Macdonald, Nigel Long, Blondie Warrington, Anne Walker, Janet Milne, Ken Milne and Dick Earle at the Professor Emeriti Luncheon.



From left to right: Boyd Jones, Peter Wilson, Roger Morris and Heather Simpson enjoying the sunny gardens of Tiritea House.



From left to right: Glynnis Cropp, Garry Hermansson and Tony Paterson.



Professor Emeriti Luncheon in the gardens of Tiritea House.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Thomas speaking at the Professor Emeriti Luncheon, December 2018.

## Alumni gather at New Zealand House in London

Lieutenant-General Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, a Massey alumnus, spoke to around 80 alumni in London last year, where he is High Commissioner.



From left to right: Dr Shrabani Saha, Ross McEwan, Mr Mukherjee and Stephanie McEwan met with other London alumni at New Zealand House to listen to Sir Jerry Mateparae speak.



Left to right: Sir Jerry Mateparae, Stephanie McEwan and Ross McEwan with Kim Johannessen.

## Brilliant to catch up with the San Francisco crowd!

The Bluxome Street Winery hosted a wine tasting for alumni in the San Francisco region.



Alumni in San Francisco met for a wine tasting event at the Bluxome Street Winery.



Doug Yen with his granddaughter Liliy Clayman.

## Notes

### 1950s

#### Godfrey Mackersey

*Diploma in Agriculture 1951*

Godfrey demonstrates the strong, intergenerational connections that families have to Massey University. He worked at Ruakura Hill Station before becoming a sharemilker and going on to develop, with his wife, a “bush block farm” over the next 65 years. His two daughters are Massey graduates with agricultural degrees, and a granddaughter is now studying veterinary science at the University.



#### Peter MacGillivray

*Bachelor of Agricultural Science 1952*

Well known and loved by hundreds of alumni, Peter received a Distinguished Service Alumni Award in 2011 and continues as an active supporter of alumni. After

graduating and working in North America in the 1950s, he returned to New Zealand to work as a lecturer. In 1970 he became Director of the Diploma of Agricultural Studies at Massey University, and was also responsible for McHardy Hall for 14 years. He has been president of various alumni organisations and an organiser and attendee at numerous reunions of students and activities in support of the University. Recently, he travelled to Tauranga to be part of reunions, organised by friend Mike Giles, for students of

the Sheep Farming Diploma (1957-58 and 1958-59). This included visiting a pine bark extraction plant at Paeroa, where one of the class had developed a method to extract flavonoids. A visit to honey producer Comvita also recognised the work of a student who had been influential in setting up the mānuka honey industry. “So, two commercial health food operations from two Dip Ag students in two days! No wonder I’m proud of them all,” Peter says. “I used to say that many of them would end up out of farming.”

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## 1960s

### Robin Fenwick

*Bachelor of Agricultural Science 1962*  
*Master of Agricultural Science 1964*

Of all the valuable things Robin gained from his study at Massey, he says probably the most valuable was gaining an understanding of the way production and technology operated right through from the farm to the consumer. He spent 25 years with the New Zealand Dairy Board, including postings to India, the United States and Korea, and was influential in the development of the whey protein industry in the 1970s when the trading door to Britain was closing and New Zealand was desperate for new markets and new products. He says that when

he started down a track of product development the final market positioning was not as predictable as might be believed. Perhaps the most bizarre development arose from the finding that casein contained many components, the secretion of which were genetically controlled. The “older” breeds of cows produced a variant of alpha casein which was assigned the name A2. Breeds selected for their ability to produce lots of milk were more likely to produce variant A1 (or both A1 and A2). The upside was that the idea of segregating herds so that A2 milk and its products could be produced as a valuable specialized milk, if some people were susceptible to the A1 variant, was patented. Today A2 milk sells at a premium.

