MASSEY

The magazine for alumni and friends of Massey University • Issue 20 • April 2006

Songlines

Listening to bellbirds

French Revolutions

Séjours à bicyclette

On Turkish Soil

Our ambassador in Ankara

Leaving the Beat

Former Police Commissioner Rob Robinson talks to Professor George Shouksmith

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One of the odd and endearing things about living in New Zealand has been listening to National Radio's practice of playing a bird call before the news bulletins on *Morning Report*. In a moment, war, politics and scandal, but before we go there, let's hear a bird. There is something very sane about it. No wonder thousands of New Zealanders lobbied Radio New Zealand to keep the bird call when a proposal to drop it was mooted.

It is a shame that the *Morning Report* bird call is as close to a native bird as many New Zealanders will get in the course of their daily lives. Blackbirds, sparrows and starlings don't cut it. The British colonists of a century and a half ago may have pined for the birds of Shakespeare. I don't.

To me, wildlife is intimately connected with place. Part of living in Sydney was fruit bats in the dusk flying past my balcony, cockatoos on powerlines and magpies tuning up in the mornings. There are reasons why they are present. In otherwise arid Australia, the urban landscape is a place of well-watered plenty: a powerful lure for animals that can survive its hazards.

Much of the wildlife New Zealanders most treasure is now confined to zoos, sanctuaries and offshore islands. To see a takahe or stitchbird you need to make a special pilgrimage. (In my own case, this would be a visit to Massey's Wildlife Ward, where an assortment of endangered animals are being nursed back to health). Then there is a second tier of wildlife, species present on the mainland in the wild but whose survival there is precarious and dependent on human intervention. Think of the kaka, or the blue duck, or the kakariki. Finally there is the wildlife that remains relatively widespread and hence, perhaps, taken for granted. Think of the fantail or the tui. Think of the bellbird.

Yet the bellbird is not as common as all that. In many parts of New Zealand the species is absent – children growing up in Auckland may never have seen one – and where it is present its numbers are a fraction of those before European colonisation.

In this issue of *MASSEY* we are introduced to the remarkable New Zealand bellbird by Associate Professor Dianne Brunton, Director of the Auckland campus's thriving Ecology and Conservation Group, and to lecturer Alistair Robertson of the Institute of Natural Resources. Talk to either of them and you may never look at or listen to a bellbird the same way again.

The bellbird is important to the ecological health of the bush – this is the most important bird species for pollination and seed dispersal. That fluting song, the music of the bush is, in fact, redolent of sex, status and territory. There are even regional dialects.

And the bellbird is remarkably resilient. Sometimes it can seem that the battle for the environment is one of eternal retreat. Brunton and Robertson are more optimistic: there are ways in which the damage done to New Zealand's natural environment can be undone. Given a little help – the control of pests and predators, the creation of predator-free sanctuaries, a nuts-and-bolts understanding of how to go about species reintroduction – the bellbird and other once-common native species can and will recolonise their old haunts.

Now *there* is a project worth pursuing.

Professor Judith Kinnear
Vice-Chancellor

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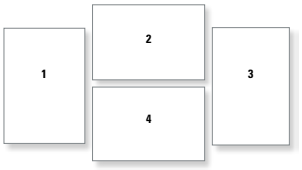

1. A little blue penguin recovers in the wildlife ward after an encounter with a boat propellor. 2. The view from an overflight of Vanuatu's Ambae volcano (see back inside cover) 3. 2005 fashion graduate Tilly Keokotavong is off to London (see page 9) 4. At around the time *MASSEY* is published, 21-year-old Dima Ivanov, will be in La Spezia, Italy, presenting a paper to an international symposium on marine design initiated by the London-based Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). His paper, which gives a student's perspective on education and training for marine designers, was selected from 16 student papers from around the world. Dima is in his final year of a Bachelor of Design (Transport) at the Auckland campus.

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Interest free student loans

From 1 April 2006, student loans for borrowers living in New Zealand for 183 or more consecutive days (about six months) are interest-free. You'll continue to see interest charged on student loan statements sent to you by Inland Revenue and StudyLink.

If you're eligible for an interest-free student loan, you don't need to do anything. All interest charged from 1 April 2006 will be written off automatically after 31 March 2007 and then again at the end of every tax year.

Even if you don't satisfy the 183-day requirement, you could qualify for an exemption, which would also make your student loan interest free. You'll have to meet certain conditions and provide proof to support an exemption application.

For more information check out www.ird.govt.nz/studentloans

Erratum: David Mirams BSW 1982 writes from Brisbane: A small point, but in reference to Peter Lineham's article about the church in Flatbush he has made a small error. In fact there were two churches, one Methodist and one Anglican. The Anglican still stands. The Methodist church was in fact where the Buddhist temple now stands. The grave yard may still exist as part of the temple site. The church building also still exists as a house adjacent to the freeway near the Gillies Road exit. How do I know? My parents previously owned the block of land immediately to the east of the temple.

Fuels for thought

Biofuels offer up the possibility of not just slowing climate change, but of reversing it, writes Dr Peter Read.

What a difference a few years make. In 1998, with oil selling at US$16 a barrel, biofuels rated hardly a mention. Today, with oil at US$60 a barrel, Brazil has plans to increase its sugar-cane-based ethanol exports to at least 250 million litres this year, five times its exports in 2004. And no less a person than President George W. Bush is promoting the production and use of biodiesel and ethanol as a part of his Advanced Energy Initiative to Help Break America's Dependence on Foreign Sources of Energy.

As its title makes clear, the Bush initiative is more about geopolitics than it is about the environment. Nonetheless, some good wider environmental outcomes may come of it. I, for one, welcome the research attention that is now to be given to the technical challenges of producing ethanol from cellulose – a much more challenging problem than producing it using sugar or corn – even while I worry about the insularity of the focus.

By replacing the use of fossil fuels with biofuels, and alongside measures such as promoting better vehicle efficiency, the Bush administration will slow the rate at which carbon dioxide will be added to the atmosphere. But biofuels, in particular, could be the key to achieving much more.

Vegetation grown for biofuel removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. When the resulting biofuel is burned, that same carbon dioxide is given up to the atmosphere. But the latter need not be the case. In the late 1990s it was proposed that the carbon dioxide produced by fossil-fuel-driven power stations be captured, compressed and then sequestered – perhaps pumped into saline aquifers, depleted oilfields or unmineable coal fields. What if the same process were applied to the burning of biofuels? Then you would have a negative emissions energy system – the more bioenergy products are consumed, the less carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere.

The concept is known as bioenergy with carbon dioxide sequestration (BECS). It is an extraordinary option, and one we may want to have to hand as a form of insurance. Basically, there are good reasons why we may want to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and keep it out.

Although the Kyoto negotiators thought of the effects of global warming as gradual, the Earth's climatic history shows that abrupt changes do happen. Thinking humans have roamed the earth for a million years or more. Civilisation flourished over the last 8,500 years when, by some chance change, the natural climate settled down enough for agriculture to develop and support settlement, large populations, cities, culture and all we hold dear. As greenhouse gases accumulate and the Earth's climate warms, there may well be tipping points where natural processes abruptly cascade into runaway events typical of prehistoric climate change.

What might those tipping points be? Here are three.

• In western Siberia the permafrost is melting as the climate warms, creating vast lakes and bogs and releasing stores of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. An estimated 400 billion tonnes of methane lie frozen in the permafrost of Arctic soils. If a substantial part of this is released, then the pace of global warming is likely to accelerate, in turn speeding the thawing of the permafrost in a vicious circle.

• As the southern summer limit of Arctic sea ice cover diminishes, the reflectivity of the earth decreases and more heat is absorbed (snow and ice mostly reflect solar radiation back into space while exposed ocean absorbs it), again accelerating global warming.

• Late last year researchers measuring the strength of the current in the Atlantic Ocean between Africa and the east coast of America found that the circulation had slowed by 30 percent since measurements were taken 12 years earlier. Pulled by the sinking of cold, salty, dense waters in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf Stream bathes Britain and northern Europe in warm waters drawn up from the tropics. If it were to stop, disrupted by global warming, Britain and Europe would paradoxically be subject to cooler summers and more severe winters.

Human activities pump eight billion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere each year. The natural processes associated with plants, animals, soil bacteria, volcanic activity and weather emit and recycle 110 billion tonnes of carbon. If we want to have a chance of forestalling a runaway climate change event then we will need to be able do more than just reduce the quantity of industrial emissions that make up some part of that eight billion tonnes.

Bioenergy to carbon dioxide sequestration is hopefully an answer, but we will not get there all at once. The first thing we need is a global biofuels industry. This is not my belief alone. An expert workshop held by the Better World Fund of the UN Foundation to address the policy implications of potential abrupt climate change recommended that policy makers should be urged to stimulate the growth of a global bioenergy market with global trade (mainly south to north) in liquid biofuels such as ethanol and synthetic diesel.

Why the south to north reference? Well, it so happens that the underdeveloped south is rich in land that is neither in natural forest nor in cultivation – land that might be turned over to producing the likes of sugarcane or plantation forest.

Where should the carbon go? Although most of the solutions suggested so far are 'think big', one of the first places we should look at storing carbon is in the soil. Enriching the soil with charcoal is a traditional form of soil improvement in Japan. In Brazil it formed the basis for pre-Columbian agriculture on the otherwise infertile soils of the Amazon basin. This technique alone could absorb several decades worth of humanity's carbon dioxide emissions. Another means of carbon storage in some places may be to 'make' new soil, spreading the chipped twigs and small branches of deciduous trees that degrade to soil agglomerates by natural processes.

Ideally, the revenue from the sale of biofuel would pay for the costs of carbon dioxide sequestration or storage, especially if oil prices get into triple digits as forecast by oil industry expert and sometime Bush advisor Matt Simmons.

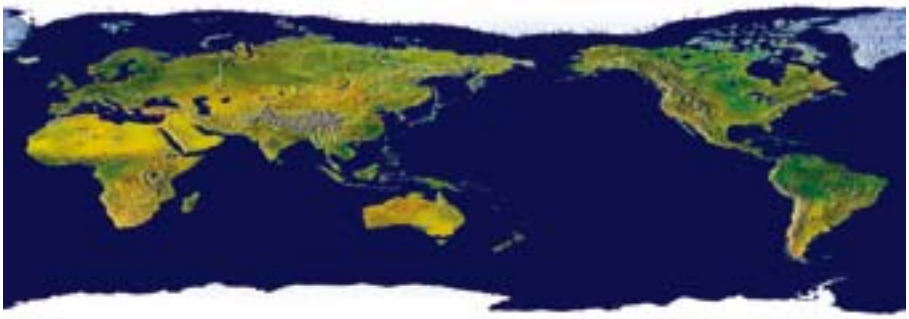
A global programme of planting crops for biofuel production and ploughing organic matter back into the soil could cut carbon dioxide to pre-1800 levels. It might also address some of the imbalances between the developed and underdeveloped nations.

Will this happen if the free market is left to its own devices? No it won't. If biofuel is treated as just a substitute for petrol or diesel then there may be unintended consequences. Already in Indonesia dense tropical rainforest has reportedly been cleared to make way for palm oil plantations to produce biodiesel. Any

country exporting biofuels should be held to certain sustainable development criteria.

Could BECS happen? Perhaps. The Kyoto protocol has shown the willingness of a good number of nations to band together to tackle global warming, and the time when biofuels make it into the marketplace is clearly here.

We just need to take the next steps. Regard it as disaster insurance.



Letter to the editor

Saving some seats

I am surprised that the article "Saving some seats" by Senior Lecturer in Social Policy Dr Richard Shaw dealing with the issue of reserved Māori seats makes no reference to the findings of a Royal Commission that considered this issue.

"The Royal Commission on the Electoral System in 1985-86 concluded that separate seats had not helped Māori and that they would achieve better representation through a proportional party-list system. The Commission therefore recommended that if the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system was adopted, the Māori seats should be abolished." (http://www1.elections.org.nz/study/history/maori-vote.htm)

In his article Dr Shaw refers to ACT and National campaigning in 2005 for the abolition of Māori seats. What Dr Shaw doesn't mention is that ACT and National were taking a position supporting the Royal Commission. In fact both National and ACT went to some lengths to inform voters of the basis of their policy on Māori seats especially in the light of MMP.

It is the incomplete nature of the history in Dr Shaw's article that leads me to conclude that the article is of a political bent rather than the balanced, factual account that the reader might infer it to be, given the prominence allowed to Dr Shaw's academic role.

This approach does not serve *MASSEY* readers well.

Ewan Hunter

Editor's note: Within the constraints of the space available, *MASSEY* welcomes letters from readers.

http://j40.massey.ac.nz

Journalism School's 40th Takes Shape

Massey School of Journalism's big 40th birthday celebration weekend is shaping up to be a hit.

"J40 – A Celebration of 40 years of Professional Journalism Education in New Zealand" will take place on Queen's Birthday weekend. Events set down for Sunday 4 June include a grand dinner in Wellington campus's Great Hall, with a yet-to-be announced "must hear" speaker, together with a celebrity debate and a movie reel of journalism documentaries and features.