## 1970s

### Gerald Rys

*Bachelor of Agricultural Science 1975*

Gerald went on to gain a PhD on nitrogen fixation in white clover from the University College Wales, UK, in 1983, returning to Palmerston North to carry out research on nitrogen fixation and seedling establishment in hill country. He then moved to Hawke’s Bay and established the Poukawa Research Station south of Hastings. In 1990 he moved to Wellington and joined the Ministry for Research, Science and Technology as a senior policy advisor and later as Assistant Chief Scientist. In 2000 he returned to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as a senior scientist in the Resource Policy Directorate. In 2010 he became a Principal Science Advisor in the Science Policy Team which oversees the science in the now named Ministry for Primary Industries. His current work involves the evaluation of science projects, and providing advice in areas of strategic science importance.

## 1980s

### Alan Pearson

*Bachelor of Veterinary Science 1981*

After five years in clinical veterinary practice and 13 years with a government ministry, Alan founded Prime Consulting International Ltd in 2000, which is now a global business. It works for governments, industry bodies and private companies, providing management consulting, project management and technical advisory services. Key areas of specialisation are the agribusiness and food industries, renewable energy and water. Prime also manages a number of international aid and development programmes. Alan is director of two other

companies, in the fine foods exports and gourmet meats manufacturing businesses.

### Susan Haines

*Bachelor of Science 1988*

Susan worked for five years at London Zoo in the Conservation Biology Department. She was the head technician and, as a result of her research, she co-authored two articles that have been published in *Nature* magazine and one chapter of a genetics textbook.

### Sharon Brownie

*Bachelor of Education 1989*  
*Master of Education Administration 1993*

Sharon has gone on to graduate with three more degrees and to work in sectors including health, education, economic development and income support. She has had senior executive and capacity building roles in tertiary institutions in New Zealand, Australia, the Middle East, and now East Africa for the last four years. She says her Massey degrees provided a strong foundation for employment competencies and opportunities.

## 1990s

### Philip Royal

*Master of Business Administration 1995*

Philip is chair of a company, Chitogel, that makes a gel in New Zealand to heal sinus surgery wounds. Made from an ingredient in shrimp shells, it is seen as a breakthrough product in a niche market. It replaces the gauze that surgeons put in a patient’s sinus cavities for weeks after surgery. The gauze is used to stop bleeding but can stick to the wound and often requires a second round of surgery to remove it. It has been approved for use in the United



Emeritus Professor Dame Peggy Koopman-Boyden, DNZM, at her investiture ceremony with Governor-General Patsy Reddy.

### Peggy Koopman-Boyden

*Bachelor of Arts 1968*  
*Diploma of Education 1973*

Peggy’s long career in gerontology at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato was recognised when she became a dame in 2017. Social gerontology includes wellbeing, theories of aging, retirement lifestyles and service provision. She led major projects for the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology Awarded and ran a multiyear programme of research on active aging. She became an Emeritus Professor in 2016 and was made a dame in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2017. She led the Steering Group which wrote the Age Friendly Hamilton Plan 2018-2021. Hamilton has been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation as the first New Zealand Age Friendly City.

## Alumni notes and news

States, and work has been on-going to develop a similar product for use after spinal and abdominal surgery. This is all part of a wide-ranging business career for Philip, who is a former managing partner at the accountancy firm PwC as well as a former board member of PwC New Zealand.



His Excellency Johnson Naviti at Government House in Wellington.

### Johnson Naviti

*Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning 1996*

Johnson is currently Vanuatu's High Commissioner to New Zealand based in Wellington. On graduating, Johnson worked for the public service in Vanuatu as a senior planning officer, natural resources, before moving to Fiji as a programme implementation officer at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. He has also headed the Aid Coordination Unit in Vanuatu and been director general of the Office of the Prime Minister there.

### Margaret Fidow

*Diploma in Education 1995  
Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies 1999*

Margaret takes the idea of "lifelong learner" seriously, and is now in her 49th year of extramural study. She has gained multiple degrees at Massey and elsewhere, and is a life member of the Extramural Students Association. She is currently taking papers in history and literature. Alongside her studies, she

has enjoyed a diverse career in banking, public service, management and information systems consulting. She has been a member of university faculties in Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong and New Zealand. "I have done more than I ever dreamed I would since I went from high school at 15 to the farm, and demanded to be allowed to continue my education with the Correspondence School – hence my passion for educating myself and mentoring others. Follow your dreams and never give up. Obstacles help to make you stronger."

## 2000s

### Kyle Lockwood

*Diploma in Draughting (Architecture) 2002*

Kyle is based in Melbourne, where he works mainly on commercial buildings as a project leader, but he retains a visible presence in New Zealand. He came to public prominence when his design was voted the Preferred Alternative New Zealand Flag by the public in the 2015 referendum. He also successfully led the campaign to reinstate 10-year New Zealand passports, which benefitted all New Zealand citizens aged over 16.

### Averil Martin

*Bachelor of Business Studies 2003*

Averil became a learning adviser for Māori students at the Wellington campus and then for creative arts students as well. She says it was an awesome experience with fantastic staff and students, and that she made some life-time friends. She went on to complete a Master of Public Policy in New Zealand and then a research degree in Australia. Her next pathway is publication

– and she's still a learning adviser but for an Australian university.

### Natalie Gooding

*Bachelor of Arts 2004*

*Bachelor of Business Studies 2004*

Life in New Zealand looks good from Bondi, Natalie says. Her business degree was in international business and her arts degree in Japanese, and she has been working in Japan and Australia in marketing within the health sector. She's now at Bupa in Sydney, managing the company's corporate and international marketing team and loving the challenge. She plans to move back to New Zealand and perhaps look at a career change, but for now life is great living in sunny Bondi Beach.



### Richard Kelsey

*Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration 2004*

"A fine beer may be judged with just one sip, but it is better to be thoroughly sure" – Richard likes to quote this Czech proverb and it's an apt motto for his success with craft beers in Australia. He started the online business Beer Cartel in Sydney in 2009, when there was little craft beer available in Australia – a distant memory from the 500 plus craft breweries that now exist there. The idea was to provide beer drinkers with amazing craft beer from Australia and overseas that was completely unlike the beer available then at the bottle shop and pub.

"We wanted to challenge the way people thought about beer and show them that there was so much more available, with real flavour, created by amazing brewers," he says. The business started out of a tiny storage hire shed. As consumer demand grew, it started hiring more sheds before then moving to a bottle shop and warehouse in 2011. It now stocks over 1000 different craft beers. In the last two years, its success has become more widely recognised: Retail Innovator of the Year at the 2018 Australian Retail Awards, Best Online Retail Marketing at the Australia Post Online Retail Industry Awards, and Best Online Beer Store 2018 and 2019 in *Beer & Brewer*. Richard was rated at 21 in the Top 50 People in Australian E-Commerce by *Inside Retail*.

### Natalie Doherty

*Bachelor of Business Studies 2000  
Graduate Diploma Business Studies 2009*

After Massey, Natalie moved to the UK and started a film and television career in a sound department, before returning to New Zealand. Here she worked on various productions, including *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, before signing up again at Massey to finish the qualifications she needed to become a chartered accountant. She worked at BDO for a while and became an Associate Chartered Accountant in 2011. Until recently she worked as a film and television production accountant. She now dabbles in producing and is also director of a short to medium-term furnished accommodation company, which specialises in groups such as film producers and directors but also others, including super yacht crews and conferences.

To view upcoming reunions and events, visit  [alumnionline.massey.ac.nz](http://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz)

## 2010s

### Margaret McMeel

*Graduate Diploma Business Studies 2012*

Since graduating from Massey, Margaret has been promoted to be a senior recruitment consultant at Stantec, an international professional services firm within the design and consulting industry, where she recruits civil engineers, scientists, resource management planners and a variety of corporate support roles. She moved to Auckland in 2014 and is the sole human resources person in the Auckland office, with the rest of her team based mainly in Christchurch and Wellington.