Founding School of Journalism lecturer Chris Cole Catley, who will be remembered by generations of students, was one of the first to contact organiser Alan Samson following the launch of the celebration website. "What fun! I will certainly be there … all the best to the organisers," she emailed.

After leaving the school Cole Catley went on to set up the Cape Catley Publishing company and, later, the Michael King Writers' Centre. (Michael King was also an early School of Journalism lecturer .)

"I was getting messages asking me to 'book places at the table' when we hadn't even made a formal announcement," says Samson. "This place has touched so many people's lives."

The journalism school is the oldest surviving in the country. Among its alumni are Judy Bailey, Kevin Milne, Kerre Woodham, Sean Plunket, Kathryn Ryan, Fran O'Sullivan, Rick Neville, Don Churchill, Melanie Reid and Ian Wishart. Alison McCulloch, part of a *Denver Post* Pulitzer-prize-winning team for its coverage of the Columbine massacre, was also a graduate.

If you are a graduate or former staff member, this is your chance to come along and find out what people have been up to. Graduates from each year are asked to set up their own get-togethers on the Saturday before the dinner.

Send your details – class pics, anecdotes, histories, and anything else of interest – to j40@massey.ac.nz. The organisers can be reached at j40@massey.ac.nz, or by phone:
Alan Samson: (04) 801-5799 ext 6381
Cathy Strong: (04) 801-5799 ext 6954
Di Billing: (06) 350-5889 ext 5095
http://j40.massey.ac.nz

Rethinking Palestine

Nothing is to be achieved by penalising the Palestinians for the election of Hamas, writes Nigel Parsons, a lecturer in politics.

The event

The results of the January 2006 elections to the legislative council of the Palestinian Authority (PA) came as a shock, not just to the international community, but also to the victorious Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the shaken former governing faction, Fatah. In the days that followed, Israel and the United States sought to orchestrate a chorus of international disapproval at the outcome, while the Hamas leadership pondered the practical implications of a somewhat unanticipated parliamentary majority. Of the 132 seats, Hamas had taken 76. Fatah, the movement founded by Yasir Arafat and which had occupied the heart of Palestinian politics since the late 1960s, garnered a meagre 43 seats and was cast into opposition, a prospect as unfamiliar as it was unwelcome.

… and what to make of it

Hamas's assumption of legislative power within the PA raises three immediate questions. Why did Hamas succeed in the election to an extent that surprised even its own leadership? What does this election victory mean for Palestinian politics, including a down-but-not-out Fatah? What are the implications for Israeli politics and relations between the two reluctant neighbours?

An explanation on five levels

The factors contributing to Hamas's success can be discerned on five levels. On the international level, the US-led drive to democratise the Middle East, which included an insistence on elections in the PA, provided a window of political opportunity. On the regional level, the state of Israel's accelerated colonisation campaign across the occupied Palestinian territories generated a climate conducive to anti-colonial resistance of the type championed by Hamas. On the national level, Israel's colonial agenda undermined the Oslo process championed by Fatah, while the movement's failure to reform either itself or its methods of governance through the PA left it vulnerable to a timely challenge. On the level of the electoral system, reforms carried out the previous year created a proportional representation model which offset the advantages of wealth and family to the benefit of the disciplined, grassroots Hamas support. Finally, on an organisational level the infrastructure, coherence and purpose of Hamas left it well placed to bid for power.

Hamas: organised, mobilised, socialised

Opponents of the diplomatic process that created the PA in 1994 – Hamas, along with most of the secular leftist opposition – declined to take part in presidential and legislative elections held in 1996, or in the post-Arafat presidential poll of January 2005. However, Hamas leaders had long said they would participate in local elections as and when they were held. Discerning that Hamas enjoyed a measure of real popularity, the US had previously encouraged Arafat not to hold such elections for precisely this reason.

It was a view that found sympathetic ears among the senior Fatah leadership, until Minister of Local Government Jamal al-Shubaki began to articulate an alternative vision. Arguing that the benefits would outweigh the risks, Shubaki saw that local elections might address two enduring problems: the PA's inadequate tax revenues, and Israel's relentless colonisation campaign. Generating a new tier of fresh, legitimate administration would encourage Palestinians to pay their taxes. Moreover, these same local councils could better mobilise communities to resist the predations of Israel's machinery of colonisation.

> It is often said that 'oppositions don't win elections, governments lose them'

Shubaki triumphed, and from late 2004 local elections were held in four stages over 12 months. Hamas took part, and did very well. Campaigns were organised across the West Bank and Gaza, mosque-based and informal networks were mobilised to great effect, and both leadership and members were socialised into the practicalities of running for elected office. It lent Hamas experience and confidence as the legislative contest approached.

The case for electoral reform

The previous legislative elections of 1996 had been widely criticised by Palestinian opposition groups for taking place solely on a constituency basis. Constituencies played straight into the hands of wealthy extended families with financial and human resources ready to deliver the vote. Promising candidates were readily co-opted by Fatah. Hamas was never likely to participate in these circumstances, and the system needlessly marginalised the secular left which could have accrued sufficient votes for representation across the territories.

In the spirit of reform, Arafat's successor as PA president, Mahmud 'Abbas, agreed to adopt a mixed constituency and proportional system not dissimilar to New Zealand's. The implications were clearly understood by Hamas, which deployed its assets to great effect: figures of national standing ran as constituency candidates where their better public profile helped them compete, while local organisational leaders ran on the list to benefit from the movement's broad popularity. Christians, women and Fatah affiliates were all brought in to enhance its appeal, while Hamas's religious leaders, noting that each Palestinian now had two votes, decreed that both should be awarded to Hamas alone.

Fatah fails

It is often said that 'oppositions don't win elections, governments lose them', and this adage holds true for Fatah, with the qualification that the state of Israel helped. For its own part, Fatah failed in two respects: to unify the internal and external wings of the movement, and to govern with due accountability and transparency through the PA.

The Oslo-born process that returned the Palestinian leadership to the West Bank and Gaza in 1994 brought the historic leadership (marked by revolutionary armed struggle in Jordan and Lebanon) face to face with the local leadership (whose formative experiences came inside occupied Palestine, particularly

Israeli jails). Symbolised by Marwan al-Barghuthi, this middle-aged, middle-ranked leadership resented its exclusion from Fatah's highest echelon, the central committee, and, by extension, its exclusion from the highest rungs of the PA.

As elections approached, bitter divisions were revealed over the composition of Fatah's electoral candidates. Resentful at marginalisation by the old guard from 'outside', younger Fatah 'insiders' decided to form their own list: in contrast to Hamas's unity and discipline, Fatah appeared divided and unruly. Fatah's image was further undermined by a decade of mismanagement of the PA: Arafat's reliance on patronage through opaque and secretive funding had served him well as head of a revolution, but did not translate well in the state-building era. Barghuthi had been vocal in his calls for reform, and although much had been done to redress this in recent years, not least of all by 'Abbas, it was too little, too late.

Accelerated Israeli colonisation

Compounding Fatah's internal problems were the manifest failings of the Oslo 'peace' process to which they were attached. Far from delivering the promised independent Palestinian state, Oslo delivered a dramatic acceleration in Israeli settlement and road construction that tore through Palestinian land and rendered the possibility of a viable Palestinian state ever less likely. As Arafat signed the Declaration of Principles that inaugurated the Oslo process, the number of Israeli settlers on Palestinian land stood at around 250,000; after a decade of 'peace' that number had risen to some 400,000, and it goes on rising today. The reality of 'peace' for Palestinians was a dynamic Israeli colonisation drive that took land, water, mobility, prosperity and hope. It defied the requirements of international law, and proved unacceptable to the Palestinian people. And Fatah had brokered it.

When the Oslo arrangements finally collapsed in September 2000 (following the visit of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon to Islam's third holiest shrine, the al-Aqsa mosque, in the company of several hundred policemen and soldiers), rebellion erupted and Fatah was torn: preserve the political project that was the PA, or launch anti-colonial resistance anew? Hamas had no such quandary, taking a leading role in the al-Aqsa intifada, and forcing Fatah to respond with the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades as the uprising acquired a religious tone. In a climate informed by despair and revenge, neither faction was lacking recruits for armed struggle, including suicide bombing operations. Israel's response - reinvasion, destruction and collective punishment - demolished much of the PA governed by Fatah, and allowed Hamas to take a greater role in the provision of mosque-based welfare services. The ensuing Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip seemed only to vindicate Hamas's insistence on military resistance.

The War on Terror

In prosecuting the multidimensional War on Terror, the US seems to have decided that democratisation is one of its weapons of choice. If the Bush administration had not insisted on elections at this point, they would in all probability not have been held and Hamas could not have won them. Hamas's triumph, in the wake of the unruly experience in Iraq and the electoral success of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt a month or so earlier (they won approximately 25 percent of the seats, and would have won a lot more if allowed to) underscores a point: newly enfranchised Middle Eastern voters have their own agendas and are not much preoccupied with American sensibilities.

Conclusions

Hamas won in Palestine on its own merits as a responsive, respected and popular movement, ably assisted by the failings of the ruling Fatah faction, a reformed electoral system, a context of ongoing Zionist colonisation and what seems to be a regional trend towards Islamist success in increasingly open electoral competition. For Palestine, this might all be to the good: Palestinians want a transparent, efficient government that provides them with the security and services any of us in New Zealand take for granted. A reputation for honesty and effectiveness give some grounds for hope, so long as external sources of funding (necessary due to Israel's destruction of the Palestinian economy) are forthcoming.

For Fatah, the route to reform is clear: convening of the sixth general conference (for the first time since 1989), and election of a new central committee that reflects the will of the membership in Palestine. This done, a return to power is not inconceivable. For Israel, a PA led by Hamas could have unlikely benefits: now possessed of a real asset in the PA, it is possible that the Hamas political leadership will discern an interest in maintaining calm in order to protect and preserve its position from assault. If it does decide to so do, the Hamas movement will likely have the discipline and wherewithal to implement such a decision.

Assessing New Zealand's illicit drug market

Observed dispassionately, the illicit drug market is just that, another market, and a large and profitable one. Here, as in any market, supply and demand have their sway. Here too, innovation, integration, product development and marketing techniques are brought to bear.

But the illicit drug market is also different. For one thing, because the product is illicit it becomes easier to use coercion to gain advantage. For another, whereas in licit markets market information flows freely, in an illicit market information that flows too freely gets people arrested. And the people those in the market least want their information to flow to are the authorities.

Hence the introduction of the Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS).

Set up and run by SHORE (the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes, Research and Evaluation) under the direction of Dr Chris Wilkins, the IDMS sets out to provide timely information on trends in illicit drug use and drug-related harm in New Zealand. It is broken into three modules, each focusing on a specific drug type: methamphetamines, hallucinogens and cannabis. Each module consists of interviews with frequent drug users; interviews with key experts such as drug treatment workers, pharmacists and night club door staff; and reference to secondary sources on drug use.

The first version of the IDMS was conducted from April to August 2005. Among its key findings were:

- cannabis and methamphetamine are the drug types the largest proportion of frequent drug users consider to be 'very easy' to obtain
- methamphetamine was reported to be well established in the marketplace, highly available and innovatively marketed
- the price of ecstasy has fallen, with the drug perceived by participants to be less hazardous to health and safer to purchase than methamphetamine
- cannabis was considered to be widely available, but the price has remained stable and the number of users constant
- cocaine, ketamine and GHB are not widely available.

What is likely to happen in New Zealand's illicit drug market? Over half of the frequent drug users interviewed considered the regular use of methamphetamine an 'extreme health risk', but whether this perception will translate into a decline in demand is uncertain. Wilkins speculates that in the short term the number of methamphetamine users will stabilise, but will have larger associated costs as the number of existing users who are dependent climbs.

Ecstasy, because it is perceived to be less of a health risk (although the evidence of behavioural and cognitive damage is mounting) and less risky to purchase, may be the drug that goes on to exhibit the most persistent growth in the long term.

One finding that may have broader implications is the significant level of use of legal party pills by frequent drug users. For frequent cannabis users this stood at 62 percent for party pills and 36 percent for nitrous oxide; similar levels of use were reported by other frequent drug users. Do these substances promote or facilitate the use of hard drugs, or, as their advocates have it, provide a 'safe' alternative to hard drugs and criminality? Dr Wilkins is currently conducting a survey into legal party pill use which will help inform debate.

The IDMS findings are available at the National Drug Policy website, www.ndp.govt.nz, and the SHORE website, www.shore.ac.nz.

Tank traps

Rainwater – at least as collected from roofwater systems – may not deserve its reputation for purity, Stan Abbott, a senior lecturer in Microbiology and Communicable Diseases has found.

Massey researchers tested 450 private roof water samples from the lower North Island last year and found more than 30 percent showed evidence of heavy faecal contamination.

"I'm utterly amazed at the number of roof water supplies that fail – and fail badly – the New Zealand drinking water standards," says Abbott.

The contamination can come from a variety of sources.

"Studies of rainwater supply systems have found tanks with holes that let in pathogens as well as larger invaders such as mice, rats, possums, frogs and even birds.

"Even a passing seagull defecating on a roof can raise the level of faecal coliforms in water to potentially dangerous levels and pass on other pathogens."

About 380,000 New Zealanders use roof rainwater all year round and more are likely to do so. Families are moving to lifestyle blocks in rural areas not served by municipal town supplies, roof collection systems are being installed on new homes to avoid water charges, and many people claim to prefer the taste of untreated rainwater to that of town supply.

The risks of catching something from the tap rise during the summer, months when many New Zealanders migrate to that bach, crib, holiday house or campground.

Why, then, aren't more of us falling ill?

Well, some of us probably are, but stoically writing off an episode of illness as just one of those things. Or if we do go end up at the doctor's a contaminated water supply may not be fingered as the culprit.

Cruellest of all may be the punishment inflicted on our guests. Having been exposed to the particular pathogens before, we may have some resistance but visitors – particularly overseas visitors – may not be so lucky.

"So it might be five to 10 days after they leave your house or bach that your guests contract campylobacteriosis, giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis or salmonellosis and they then put it down to something else, such as food poisoning, rather than water-borne disease," says Abbott.

If you do rely on roofwater, Abbott recommends a well-designed collection system combined with a programme of water testing and basic maintenance.

Maintenance

To maintain a safe water supply:

- keep the roof catchments clean and clear of moss, lichen, leaves and other debris, and trim any overhanging trees.
- inspect and clean the gutters, tank inlets and screens every three to four months
- inspect the tanks annually and, if any contamination is apparent, disinfect the supply and clean the tank.
- have the water tested periodically and filter, disinfect or boil drinking water if you are unsure of its quality. Council environmental health officers and public health service health protection officers can recommend local testing laboratories.

Design

A well designed roofwater system will have certain features:

- a clean, impervious roof made from non-toxic material (no lead flashings or lead-based paints)
- a first foul flush device which intercepts and diverts away the initial flow of contaminated water after heavy rain
- wire or nylon mesh screens covering all tank inlets
- a light-proof tank (light can encourage algae leading to bacterial growth)
- tank taps or draw-off pipes that are at least 100 mm above the tank floor or, alternatively, a floating-arm draw-off valve
- a tank floor that slopes towards the sump and washout pipe
- a well-covered manhole for easy access and inspection.

Sports academy launches

A Massey Academy of Sport has been launched, the occasion being marked by the award of nine sport bursaries and a Prime Minister's Scholarship to students who will form part of the Academy.

The bursary recipients are: Louis Booth (rugby) who is studying for a Bachelor of Technology (product development), Mollie Fitzgibbon (hockey, Bachelor of Food Technology), David Hughes (rugby, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise), Blair Landers (squash, Bachelor of Veterinary Science), Richard Munn (hockey, BVSc), Liam Napier (rugby, Bachelor of Communication), Max Pearson (rugby, BSpEx), Benjamin Sutton-Davis (athletics, Bachelor of Business Studies), and Natalie Thomson (equestrian, BVSc). The scholarship recipient is Stephanie Hamblyn (barefoot water-skiing, BSpEx).

From left: David Hughes, Stephanie Hamblyn, Liam Napier, Louis Booth, Mollie Fitzgibbon, Blair Landers, Max Pearson, Natalie Thomson, Richard Munn, Ben Sutton-Davis.

In March 2006 fashion designer Veronica Keucke won the $20,000 Mercedes-Benz Start-Up award in Auckland. Veronica completed the Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology in 2002 and is now part of the Dunedin Fashion Incubator, a non-profit organisation set up to help emerging fashion designers into business.

Seven years and still trading

In recent times it has been a Cassandra-like article of faith that small businesses are precarious enterprises. Volatility, "a great foundation of massive continuous failure," has been seen as the natural state of affairs.

In response, many private and public agencies have directed their efforts towards helping small businesses to survive, rather than promoting best practice and strategies that promote growth.

But are things really that bad? Perhaps not.

In 2004 David Tweed and Dr Judy McGregor revisited 1,511 small to medium enterprises (SMEs) that were the subject of a randomised nationwide study of SMEs conducted by Massey University in 1997. The number remaining in business? At least 1,173 – or 77.6 percent.

The figure would have been much lower had Tweed and McGregor not used a number of different methods in combination to check whether firms were still in existence. They searched the internet, used the phone book, conducted a phone survey using the last known number, checked the company register, and sent out two paper-based surveys: the first a personalised survey sent to the business address, the second a more general survey addressed to "The owner/manager".

Each successive method captured more surviving businesses - and even now there may be businesses that have escaped the net.

What defines failure anyway? Some data collection methods have assumed that a change of ownership or geographical location somehow constitutes failure, or that a profitable business closed for health or personal reasons has 'failed'.

Tweed and McGregor's paper calls into question the validity of many of the publicly available statistics. It also raises wider issues for the focus of research, policy and interventions. Rather than concentrating on the incidence of failure, the authors suggest, we should look at the 'stayers' and how they achieve longevity.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visits an injured kiwi recovering in the wildlife ward. The Princess's visit was marked by the announcement of a $10,000 Faculty Development Fellowship for Thai university staff. One fellowship a year will be offered to faculty members of Khon Kaen, Mahasarakham, Prince of Songkla or Kasetsart Universities in Thailand, enabling the recipient to spend six months at Massey.

Going downhill fast

Sports scientist Matt Brodie wants to know the fastest way to ski down a mountain. The 29-year-old, now in his second year of a PhD at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, was awarded the Emerging Scientist prize at the 2005 Sports and Exercise Scientists New Zealand conference for his pioneering work on analysing the motion of downhill skiers.

Motion analysis is used by coaches to optimise athletic performance.

"The traditional method of motion analysis is to video an athlete in action in a laboratory. This is possible for, say, a runner on a treadmill or a cyclist on a stationary bike, but impossible for a skier," says Matt.

"My solution is to use Fusion Motion Capture, a new mobile system developed at the University combining a GPS unit, sensors worn on the skier's limbs, and pressure-sensitive boot insoles. The sensors directly measure limb acceleration, which allows me to determine the forces that drive the skier's motion."

Matt's PhD supervisor, biomechanics lecturer Dr Alan Walmsley, says the research is a world first. "Nobody has attempted to directly measure what makes a skier good, and how we can help make them better. Matt has worked out how to take a motion analysis lab into the field. It's a significant advance."

"Downhill skiing involves so many variables," says Matt. "There's snow conditions, ski design, what wax you use, technique, weight and body position. I want to find out what the most important variables are, so coaches and skiers can figure out how to go faster."

Before commencing his PhD he spent eight consecutive winters in Japan and New Zealand, working as a ski and snowboard instructor.

"One year I had more than 200 days on snow," he says. "After meeting Slovenian and Japanese coaches and world-class skiers I got interested in figuring out the fastest way down the mountain. We are trying to overcome coaches' and athletes' preoccupation with the way a performance appears (called kinematic obsession by some scientists) because just looking fast may not mean you will actually ski faster."

Penguins and icebergs

For the Adelie penguins of the Antarctic there really is no place like home. Each year they return to the colonies of their birth to breed and raise chicks of their own. They are philopatric – lovers of their own territory.

It takes a calamity to stop them returning, but Antarctica can supply just that. Every so often mega-icebergs break away from the Antarctic ice shelf, blocking the normal migration routes to some colonies. It has been estimated that over the last 10,000 years around 20 mega-icebergs have broken from the Ross Ice Shelf every 1,000 years.

One effect has been the periodic mixing of genetic material between penguin colonies, suggests a recent paper in *PNAS* (the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America).

For some years one of the paper's authors, evolutionary biologist Professor David Lambert, who is based at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology on Massey's Auckland campus, has been investigating the ancient genetic material extracted from the bones held in the layer cake of frozen guano, egg fragments, feathers, sand, gravel and pebbles beneath penguin colonies.

In a recent study Professor David Lambert and his collaborators compared the frequency of particular alleles (sequences of nucleotides on a DNA molecule) between a modern population of penguins at a rookery on Inexpressible Island and its ancient (approximately 6,000 years before the present) counterpart.

They found significant changes – changes more dramatic than might be expected from mutation or genetic drift (chance-driven fluctuations in the frequency of the appearance of a gene) alone. Mega-icebergs, they suggest, probably account for the difference.

The role of mega-icebergs in mixing penguin populations is supported by observations made during the 2001 grounding of a 180 km iceberg, which blocked the usual route home for Cape Royds banded penguins. Diverted by the iceberg, the Cape Royds penguins began showing up at the Cape Bird rookery en route to their own.

Predicting Ruapehu's lahar path

Christmas Eve, 1953. Beneath the Whangaehu Glacier the waters of the crater lake of Mt Ruapehu find an outlet and surge down the Whangaehu River, carrying a terrible burden of ice, ash, boulders and debris. At Tangiwai, the railway bridge fails. Later that night a crowded holiday-night express train on its way from Wellington to Auckland will plunge into the river. Of the 285 people on board, 151 will die.

Mt Ruapehu hosts one of the most active volcanic crater lakes in the world, and the Whangaehu River, which drains the lake, has carried more than 45 lahars (flash floods involving volcanic debris) since the Tangiwai disaster. And another lahar is imminent; the lake is full once more. This time, however, the event is anticipated.

In preparation, scientists from GNS Science and Massey University have conducted an aerial survey of the path of the predicted lahar. The survey used a LiDAR (light detection and ranging) mapping system, which uses digital laser technology to take up to 83,000 measurements of the land surface per second with sub-metre accuracy. Combined with high-resolution digital photography, the method produces a highly accurate 3D snapshot of the land surface.

GNS Science has commissioned the survey as part of a broader research plan designed to capture maximum scientific value from the event.

GNS Science's lead scientist for the project, Dr Vern Manville, says LiDAR offered the most cost-effective method of producing a highly accurate 3D map of the upper Whangaehu River. "Comparison of the results of this survey with a duplicate mission flown immediately after the lahar happens will allow us to work out what changes it made to the river bed."

Vulcanologist Dr Shane Cronin and his team from Massey are using the survey results to make a 3D topographic numerical model of the lahar channel. "This is a unique opportunity to capture the secrets of a life-sized lahar," Dr Cronin says. "The more we can learn about this event, the better prepared we will be for such events in the future."

GNS Science and Massey are also planning to instal an array of monitoring instruments at key locations along the lahar's path to measure its properties as it flows past.

In February a Canadian First Nations delegation (pictured here with Massey staff) visited Massey to learn about Māori land development.

Associate Professor Catherine Turner (at front) demonstrates the Nurses' E-Cohort Study website to Labour Minister Ruth Dyson, Health Minister Pete Hodgson and Dr Annette Huntington of Massey University. The study, a collaborative venture between the school and the University of Queensland, will use on-line questionnaires and secure databases to collect and store information provided by New Zealand nurses. The information will help policy makers recruit and retain a skilled New Zealand nursing workforce.

New Pūkenga (fellows) of Te Mata o Te Tau the Massey University Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship: Dr Sharon Henare, Dr Heather Gifford, Dr Amohia Boulton, Dr Huia Jahnke, Dr Denise Wilson, Dr Nicole Coup, Dr Tanira Kingi. (Dr Paul Hirini, Dr Manuhuia Barchum and Dr Kara Mihaere are also new Pūkenga but are absent from the photo.)

Mt Taranaki overdue for eruption

Presiding over the surrounding bush and lush pastures, Mt Taranaki, with its symmetrical form, is New Zealand's most picture-perfect volcano. But the volcano, which has shown little or no sign of activity for two centuries, turns out to have a troubled past: in the last 9,000 years the mountain has erupted at least every 90 years on average, with one eruption every 500 years being major.

If this record is any sort of guide, Taranaki ought to be regarded as much as a threat as it is as an icon.

Mt Taranki's tempestuous history is recorded in a series of sediment cores which Massey vulcanologist Dr Shane Cronin has taken from Lake Umutekai, five kilometres east of New Plymouth and about 25 kilometres north-east of the volcano. The cores hold almost 100 ash layers in a matrix of organic sediments. The layers range from just millimetres in thickness, representing eruptions similar in scale to those of Mt Ruapehu in 1995-1996 to layers several-centimetres thick, representing major eruptions akin to the cataclysmic eruption of Mt Tarawera in 1886.

What is more, because the lake's location favours the capture of ashfalls borne by south-westerly winds, the sediment cores taken from it are probably a partial and incomplete record.

Taranaki's last major eruption dates back to 1655. The minor eruptions have often occurred in swarms, with the mountain erupting semi-continuously over a period of years. The present cone on Taranaki is likely to have formed during the last swarm of small eruptions (these are dated at around 1755 but may have been followed by further eruption in the early 1800s).

The findings are a wake-up call, says Cronin, whose work in assembling Taranaki's volcanic history will be used to produce a probability models which will help authorities and businesses plan for the eruptions.

"These events have been as frequent as large-scale floods in many rivers of New Zealand and future activity from this volcano may pose a more immediate threat to the North Island that previously realised."

If there were to be a major eruption, the consequences would be severe says Cronin. "It would undoubtedly cause substantial disruption to much of the North Island, cutting power supplies, damaging transmission lines, water supplies and stormwater."

The ash cloud would disrupt all main North Island airline flight paths and the prevailing south-westerly wind would push the cloud over Auckland, closing the country's largest international airport. On farms the ash would damage pastures, crops and orchards and block the air filters on milking shed cooling plants.