### Michael Thomas

*Bachelor of Music (NZSM) 2015*

Music was great, says Michael, and he has zero regrets. Afterwards he travelled to Indonesia to represent New Zealand on an international arts and culture scholarship. Then he caught the travel bug and applied to Camp America where, after being a lifeguard and leadership counsellor, he was appointed the director of program development.

### Ridvan Solimov

*Bachelor of Engineering with Honours 2015*

*Certificate of Foundation Studies 2010*

Ridvan works for a Rotorua-based manufacturing company that builds mechanised forest harvesting equipment. He has developed control software to complement the hardware and perform optimized log-making. The software has been primarily created for the New Zealand forestry market and is easy to use for machine operators with little to no previous computer experience. The company of less than 100 staff competes directly with international giants such as John Deere.

### George Thirkettle

*Graduate Diploma in Information Science 2016*

After working for two years as a telco engineer at Vodafone, George moved to Australia to work on sailing yachts in the Whitsundays. What was supposed to be for three months turned into a career, as he obtained his captain's license, then moved onto superyachts and worked his way up the ranks while travelling the world. After having a family, he's now back in technology and living in Yorkshire.

### Chanda Shrestha

*Master of Veterinary Medicine (Biosecurity) 2016*

Chanda was selected to complete her online master's degree from Nepal. She says the degree covers human and animal health epidemiology and she now works for the government of Nepal as an epidemiologist. "Here I can apply the quality knowledge and training provided by Massey University – a big thank you!"

### Toby Cunliffe-Steel

*Bachelor of Sport and Exercise 2017*

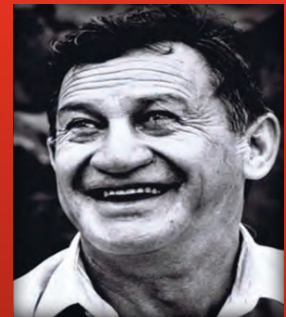
Toby has an impressive record as a New Zealand rowing representative but he was also excited about being selected as the New Zealand nominee for a leadership program run by The Adecco Group, a Fortune 500 company that is the world's largest temp staffing firm. The program is run in 47 of the 60 countries the company operates in, with one candidate selected in each country, to shadow the senior leadership and assume the role of "CEO for One Month".

Information for the updated Alumni notes about Massey University graduates is supplied by the graduates themselves and is current at the time of publication.

### Jude Robertson

*Master of Fine Arts 2018*

Jude was selected for the Auckland Regional Parks Artists Residency 2018, which meant spending two months based in the Waharau Regional Park. Her completed project involved collecting and layering sounds into an atmospheric soundscape, which is accompanied by a series of photographs of the changing sea and skylines over the Firth of Thames. The installation can be experienced on-site near the park entrance.



### Hiwi Tauroa

*Bachelor of Agricultural Science 1952*

The influential Race Relations Conciliator Hiwi (Edward Te Rangihiwini) Tauroa, Ngāpuhi, has died aged 91. Described as "naturally diplomatic", Hiwi was at first best known for his achievements in education and rugby. He played for the New Zealand Māori side from 1951-54 and coached the Counties Rugby Union to a national title in 1979. He also taught at secondary schools and was the first Māori educator to be appointed as a principal, first at Wesley College and then at Taukau College. His time as Race Relations Conciliator was marked by the 1981 Springbok Tour, and he was heavily involved in the anti-apartheid campaign of the time. He actively promoted greater understanding between Pākehā and Māori, including by educating Pākehā in traditional Māori customs and culture. He wrote several books in this area, notably *Te Marae: A guide to customs and protocol*. He also fostered links between Māori and China, helping to establish the New Zealand-China Māori Friendship Association. He served on the boards of numerous educational and Māori organisations, and in 1987 stood for the National Party in the Eden electorate. He is survived by his wife Patricia, their six children, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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