Taranaki is monitored by six seismometers owned by the Taranaki Regional Council and managed by GeoNet, part of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

The monitoring should give at least six days' and possibly as much as a few months' warning of an eruption.

The analysis of Taranaki's pattern of vulcanism is part of a programme of assessing North Island volcanic risk. The research programme is funded by the Public Good Science Fund of the New Zealand Foundation for Science and Technology.

Fashioning a career

For fashion and textile design graduate Tilly Keokotavong 2005 was a good year. First, the 22-year-old won the knitwear section in the 2005 Hokonui Fashion Design Awards in Gore. Her layered outfit comprised a machine-knitted top with beaded detail, a chunky hand-knitted overtop with lace collar, and a machine-knitted skirt with fibre inserts.

Then her embroidery gained her second place in the Hand and Lock Prize for Embroidery, with the prize a trip to London. It was the first time an international student had placed in this prestigious competition.

Tilly flew to London the day after exhibiting a collection at Massey's end-of-year fashion show, "Hems to the Left". After collecting her prize in London, Tilly was to travel to Germany, France, Italy and Dubai, where she has a three-month internship as a textile and embroidery designer at haute couture house Arushi. The internship is funded by an Arohanui Victoria Trust grant.

Arushi was founded by New Zealand School of Design fashion graduate Peter Loughlin in the 1980s. It specialises in evening wear and wedding collections, and its intricately worked creations can command six-figure prices.

Fashion and Textile Design lecturer Dr Sandy Heffernan describes Tilly's work as contemporary, with an ethereal distressed quality, and her approach as inventive and original.

Organic dairying pays its way

A trial of organic dairy farming has found that, although it is less productive than its conventional counterpart, with the price premium organic products command it can be just as profitable.

In 2001 the land and herds of the Massey dairy farm outside Palmerston North were divided into an organic and a conventional farm. Each was managed to meet best practice, and the production, animal health and the impact on the environment were monitored by Massey's Institute of Natural Resources.

It took two years for the 20.4 hectares organic farm to achieve full organic certification, during which time the results from the conventional and organic farm were similar.

In years following certification the conventional farm has proven 10 to 20 percent more productive, but the 20 percent premium paid for organic milk has meant that the income realised from the organic farm has been similar. Moreover, it appears that the organic farm is better for the environment.

Senior lecturer Dr Terry Kelly, who has led a study of the trial, attributes one of the deciding differences in farm productivity – the higher rate of pasture production on the conventional farm – to the ability to apply nitrogen fertilisers at critical periods in the spring.

Does the study provide a definitive account of the advantages and disadvantages of each mode of farming? Not yet. The study authors warn that "three-plus years is quite a short time in the transition to a stable organically-managed farming system."

Microscopy centre to go ahead

Massey has successfully bid for $1.5 million from the Tertiary Education Commission's Innovation and Development Fund to establish a Manawatu Microscopy and Imaging Centre.

The lab will house a con-focal microscope and a scanning electron microscope. The first allows cellular structures to be visualised and analysed in three dimensions; the second allows the study of the sub-cellular components at molecular resolution.

Its users will include, among others, veterinary pathologists, food scientists and microbiologists. More than 360 Massey postgraduate students are studying in fields that rely on advanced microscopy.

The bid for funding for the microscopy centre was supported by more than 60 research groups at Massey and in the wider Manawatu.

Master of finance degree arrives

A masterate in finance is to be taught on the Auckland and Palmerston North campuses.

"It's in line with the international trend towards more specialisation in finance education," says Professor Lawrence Rose from the College of Business. Traditionally finance has been incorporated within other degrees.

"The University has particular expertise in finance, with some very senior staff who have world-wide ranking amongst finance researchers and have driven Massey to the top ranking nationally in finance education."

Robert Fisk, the award-winning Middle East correspondent for Britain's *Independent*, addresses a class of 40 journalism students in March 2006.

PhD student Katherine Bell relaxes with friends. Katherine, who already has a qualification in veterinary nursing and a degree in ecology, is completing a PhD in feline nutrition. Before returning to study, Katherine had worked for two years with the Cheetah Outreach programme in southern Africa. Her research, which deals with the interaction between diet and reproduction, will add to the knowledge of how best to breed and care for cheetahs in captivity. Katherine recently visited Japan, where she oversaw the settling-in of 10 new cheetahs at a wildlife park in the Himeji region.

The colour purple

As a by-product of conducting a survey into reality television, researchers have found that the colour of a questionnaire can affect its response rate. Jan Charbonneau and Mike Brennan sent 1,600 questionnaires – 400 printed in red, 400 in green, 400 in blue and 400 in purple – to people drawn at random from the electoral roll.

The results? The non-purple questionnaires generated a 60 percent response rate; the purple questionnaire generated a 71 percent response rate. The purple questionnaire was the most effective across gender and all age groups.

The results were a surprise, says Charbonneau. "Purple seemed the least attractive colour and the one most likely to make the questionnaire hard to read. Research on psychological effects suggests blue is cool, typifying restraint, yellow connotes warmth, and red and orange warmth and action. Not much is said about purple."

Could it be that the purple questionnaire or reminder letter simply stands out? Charbonneau doesn't think so. "All four colours were visually intrusive. It might be a combination of perceptual and emotional factors, given that purple has associations with royalty and a market-leading brand of chocolate."

The Colour Purple: The Effect of Questionnaire Colour on Mail Survey Response is available at http://marketing-bulletin.massey.ac.nz

Photo courtesy of *The Dominion Post*

Doctor of Literature (honoris causa)

Geoffrey Baylis

It did not take very long for the new editor of the *Dominion* to find himself in trouble. In 1982 the paper published material from a leaked wage-talks document and Prime Minister Robert Muldoon retaliated by announcing a ban on the release of any ministerial information to the paper.

Although it was only months since his arrival from Britain, where he had spent nearly 30 years as a reporter and editor, Geoff Baylis was not to be cowed. With the support of the Parliamentary Press Gallery he took the unprecedented step for a newspaper editor of making a complaint to the Press Council about a prime minister.

The Council found in his favour. The paper had the right to publish a leaked document not obtained by improper means. The ban was unjustified in a democratic society. The decision is still cited as a landmark vindication of free speech.

In 1987, when British newspapers were injuncted from printing excerpts from Peter Wright's book *Spycatcher*, Baylis, dismayed at the muzzling of the press, arranged for the *Dominion* to do so. Again he was vindicated. When Britain's Attorney General took action against Wellington Newspapers, the Court of Appeal refused the British Government relief. It found that public interest lay in the publication of information about malpractice in a security service.

Where principle was involved, the *Dominion* would take a stand. Under Baylis the *Dominion* lent its support to the campaign for universal childhood vaccination against measles and to the fight against AIDS. The paper's willingness to crusade and its shift to a greater focus on politics and business helped Baylis revive the *Dominion*'s flagging circulation. So too did Baylis's support of serious investigative journalism. Among journalists the *Dominion* came to be known as the paper to work for.

Baylis left the *Dominion* in 1989 to become the Chief Executive and Editor-in-Chief of that iconic New Zealand magazine the *Listener* and the music magazine *RTR Countdown*. (He said of the latter, "fortunately it had its own editor because I had difficulty understanding the language they wrote it in.")

Baylis was appointed at the start of negotiations for the sale of the *Listener* by TVNZ and Radio New Zealand to Wilson and Horton. It would fall to him to tidy up finances – described as "chaotic" under his predecessors – and to deliver the bad news to Wellington staff of a headquarters move to Auckland. He also oversaw the introduction of computerisation and the magazine's change in format from A3 to A4. A journalist of the time remembers him as an editor "who inspired rather than bullied, who enthused with his vision rather than imposed prescribed behaviour."

As he had at the *Dominion*, Baylis hired strong writers and gave the magazine an investigative edge.

Baylis has also been influential in journalism education. His assistance and advice were invaluable in the creation of Massey's fledgeling Graduate Diploma in Applied Journalism (now Journalism Studies) papers. A paper he developed, Investigative Reporting, is still taught. It draws on Baylis's experiences in an actual investigation in Britain,

After 'retiring' Baylis founded the journalism programme at Whitireia Community Polytechnic in Porirua.

Baylis was awarded the New Zealand Medal in 1990.

Doctor of Literature (honoris causa)

Emeritus Professor John Dunmore

Professor John Dunmore's lifetime research interest has been the exploration of the Pacific by the French, a field where his pre-eminence is internationally recognised.

John Dunmore was born in France, and educated there and in the United Kingdom. After a period teaching in New Zealand he studied for a PhD at Victoria University of Wellington, then became a lecturer at Palmerston North University College, an antecedent of Massey University. As Massey University's foundation Professor of French (1966–1984), and Dean of Humanities (1968–81), he was a strong supporter of the Humanities, a tireless advocate of the importance of language learning – in schools as well as at tertiary level – and set up teaching programmes in European and Asian languages, linguistics and second language teaching.

Professor John Beaglehole of Victoria University had suggested to him that since little had been written on French explorers of the Pacific, this could be a rich research area, and Dunmore took him at his word. Since the 1950s he has studied the original logs and journals of the voyages of the three great French navigators, Bougainville, Surville and La Pérouse, and these studies have resulted in 10 major academic books. The two-volume *French Explorers in the Pacific* (Clarendon Press, 1965 and 1969) is the foundation work. His scholarly editions of the journals of the three explorers have appeared under the imprint of the Hakluyt Society, London, and he has also published a detailed biography for each. A particular achievement was locating and editing the journal of La Pérouse, which had been misfiled in the French National Archives. *The Fateful Voyage of the St Jean-Baptiste*, (1969) a study of Surville's journey across the Pacific in 1769/70, gained the Wattie Book of the Year award in 1970.

Related to these academic works has been a steady stream of books written for general readers, such as the wide-ranging survey *Visions and Realities: France in the Pacific 1695–1995* (Heritage Press, 1997) and useful reference works, as well as some 50 scholarly papers and reviews.

Most recent among his publications are Bougainville's journal (2002), a biography of Bougainville, *Storms and Dreams* (2004), and a biography of La Pérouse, *Where Fate Beckons* (2006).

A number of Dunmore's books have been translated into French, and he was a founder, in 1980, of the *New Zealand Journal of French Studies*.

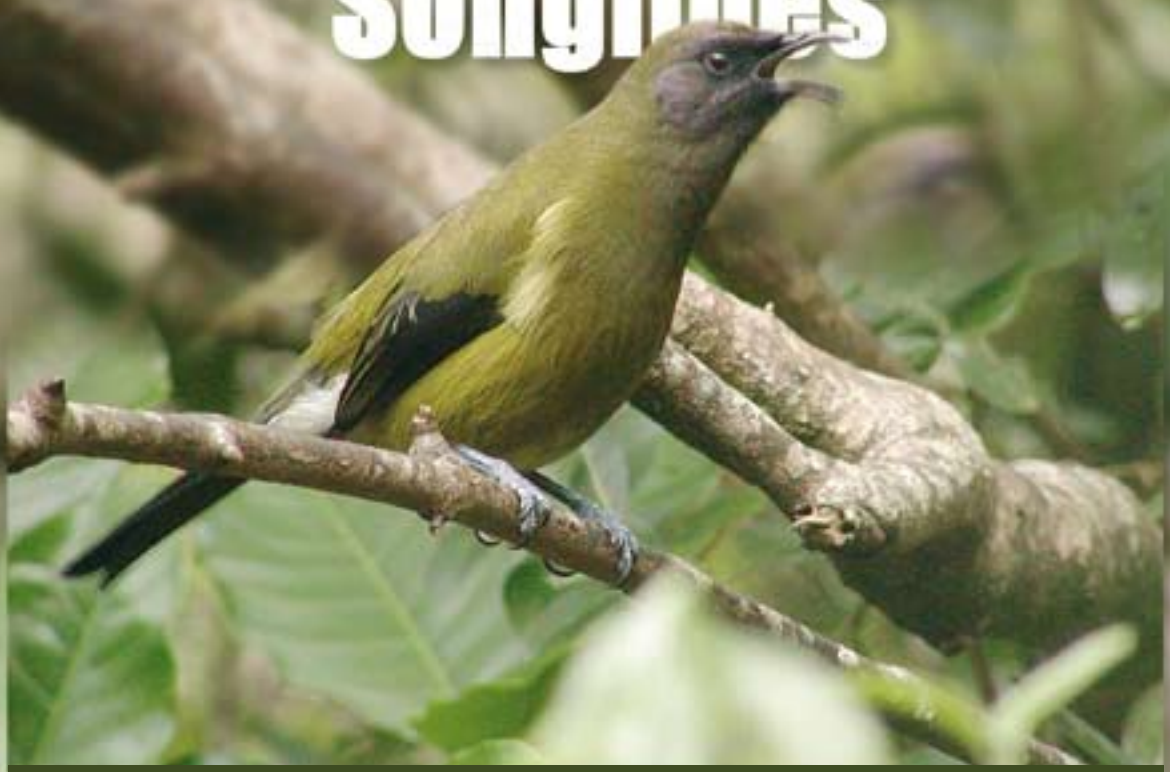
Dunmore's dedication to French culture and language has earned him special recognition from the French government. He was made a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1976, and an Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques 1986. Following his retirement from Massey in 1984 he became an Emeritus Professor, and was awarded a Massey Medal in 1993. New Zealand recognition has included a 1990 New Zealand Medal, and in 2001 he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM).

MASSEY will review Where Fate Beckons *in the November issue.*

I was awakened by the singing of the birds ashore, from whence we are distant not a quarter of a mile. Their numbers were certainly very great. They seemed to strain their throats with emulation, and made, perhaps, the most melodious wild music I have ever heard, almost imitating small bells, but with the most tunable silver imaginable, to which, may be, the distance was no small addition.

Joseph Banks, Queen Charlotte Sound, 1770

Songlines



A male bellbird in song. The female is smaller and browner in coloration and carries a narrow white stripe across her cheek. *Photo courtesy of Libby Hitchings*

Editor Malcolm Wood visits Tiritiri Matangi Island

"I hate boats, I love boats," mouths Associate Professor Dianne Brunton as she clings to a metal pillar on the pitching upper deck, spray raining around her and the ship's bell ringing of its own accord whenever there is a particularly violent lurch. Behind us the suburbia of Auckland falls away; ahead rises the green profile of Tiritiri Matangi Island. The 4-km Tiri Channel crossing is feeling longer; today the northeasterly is making the seas particularly rough.

I feel for her. I too am beginning to feel queasy, and Dianne, not a natural sailor, carries another disadvantage – a late night hosting a meal for her postgraduate students and then working on the same funding application she will return to tonight.

So we are grateful to come into the lee of the island where, on the narrow jetty, a guard of honour awaits the ferry's arrival. At its head are longtime caretakers Ray and Barbara Walter, followed by other Department of Conservation staff. Then the representatives of Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, whose volunteers act as guides. Then the tractor and trailer that will take baggage up the hill to the visitors centre. And, at the last, Greg, resplendent in his green-blue plumage, and shiftily on the lookout for a handout. For the ferry's passengers – sensibly-clad and -shod types carrying day packs, cameras and trekking poles – Greg the takahe is the first representative of the wildlife they have come to see.

Greg the takahe *Photo courtesy of Luis Ortiz-Catedral*

Tiritiri Matangi Island is unrivalled as a place to get close to a number of the must-sees of New Zealand birdlife in the wild, the ones every bird spotter wants to add to a life list: the stitchbird or hihi, the black-and-chestnut-plumaged saddleback or tieke, and the kokako with its blue wattles and haunting song.

Tiri's birds have little fear of people and obligingly appear at water troughs and sugar-water feeders before a battery of cameras wielded by birding's paparazzi. We, on the other hand – Dianne, Royal Society Fellow Barbara Evans, master's student Taneal Cope and I – are here to meet a commoner, a bird many visitors won't give so much as a second glance: *Anthornis melanura*, the New Zealand bellbird or korimako.

When botanist Joseph Banks marvelled at the sound of the dawn chorus in Queen Charlotte Sound in 1770, the principal vocalist was almost certainly the bellbird. Today, for many New Zealanders the call of bellbirds remains the essence of the soundtrack of the bush.

We are fortunate the bird has lasted the distance. In 1873 ornithologist Walter Buller

prophesied the bird's extinction, and with good grounds. In the wake of European settlement – with land clearance, the arrival of predators like rats, weasels, stoats and cats, and possibly as the consequence of new diseases – the number of bellbirds had fallen steeply, particularly in the North Island (South Island numbers began falling from around 1900.) By the end of the nineteenth century the species had vanished entirely from parts of the North Island. In regions such as Northland it has yet to return.

For its part, while Tiri managed to escape the predator invasion (though kiore or Polynesian rat were present until eliminated in 1993), it was temptingly fertile land. By the time of Buller's prophesy the island had been farmed for decades, and by the 1940s just 6 percent of the island's land area persisted in bush. In 1969 the Ornithological Society found just 24 bellbirds there. Today on the reforested island there are more than 1500.

A little way up the track at a feeding station tucked into the bush we meet our first: a half dozen small, drab birds emitting peep, peep, calls. Juveniles, says Dianne, probably from the last brood of the breeding season; the peeps are a 'feed me' cry.

The peeps are unmistakable, but it is fast becoming apparent to me how lacking my powers of discrimination are. My companions are constantly identifying birds through the foliage while I catch occasional flashes of plumage and little more. Where I hear a hubbub of birdsong and struggle to remember which call belongs to which species, Dianne is picking out the voices of individual birds the way you might focus on a single conversation at a noisy party.

Beyond identifying the birds by ear, she is also managing the Doctor Dolittle feat of interpreting the content of the calls. In the case of the bellbirds she can say whether it is male or female, a get-off-my land call, an assertion of status, or a be-my-mate come-hither. In the case of the Tiri saddlebacks she can even pick out the differences in dialect that announce which end of the island the bird hails from.

Not all birds are songbirds and not all song bird vocalisations count as singing. The parakeets chittering in Tiri's tree tops do not count as songbirds, nor do the little blue penguins nesting on the water's edge with their nightly Hammer-Horror cries. No romantic poet has ever penned a much-loved ode to a duck.

The songbirds, phylogenetically speaking, are members of the Oscine suborder of the order Passeriformes. They include – to name some obvious suspects – the nightingale, starling, thrush and mockingbird of the old world, and the tui, kokako and bellbird, and lyrebird of the new.

In fact, among the world's 30 orders of bird the Passeriformes (small land-based birds with feet adapted for perching) are by far the most diverse, making up around 5500 of the world's 9000-plus bird species, and all bar around 1000 of these belong to the Oscine suborder.

So what is it that defines birdsong? The peep, peep of the adolescent bellbirds is not birdsong: it is a 'cry', an unvarying genetically-encoded vocalisation which will elicit a genetically-encoded response. Birdsongs, by contrast, are as much learned as they are innate.

While in the nest these bellbird adolescents have been busily memorising the sounds of their own kind and shortly they will begin tuning up, testing the possibilities, and rehearsing and self-correcting like any student musician. Their instrument is an extraordinary organ called the syrinx, which has two chambers where the human larynx has only one, effectively allowing songbirds to duet with themselves. "You'll hear them going doodle-oodle, just practising away," says Dianne.

Whales, dolphins, humans and songbirds are the only creatures known to pass on learned vocalisations.

As a child growing up in urban Henderson in Auckland's Waitakere District, Dianne Brunton had no great interest in birds. But

At left: Master's student Taneal Cope, Associate Professor Dianne Brunton and Royal Society Fellowship recipient Barbara Evans with a bellbird captured for a health check

At right from top: forest gecko; little blue penguin; banding paradise shelducks

The Ecology and Conservation Group

Associate Professor Dianne Brunton joined Massey University and set up the Auckland–based Ecology and Conservation Group in December 2004, spending her first months working out of temporary accommodation while a laboratory was built to her specifications. The group shares accommodation with Dr Mark Oram's marine research group and the Sir Peter Blake Trust.

Currently the group includes Dr Weihong Ji (Research Officer), Ms Marleen Baling (technical support), Dr Rosemary Barraclough and Dr Nathalie Patenaude (postdoctoral fellows), and postgraduate students from New Zealand, Mexico, Malaysia, South Africa and Germany.

Among the birds that are the subject of postgraduate theses in progress are bellbirds, kiwi, kakariki, saddlebacks, penguins, tomtits, brown quail, and grey warblers and their parasites the shining cuckoos.

Among the non-avian wildlife are geckos, invertebrates, and avian blood parasites. Students are also working on conservation policy.

So successful has the group been in attracting postgraduate students that further laboratory space has had to be sought.

Whenever she can, Brunton tries to bring the group together socially and in the field. Most recently the group set out to capture, band and blood-sample paradise ducks – arguably the most successful and least studied of New Zealand's endemic birds – at Tawharanui Regional Park.

for the future field researcher there was a creek to play in at the back of the family house and she acquired an interest in animals early on: "I wanted to be a vet and I had a pet everything – turtles, skinks, cats, dogs, sparrows and goodness knows what else."

Birds weren't her first choice of topic either for her MSc at the University of Auckland: she would have liked to work with freshwater invertebrates. Only when the funding failed to come through did Dianne turn to birds as a default, and her thesis topic became the calls of southern black-backed gulls.

For her proposed PhD thesis at the University of Michigan, Dianne again turned to invertebrates, proposing to study the social behaviour of semi-social wasps. The University of Michigan, where Dianne would study, had a colony of semi-social wasps that had been studied for decades and had become something of an institution. "Then they had the coldest winter in 50 years. The whole colony died."

Again her fall-back was avian – the killdeer plover (the name of which approximates the call) – and this time Dianne found she was hooked. After her PhD she went on to a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University, teaching ornithology and occupying the office in the Peabody Museum of the recently retired and world-renowned ornithologist and molecular biologist Charles Sibley.

But it wasn't birds that gave her her break. Michigan had also given her a good grounding as a biostatistician, and in 1991 that was what she returned as to the University of Auckland.

The view from Tiritiri Matangi Island

We begin to make our way up to the path towards the crest of the island, heading, according to Taneal Cope, towards the municipality of Upper Wireweed. Now in the second year of her masterate, Taneal, a lively woman in her early twenties, spent part of 2005 tracking the movement of bellbirds to identify nest sites, and she has designated districts for the researchers' convenience.

Upper Wireweed (there is a also a downmarket Lower Wireweed) turns out to be a sunny plot of thick grass and low trees. Stopping at one isolated tree, Taneal delves into the thick foliage to reveal a bellbird nest, a haphazard mass of twigs deserted now the breeding season is done.

Over the past year Taneal has bonded completely with her topic of study. "I always make a pitch for them," she says. Bellbirds are one of the most important pollinators in the bush, she says. They are also very loyal to their chicks. In one instance where a nest had fallen from a tree, the parents continued to come to feed the chicks on the ground.

And they are feisty. An attempt at monitoring the activity in the nest foundered when the female took an aversion to the camera and vandalised it. The last shot on record is a full-face view of an angry female through a cockeyed lens.

Banding the chicks always felt like an intrusion, Taneal says. "The female lets loose with an alarm call or mimes having a broken wing to lure you away, the chicks freeze, and the male looks on going 'bop, bop, bop'. It gets to you; just the way it's meant to," she says, taking on the movements of an agitated bellbird as she speaks.

Knowing where the nests were and having the birds banded was a precondition to investigating how female bellbirds employ song. In most temperate northern hemisphere birds it is the male that sings. (In fact the one way to reliably induce the female to sing is to dose her with testosterone.) But in the southern hemisphere and the tropics there are many species where both males and females sing. The bellbird is one.

The questions surrounding female bellbird song are one of Dianne's many interests. Certain things she knows already: that the females sing shorter, simpler songs than the males, that they sing discrete songs rather than continuously, and that during the breeding season they sing more than the males.

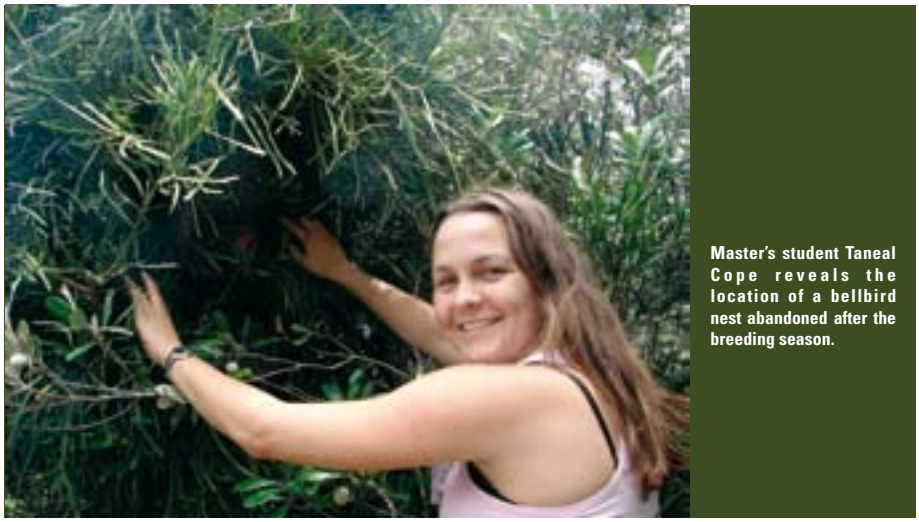
But why do they sing? Does female song serve to ward off other birds from territory, with its food, space and nest sites; to communicate with the male; or to hold family together? Or might it be about keeping other females from gaining access to her mate?

The way to find out was to gauge the females' reaction to female bellbird song, venturing first to the edge and then inside the bounds of a bellbird's territory and, at each stopping place, playing back variously the female bellbird's own call, her female neighbour's and a female stranger's.

Dianne, Barbara, Taneal and Weihong Ji (a research officer) worked as a team, one of them playing back the recordings while the others observed, noting the bird bands and the female's behaviour – did she hop, fly, sing or do nothing at all. Then the team would hasten to some other non-adjoining territory.

"You want to maximise the time between playbacks at neighbouring territories," explains Dianne. "You don't want them all wound up in response to what you played before."

The results? The female, they found, responded strongly to her own call, very strongly to her neighbour's call, and hardly at all to the call of a stranger. Earlier work had shown that females hardly respond to male calls at all.



Master's student Taneal Cope reveals the location of a bellbird nest abandoned after the breeding season.

Why bellbirds matter

It is an environmental snuff movie. In a grainy matchbox-sized video on Alastair Robertson's computer screen, a stoat takes the chicks from a bellbird nest with economical efficiency, returning to the nest repeatedly over the course of ten minutes to take the chicks one by one.

"We had expected most of the predation to happen at night," says Robertson, a senior lecturer in ecology with Massey's Institute of Natural Resources, "but most of what we saw happened during the day."

The birds, he says, are easy meat. The chick's clamour of 'feed me' calls, which continues after the parents have left to forage, alerts the passing stoat. The stoat takes what is offered and carries on the hunt.

How great an impact is the presence of introduced predators having on New Zealand's bellbird population? Between late 1999 and early 2001 Robertson and researchers from the University of Canterbury took a 400-hectare plot of beech forest in the Craigieburn Conservation Area and embarked on a trapping programme, catching 33 stoats in two successive breeding seasons. The difference was dramatic: the number of bellbirds present increased by 80 percent.

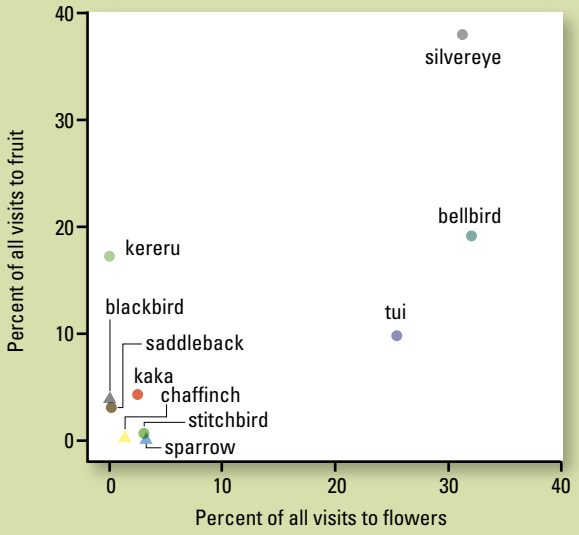
A similar catchment left untouched showed no change in bellbird numbers; all four of the nests under video surveillance there were raided by stoats. In the trapped catchment bellbird nests were four times more likely to succeed.

The absence - or near absence - of bellbirds has larger consequences. A number of New Zealand's native plants are highly reliant on native birds for pollination (red mistletoe and climbing fuschia) or seed dispersal (nikau, kotukutuku and karo). Introduced birds, though much more widespread, seem to be no substitute.

Understandably, much of New Zealand's conservation effort has gone into birds that are endangered or threatened – birds 'on the brink'. Birds that, like the bellbird, have remained relatively widespread have commanded less attention. Yet their populations are a fraction of what they might be without predation – on the Poor Knights Islands there are 71 bellbirds per hectare, or 54 times the average mainland density – and their decline is affecting the health of our forests, says Robertson.

Can something be done? The good news is that it can. Rats can be poisoned, ferrets and stoats can be caught using fenn traps, and this is happening in a number of private and public ventures around New Zealand.

Relative (Un)Importance of Introduced Animals as Pollinators and Dispersers



Overall mean contribution by different bird species to flower visits and fruit visits on native plants throughout New Zealand. Introduced birds are marked with triangles, native birds with circles. Kereru are marked as doing zero pollination, but actually have a negative effect on pollination by eating flowers.
Courtesy of Dave Kelly, University of Canterbury

Alastair Robertson, a senior lecturer in ecology with Massey's Institute of Natural Resources

A male bellbird on a stem of flowering flax sports a cap of pollen. *Photo by Peter Reese*

A male bellbird feeds on the nectar of a puriri flower. *Photo by Peter Reese*

Until now, bellbirds have been thought to be monogamous (most birds are – at least socially). But on the evidence of her bird-call studies Dianne is willing to hazard that while the species is socially monogamous, when it comes to its mating habits there is an amount of polygyny: some males are mating with more than one female.

She suspects that the female's defence of her territory against incursions by other females is her way of keeping rivals away from her mate, making sure that his parental efforts are devoted to her own chicks.

Of course there is a corollary to the polygyny hypothesis. Sometimes the female's defence of her male must slip up, so some males must have sired chicks by a number of females. This extra-pair paternity will be one of the things Taneal will test for over the next year when she arranges DNA tests of the blood samples from the parents and chicks, tests that should also help identify just where the bellbird fits phylogenetically within the Australasian honeyeater family.

Dianne first visited Tiri in 1991, shortly after beginning work as a biostatistician, spirited there by a colleague John Craig (along with Neil Mitchell, he first put forward the idea of an open sanctuary), who offered her an impromptu helicopter ride. Her visit came midway through the decade of planting that re-established Tiri's bush cover, and many of the birds and animals Tiri is known for had yet to be reintroduced.

The kakariki, the first of the reintroductions, had arrived in 1974, and at the time of Dianne's first visit the first two takahe, Mr Blue and Stormy, had just arrived. Still to come were robins, kokako, fernbirds and tuatara.

At the University of Auckland Dianne had begun by advising graduate students on how to resolve their statistical problems, a role that had its frustrations: "If the students haven't come to see you when they started their projects and then come to you because they need help, it can be nasty."

Soon, however, she found herself teaching undergraduate students and then supervising

Push record

Although humankind has been observing birds for millennia and the first bird recording dates back to 1889, the science of birdsong really only began to take off in the wake of World War II with the arrival of the tape recorder and the audiosonograph.

The tape recorder put recording within reach of researchers; the sonograph – which produces maps of sound frequency against time – made it possible to compare birdsongs objectively.

Associate Professor Dianne Brunton's current workhorse is a cheap, battery-frugal minidisc recorder smaller than a pack of cards, paired with a directional microphone (although the gold standard remains Digital Audio Tape, and hard drive and chip-based recorders are taking over). Her audiosonograph is not the piece of specialist equipment of yesteryear, but a computer program written by the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

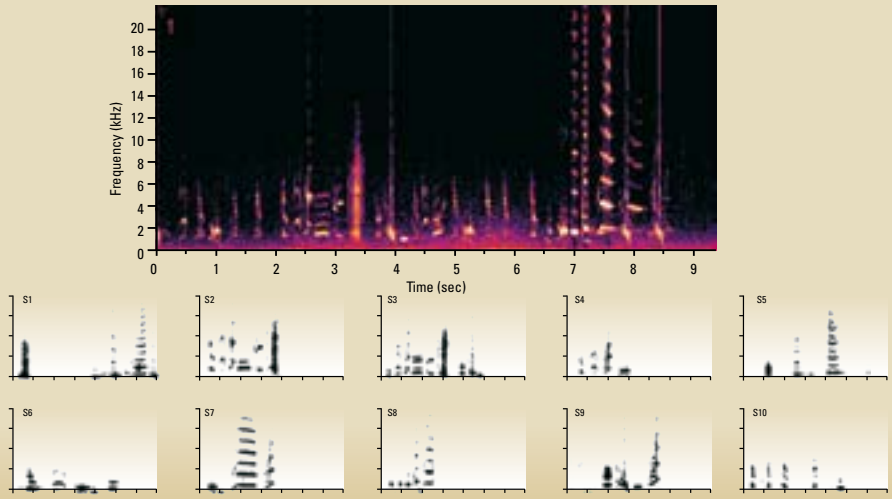
If the science of birdsong has holy ground, then the Cornell Lab is it. Comparatively modest when Brunton first visited it as a graduate student at Michigan, the Lab has morphed into one of those only-in-America enterprises, employing hundreds of people in everything from writing specialist software to 'citizen science'. In the Macaulay Library attached to the Lab are over 160,000 sound recordings, including 67 percent of the world's bird species. Currently, at Dianne's request the Lab is digitising some 60 deteriorating reel-to-reel tapes of saddlebacks made in the 1970s.

The Lab is also famed for the bird recording workshops it runs in the Sierra Nevadas. Dianne's students are regular pilgrims to these. She herself is attending her second this year with her fellow researcher Dr Weihong Ji.

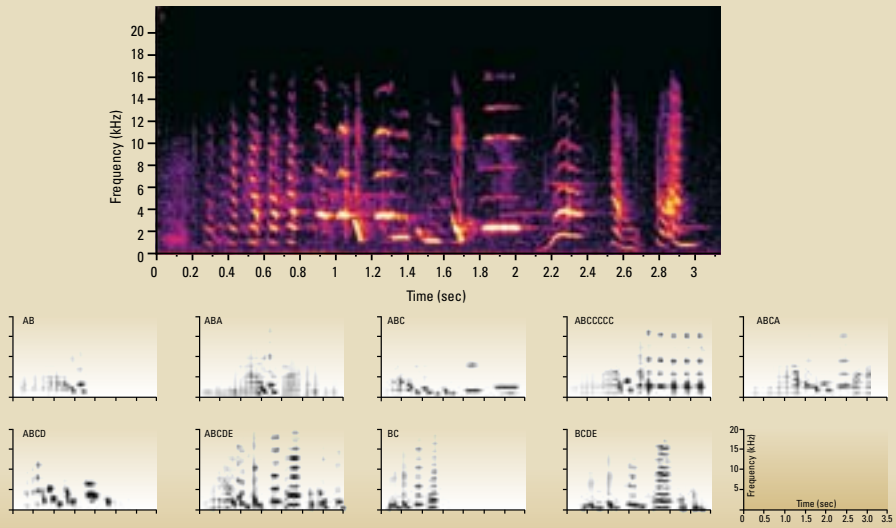
Is there scope in New Zealand for citizen science in bird recording? Dianne recalls being contacted by a woman after an appearance on National Radio.

"She was an itinerant farm worker, picking fruit and travelling the South Island, and she said she had a good microphone and had been recording bellbirds on minidisc. She sent me the disc together with a map showing the location, and it was fantastic." The only technical fault Dianne could pick was some handling noise. "So I sent her a shotgun mount for the microphone and some minidiscs. She continues to send me recordings, the latest being from the Nelson region."

Associate Professor Dianne Brunton at the Cornell Ornithology Lab's workshop carrying a shotgun microphone. The locals favour parabolic microphones which enable them capture birdsongs at a greater distance. Many of the birds of the Sierra Nevada keep to the treetops or are highly wary.

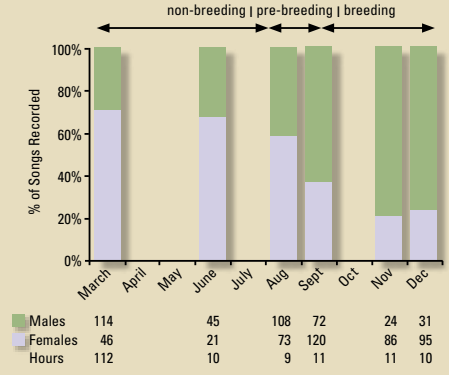


Spectrograms of male bellbird song types.



Spectrograms of female song types. These are less varied than those the male and are composed of song units, which is how they are labelled here (for example, ABCCCCC is composed of song units A, B and C).

To hear samples of male and female bellbird song visit the *MASSEY* magazine website, http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz



The percentage of singing bouts by male and female bellbirds during the course of a year.

Bellbird song 101

The males sing regularly whatever the time of day or year. Sometimes they sing continuously with no intervals between songs; sometimes they sing discrete songs with large intervals between them.

The continuous song can, in turn, be one of two types: either a single song type repeated, or a variety of song types. The repetition of a single song often happens when the males have gathered by a food source such as a sugar-water feeder or flowering plant. Once one male begins singing he will often be joined by others. These choruses can last up to five minutes.

Seasonally the males sing most often in August, at the start of the breeding season, and in March, at its close when the birds separate into flocks of males and flocks of females and juveniles.

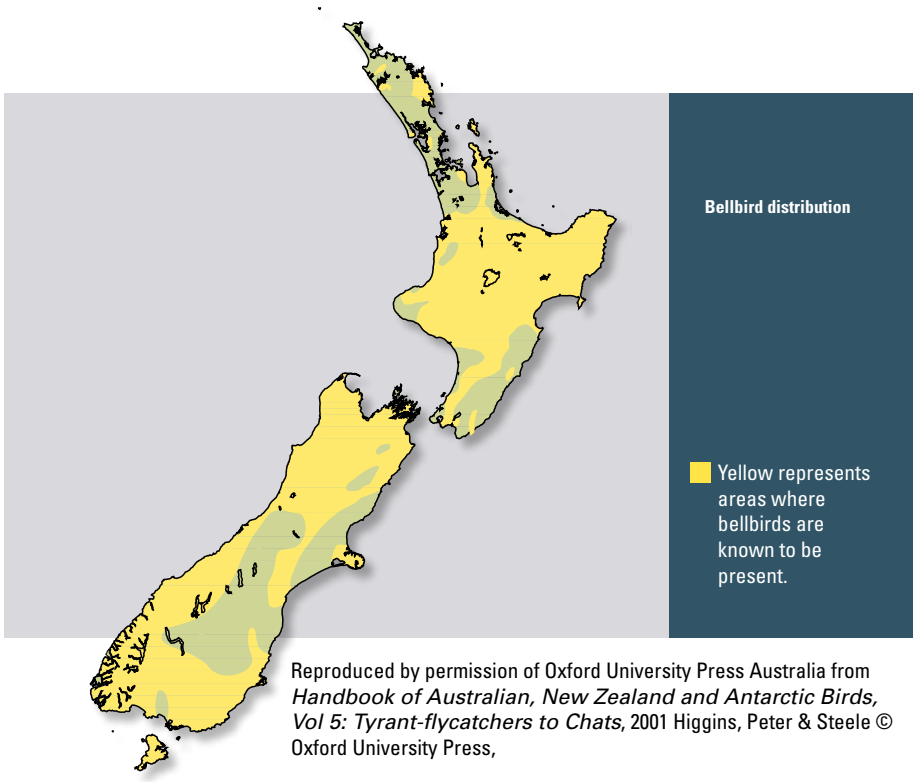
Singing most often has to do with attracting mates, and then with establishing a place in the flock hierarchy. "Often it's the male that is literally and figuratively at the top of the tree that initiates the singing," says Dianne.

The females sing simple songs, which all exhibit similar structures. The songs are discrete, with intervals of at least three seconds between them. During the breeding season the females sing more frequently than the males.

Counter-singing among females is common. Often, says Dianne, you will hear a female's song from one territory set off the female in the next, in a chain of musical pass-the-parcel.

How large is the species song repertoire? Based on 26 days of recording of bellbirds carried out on Tiri between March and December 2000, Dianne and researcher Xiaoling Li of the University of Auckland arrived at 10 frequently used song types for male bellbirds and up to five for females.

Although this is almost certainly an underestimate – no one has yet tracked individual females to tally their entire song repertoires – this is a small repertoire when put alongside that of the tui or, for that matter, the North American brown thrasher, which has over 2,000 song types.



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postgraduates. She also started a family. A memory she has from the time is of lumbering through the Mamaku Ranges in pursuit of North Island robins (acting as part of Doug Armstrong's catching team) while heavily pregnant with her second child.

And she and her postgraduates became deeply involved in the translocation of species to Tiri. Each brought its peculiar difficulties. The fiercely territorial robins captured in the Mamakus had to be kept rigorously apart while in transit to Tiri or they would have torn each other to pieces.

The fernbird, rescued at the eleventh hour from the path of motorway development, went to ground once it arrived on the island; only months later was the characteristic 'Geiger counter' call heard.

The tuatara arrived, ignored the artificial burrows constructed for their pleasure, and wandered off to settle where they liked. One was found in a distant seabird colony. "At least with birds you can find them afterward, read the bands and see if they survived," sighs Dianne.

A male bellbird preening. *Photo by Peter Reese*

A population of tomtits brought across from the mainland promptly took themselves back to the Hunua ranges.

As we drop away from Upper Wireweed and down into one of the relict patches of bush, the island begins to take on another aspect. It feels almost wild. The noise of cicadas becomes near deafening; on the forest floor are patches of humus disturbed by kiwi probing; and in the top of a tree fern deep in a gully roost a pair of morepork, one of which flies about us as silent as a moth.

Tiritiri Matangi has been a triumph both for the conservation movement and for the idea of an open sanctuary. It is the ideal place to conduct scientific research into New Zealand's native wildlife and to arrive at effective forms of conservation management.

But then offshore islands are easy. The real challenge for New Zealand conservation is to take back the mainland.

In places this is happening. A few kilometres north of Tiri on the end of Tawharanui Peninsula, a fenced predator-free headland, a stepping-stone for native species has been established. Here, too, Dianne and her students have begun an involvement in species translocation. The most recently arrival was a consignment of endangered Auckland green geckos – as well as the more common grey and brown forest geckos – rescued from the footprint of a planned motorway extension. The lizards were released at a dawn service attended by members of the Ngāti Whātua and Ngāti Manuhiri iwi. "My younger daughter got to release the first gecko," says Dianne.

And yes, there are bellbirds at Tawharanui now, singing on a peninsula that last heard their melody over a century ago. A planned translocation was pre-empted by the birds themselves, which probably crossed to the mainland from Little Barrier Island.

In recent times a population of tomtits has manifested itself in the bush close by Dianne's own home. She and some of her neighbours had begun trapping pests and predators. Which only goes to show that given the right conditions the New Zealand natural environment can rebound.

Back on the grassy summit of the island the day trippers have gathered for the return trip home. Dianne chats with researchers and volunteers in residence at the island's hut. I wonder how Barbara is feeling with her year-long Royal Society Fellowship coming to an end and the prospect of returning to teaching at Rangitoto College looming.

Around us, takahe are placidly wandering, some grazing, others hanging expectantly about the feet of the picnickers. I have never come so close to takahe before, nor to the saddlebacks or kokako we will see on the path going down to the jetty.

Yet these will not be my strongest memories of Tiritiri Matangi Island. On the way back down the hill we stop to catch and band a female bellbird – a simple matter of triggering the trapdoor on one of the wire-enclosed bird feeders. The image I carry is of the gaze of the bird held carefully in Taneal's hand. I never realised how red the eyes of a bellbird can be. They glow like hot coals.

A female bellbird (note the 'white moustache' stripe)

Further reading

- For the history of Tiritiri Matangi Island, the open sanctuary: **Tiritiri Matangi: A Model of Conservation**. Anne Rimmer. Tandem Press, 2004.
- For a well-written and accessible account of the science of birdsong: **Birdsong: A Natural History**. Don Stap. Scribner, 2005.
- Author Donald Kroodsma, an emeritus professor at the University of Massachusetts has spent three decades recording and analysing birdsong. The title of his book describes it exactly. **The Singing Life of Birds : The Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong**. Donald Kroodsma. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

More information

- If you would like to join the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi check out ***www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz***.
- The 2.5 km coast-to-coast predator-proof fence at Tawharanui was completed in August 2004. If you are interested in membership of the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society point your cursor at ***www.tossi.org.nz***.
- Wellingtonians have the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary close to hand. As well as species such as kiwi, kaka and hihi, the sanctuary has a thriving population of bellbirds, the species being reintroduced between 2001 and 2003. To learn more go to ***www.sanctuary.org.nz***.

Leaving the beat

Retired Commissioner of Police Rob Robinson talks to Professor George Shouksmith

On 18 December 2005 Rob Robinson left his desk at national police headquarters for the last time, ending a career of 30 years with the police, the last six as Commissioner. He had planned to leave a year earlier on the expiry of his contract, but stayed on to see matters through.

Rob Robinson studied at Massey during the late 1960s, sharing, at one point, a lab bench with Tom Scott and Peter Hayden; the first now a cartoonist and writer, the second an award-winning natural history documentary maker. Mr Robinson was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2006 New Year Honours. (Tom Scott was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit at the same ceremony.) Emeritus Professor George Shouksmith, a former Dean of Social Sciences, was involved in the development of police studies at the University. He and Rob Robinson are old friends.

Professor George Shouksmith

How did you come to study at Massey?

The attraction at Massey was vet school. During secondary school I worked in a standard bred stable just outside Timaru, with a trainer whose half-brother was the local vet, and the two of them persuaded me that veterinary science was my future. But with rugby, rowing and other distractions I didn't pass my physics paper in my intermediate year and when I had to repeat I changed over to a science degree majoring in physiology. Eventually I completed my science degree, and in my final year I worked as a research technician in the botany and zoology department for Pauline and David Penny.

And the police?

I married while I was at Massey and I needed to get a real job. So I applied for the police in 1972 and I was initially accepted but then rejected on health grounds. I had had an operation for a melanoma and the police medic thought the risk of it recurring was too great. So I went off and did other things. I milked cows in the Horowhenua. I worked for Wrightson as a stock agent for a while and I was an artificial insemination technician.

So then you reapplied?

Yes. I placed a call to the Palmerston North police station from the Tokomaru dairy factory one day when I was calling to pick up my bull semen for the artificial insemination, and I was put through to the same recruiting sergeant who had dealt with me those years earlier. He obviously thought that I had some potential. He went to great lengths to get affidavits from my surgeons and to convince the Wellington medical advisors that I should be given a chance.

Together with another fellow I presented myself to the chief inspector at Palmerston North on the 12th of May 1975. We were sworn in by taking the oath before the chief inspector. We were given papers and a warrant card to be on the train later that day to travel to Trentham. And we did that. We travelled down to Trentham, walked up to the Police College, and commenced what was then 14 weeks of training, graduating from there in August 1975.

Was having been to university a help?

I was never a stand-out at secondary school or university. I was always in the pack. When I got to Police College I found myself among 108 peers and I wasn't going to let this chance slip away, so I worked pretty hard. I think I had acquired skills at University that I didn't actually recognise myself as having: thinking skills, writing skills. And I found myself at the head of the pack in terms of examinations and our assessments, which was a strange place for me. It really was. When I look back at that time, very few people in the police were graduates and even fewer entered the police with a degree, so I was a little different. Of course things have changed dramatically in the last 30 years.

"This was predominantly white New Zealand confronting police officers of Māori or Pacific Island ethnic origin and abusing them for doing their duty. So there were things [about the Springbok tour] that really did push the community and the police apart."

Did you at that point have higher career aspirations?

I just wanted to be a good cop. I enjoyed working on the street and I worked with a good bunch in Palmerston North during those first years. In particular I remember Thomas Chester Joseph Sutherland, who was my sectional sergeant and had been instrumental in setting up the Police Youth Aid section and worked in Porirua as the principal youth officer for many, many years. He would drink tea until it came out of his ears. But he used that time as in-service training. If you'd made an arrest Tom would want to know not only why you'd made the arrest but you'd have to analyse the components of the offence before he'd take the prisoner into custody. And then he would debrief you, unpacking what had happened so you understood what you'd done right and what you'd done wrong. He was a great mentor.

And the Youth Aid programme Sutherland set up has been a great success, hasn't it?

Yes it has. It's held in high esteem throughout the modern Western democracies. Sir Charles Pollard, the chair of the Restorative Justice Board in the United Kingdom, travels down to New Zealand periodically to see what we are doing, and the restorative justice programmes that have been run out of the Home Office with research projects based in Oxford all draw on the New Zealand experience in many, many regards.

I suppose one of the biggest changes you have seen during your time with the police has been in the domestic drug scene?

Yes. Certainly cannabis was around in the seventies when I started. In fact the first arrest I made was for possession of cannabis seeds – maybe two or three seeds found in a drawer when we were doing a warrant – which we would hardly blink at now.

Until recent times New Zealand has been very fortunate, because we can control the borders pretty well. That's the reason we had homebake heroin, because it was difficult to bring illicit drugs across our borders. When there was significant drug smuggling – the Mr Asia drug syndicate – we were able to crack it.

But the drug scene has changed in the last seven or eight years with the significant arrival of methamphetamine and pure methamphetamine or P. Methamphetamine is one of the most physically and psychologically addictive drugs around and its been portrayed for too long as a bit of a thrill: you can use it and walk away from it. But unfortunately too many of our folks don't.

One of the watersheds in your time in the police and in the relationship between the police and the public was the 1981 Springbok tour.

I remember one day in particular. I was a sergeant in Masterton and we were working in Wellington. There'd been a demonstration at Parliament. They'd marched to the South African ambassador's residence in Wadestown. We'd been deployed there, along with many other staff. Some arrests were made at the ambassador's residence and the arrestees were returned to Wellington Central Police Station, which we were sent down to protect. We were part of a cordon blocking the end of Waring Taylor Street at Lambton Quay. I was in charge of six constables. Four of them were either Māori or Pacific Island, and what really distressed me and gave me a view of the vigour and the feeling in the protest was the range of middle New Zealanders, young and old, confronting and abusing my constables for hours, calling them Uncle Toms. This was predominantly white New Zealand confronting police officers of Māori or Pacific Island ethnic origin and abusing them for doing their duty. So there were things that really did push the community and the police apart.

A low point in terms of policing in New Zealand, do you think?

Yes, it was. It was a strange time, the period of the 1981 Springbok tour. I think big operations get the cops excited. You know, it's boy's own stuff in many regards. The plane being flown around the country. Red squads. Blue squads. Specialist squads that were trained in different ways. All of those things added to the spectacle, if you will, from a policing perspective.

But it quickly palled. There was the level of feeling that was expressed from within the community after the Hamilton game. There were the difficulties when police were called on to police members of their own families. There were those police officers who, following their consciences, were allowed to stand down from active duty on the Springbok tour – which was, I think, enlightened policy from the leadership of the day.

It has taken a long time for some of these wounds to heal.

That was a low point. Could you spot one or two high points?

Some of the achievements of the New Zealand Police over this last decade have been sources of great pride to me. We've been criticised for a number of things, but I know of no other police agency that has the mandate and the national brief that the New Zealand Police does, that has the community engagement we do, the community mandate we do. I know of no other police agency that has our ability to respond to crime, to investigate, solve, and prosecute crime. It doesn't matter if I am sitting with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service in London, or a Chief Commissioner in the Netherlands, or the Commissioner of the New York Police Department, or Bill Bratton, the current Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. They celebrate what we have achieved in New Zealand in the past 10 years. They would love to have our performance record. And I think the service the New Zealand public have received and are receiving from their police is as good as can be got anywhere.

You mention the Chief of Police of Los Angeles, Bill Bratton, who is known for being a proponent of 'zero tolerance'.

Bratton is credited with turning New York around. He came from Boston to the New York transit police and then amalgamated that with NYPD. He introduced Compstat, a performance management regime which New York still uses and has became very fashionable worldwide. I talked to him last year when he was out in Australia. He thinks that by getting sufficient police on the street and getting them doing the right things he can not only change crime trends, as he did in New York, but also re-engage with the community, even in underprivileged neighbourhoods.

It is different here. In New Zealand, although there has been tension between police and the community at times, as there was during the Springbok tour, there has never been a time in the last 30 years when the police have been separated from the community. We've been able to police by consensus and our high success rate in the solution of crime is because the public tell us what is going on. There is some good detective work, there are some fine detectives, but we get the information from the public.

I have seen zero tolerance criticised as completely counter to community policing.

Well yes, but you would enjoy talking to Bratton. He says that the concept of zero tolerance has been bastardised by the media. It's a media misrepresentation. Bratton says zero tolerance has to be applied in a very selective way.

Take a block in downtown New York that has been taken over by crack dealers, with the legitimate residents squeezed out, migrating away from their own properties because of the crime and the domination of criminal elements. Bratton's zero tolerance approach would be to close down a block for anything up to a week and to take anybody they could prove was guilty of a misdemeanour or crime, and prosecute them, lock them up. But then legitimate residents can come back. You and I, we could turn up at the police cordons, with our ownership documents for apartment 9C at 1324 West and reclaim our home. That's what Bratton says is zero tolerance.

When he was head of NYPD he applied zero tolerance to the subway. The fellows who were leaping the turnstiles were the fellows that were doing the pickpocketing. They were the ones that were perpetrating the crimes on the subway. So rather than wait for them to do the crime on the trains, they'd actually get them as they're leaping the turnstiles and not paying their fares.

Is that a way for us to approach some of the problems we're having with gangs?

Potentially so. In South Auckland we've got an emergent – though not new – street gang issue. What I think we're seeing is a group of kids who are disengaged, a group of kids who want to protect their patch. They're not necessarily following a traditional path. They are not saying "We're going to go and create crime". But they are being caught in traditional crime because the more traditional gangs – ethnic gangs – are recruiting from these street gangs. Once upon a time they used to go and find prospects and put them through the hoops before they actually gave them their colours, their patch. Now they're picking the best and the brightest, the leaders, out of some of these smaller street gangs.

And the street gangs themselves can create tragedies. You'll recall there was an incident in late 2005 in which a major conflict between gangs on the streets led to some deaths and a number of serious head injuries. When we actually unpacked how that happened it wasn't about kids trying to dominate a drug scene or anything like that. It was just about "This is our patch, we play here".

So are you saying that gangs are separate from the drug scene?

No, certainly not our traditional gangs.

Ah, yes.

What we've seen from our motorcycle gangs and our ethnic gangs is that they now do the business. When I was a young cop the Mothers motorcycle gang here in Palmerston North would hop on their bikes, ride in convoy down to the pub on Main Street, Café de Paris, drink there, cause a bit of mayhem, hop on their bikes and go en masse somewhere else. They would intimidate. They would create confrontation, never back down, and there were some ugly moments. We don't see that to the same degree – though we've seen it recently in Wanganui between two ethnic gangs.

Some of our outlaw motorcycle gangs now produce strategic plans. They produce annual business plans. They do the business. Our ethnic gangs are co-operating to produce and distribute methamphetamine when it makes financial sense. It would be wrong to portray all of the gangs as being less than intelligent. There are people there with real leadership skills. They've just directed their energies in the wrong direction.

What do you understand by police professionalism?

Well, I can share my own personal view and it's slightly at odds with some of my peers in Australasia. Police professionalism for me is about moving police to a level of competence and a level of understanding that lets them consider all the options. They should be able to choose a path in terms of the services they deliver, in the same way a health professional makes a diagnosis and chooses a treatment. Does police professionalism mean having more and more police with tertiary qualifications? I don't think so. If we insisted on tertiary qualifications we would be presenting a barrier to some intelligent and able people. That is not to say that there isn't a place for professional qualifications, but if you have the right people within the police they can work towards qualifications when they are ready.

I think the other problem would be that because, for whatever reason. particular groups are underrepresented in tertiary education, a police force recruited solely from tertiary graduates would be out of sync with the New Zealand population.

How do you feel about the distinction between sworn and non-sworn police staff? I mean the idea that the sworn staff are the frontline and the non-sworn staff stand behind and really just do back up.

The thing that sets sworn officers apart is the coercive power the legislation gives them. But when you look at the circumstances where police require the coercive power or the threat of coercive power, it's probably 20 percent of the time. In the other 80 percent the police don't need coercive power. Then it is about interacting with people.

I don't think we have the right mix between sworn and non-sworn police yet and that's because there are agendas.

Some of the reasons for the resistance to non-sworn police officers I can't quite understand. For example, the police union in New Zealand has a certain view that this job should remain as a sworn police officer's job. Now that same union represents the non-sworn police officers as well, but unfortunately, the way I see it, the decision-makers in the hierarchy within the police union are sworn officers, and their own allegiance is first of all to their own, and whilst they represent the non-sworn they do that in a marginal way.

I have noticed that statistically we do have a higher proportion of females in the police than most of the United States.

There's been a real effort to promote equal employment opportunity for women, Māori, and Pacific Islanders, and we have done better, but we are under some pressure to do better still. One thing I am proud of is having brought in the first female and non-sworn deputy commissioner, Lyn Provost.

"I'd go and check my daughter in her cot and, as stupid as it seems now, I would actually lie down and go to sleep on the floor beside her cot because I didn't want to leave her."

One of the things that interests me as an organisational psychologist is the effect of the big eighties and early nineties reforms. What effect did they have?

I think the biggest impact wasn't the state sector reforms of the late eighties – although the Quigley review was a blueprint for some of the things that happened during the nineties. The biggest impact came from the review commissioned by the government of the day from Doug Martin and a team of consultants. They set out to find financial excess, and when they couldn't find millions slopping around in the bilges they responded with the classical consultant's restructuring, a flattening of the structure. This was fashionable in business circles during the nineties, but for a discipline modelled on military service like the police it presented some issues. Martin brought in the principle that there were to be no more than five layers from commissioner to the constable. According to theory this is how you create a highly responsive organisation: the top knows what's happening on the streets and the street knows what vision is held by leadership.

But when you're actually maintaining a true every-day-of-the-year, twenty-four-hour service the model becomes exceedingly difficult, so we have had to make changes. On the other hand, the review was the spark that helped us achieve better representation of groups like Māori and women.

It seems to me that we demand more from the police than we ever have before.

Thirty years ago when I started there were busy times but there was still sufficient space and time to deal with the issues you had to. That is still so in some locations in New Zealand, but we've got pressure points. The conurbation of Auckland is one. There are one and a half million people in the greater Auckland area. It's a world city. It's a huge raft of ethnic groups, and all those things bring confrontations.

We've become a much more litigious society than we were thirty years ago. I can remember folks coming in to make a complaint about police action and the senior sergeant saying, "I'm not prepared to countenance this. If you don't leave the station, you know, you may find yourself in some trouble," and the complainant would turn around and walk away and that would be the end of story. Now we've got a much healthier arrangement where police are held accountable – and so they should be – but there's a price. The process of clearing prosecutions in our justice system is much more time consuming and much more demanding than it was. And public expectations have risen. All these things compound.

Then there are the perceptions created by the media. If you go round the media newsrooms in New Zealand they are small sweatshops. There are very few reporters and they have to provide copy, whether it be for the print media or tape for the electronic media, and they need volumes of the stuff. And one of the most productive fields they can till is crime. Because it's ready made. It's easy to report. It can be provocative. It can be headline-grabbing. And that fish bowl aspect can be distracting. Statistics would say there's less crime now than there was 10 years ago per capita and that we're actually safer in our homes, but ask most people who read the papers or listen to the six o'clock news and they would say no, you know, this a dangerous place we live in. And yet the facts don't bear out those perceptions. Although it must be conceded there is a greater level of gratuitous violence today and the methamphetamine phenomenon is also having an impact in this regard.

And it is a higher pressure occupation?

Police officers see the very best and the very worst of the human condition. They deal with the flotsam and the jetsam, the people that society doesn't want to acknowledge or deal with. They come face to face with horrific trauma and devastation. When police officers went to Phuket after the tsunami last year, or when they turn up to a road crash where there are bodies which have been torn apart, they have to deal with that physically and emotionally. They have to deal with the emotions a coroner's inquest creates within a family. Those things take you apart.

Even now I can tell you in great detail about my experience of picking a baby up alongside a railway line in Palmerston North 30 years ago. It took me literally weeks to get over it. I had a daughter of the same age. I'd go home from a shift and I'd go and check my daughter in her cot and, as stupid as it seems now, I would actually lie down and go to sleep on the floor beside her cot because I didn't want to leave her. I was irrationally fearful for her wellbeing. The good thing today is that the police have a better understanding of trauma. Trauma counselling is available and even mandatory in many circumstances now. It was never there for people of my generation, but then again the events that require that weren't as frequent as in my generation either.

Sometimes the police seem to me to have been something of a political football. How do you feel about our political process?

I look at other jurisdictions offshore. In the United Kingdom, for example, there has been an increasingly non-partisan or bipartisan approach from government and other major parties to advance law and order issues. Their discussion and debate around it has been focused on issues and not on personalities. New Zealand politics has become, in my view, personality focused, not issue focused, and we see it over and over again, not just in the police portfolio.

I think we're in a transitional phase here where as a country we're still finding our feet. We've grown up a lot, we've got our own identity, but our political interactions are not serving key institutions like the police or the public well at the moment.

What about the perception that the Commissioner is politically-influenced?

If someone tried to tell the Commissioner what to do he would say, "Well thank you very much. I hold a warrant from the Governor General. I'm independent." And the thing that I've always said to people informally is that during my time if anyone ever questioned the independence of the police, if they just went back and made a review of the enquiries we'd carried out of a criminal nature and how we've acted in those, there would be no doubt about the independence of the police from the executive.

What have changed are the financial mechanisms. Earlier commissioners spent what they needed to spend and if they ran short they got topped up. It was no more sophisticated than that. The only thing that was set was how many staff they were allowed to employ. The Police Act of 1958 simply says that the commissioner is responsible for the good order, discipline, and performance of the police. No specifications.

The State Sector Act and the financial management reforms of the late eighties gave a level of accountability to the commissioner for the management and financial performance of the organisation.

The police budget is huge, almost $1.1 billion in my last year. It's almost as big in personnel terms alone as the whole of the armed services. I'm proud that the police executive have been fiscally prudent over the last six years, that we've fought very hard for additional funding but we haven't overspent.

The Independent Police Complaints Authority Amendment Bill, which has been held back until the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Police Conduct, is back on the legislative agenda this year. What are your views?

I view the Police Complaints Authority as a very important watchdog. They do a great job. But more could be done to assure the public of their independence. The bill seeks to change the name of the authority by adding the word 'Independent'. I think we could and should go further than the bill does, and I look to the United Kingdom model as one which could inform developments.

[The Commission of Inquiry's Reporting Date has been extended until 31 May 2006.]

Should we be hankering for the good old days?

I think policing has a very proud record from 1886, when the armed constabulary became the New Zealand Police. But some of the good old days were actually the bad old days. When I joined the police 30 years ago the culture viewed from today's perspective was very insular and relatively right-wing, perhaps even, in some ways, bigoted. That's not the hallmark of policing today. There's a way to go yet, but I think in terms of public sector organisations there is much about the police that is closer to the vanguard than to the back of the pack. I don't always see that same accountability and openness from other key public sector service agencies. I'm proud that we have got to where we are.

What else has changed?

The police understand their business much better than they did five or ten years ago. When I first took over as commissioner I began by visiting the district management teams. I would say, tell me about burglaries in the district. Now in the first round probably eight out of ten of my senior officers could not tell me what was happening in their districts, with burglaries for example, which is bread-and-butter stuff. Now if you came with me or the current commissioner to any district or station in this country and you were to ask a senior officer about burglaries, assaults, family violence, they would be able to tell you the characteristics: how much, when, what, where. We understand our business a lot better than we ever did before, and when you look at the performance improvements in terms of our clearance rates, our reduction in crime. Burglaries in the last five or six years are significantly reduced from what they were five years ago.

We understand our community better. We understand Māori. We understand Pacific Islanders. We understand Asian cultures better than we did a few years ago. At the most fundamental level we understand our family violence better than we did. We understand some of the community and social factors that drive our crime. We understand what works and what doesn't.

And one of the really encouraging things for me is finding experienced cops around the country – and some of us are getting long in the tooth – realising the extent to which they as individuals can make a difference in their communities.

Being a police officer can be a bit overwhelming at times. You're getting crime reports and you see things that you think you can't influence, and sometimes you feel like you're just mopping up after the event. But individual police are saying to themselves, "If I actually work out what the heck's going on here I can make a difference."

Now that can be as simple as finding out who's doing the crime and locking them up and holding them accountable, or maybe it's realising that the only houses that are being burgled are ones that have got a huge amount of foliage around their front doors and advising people, "Well if you don't want your house to be a target then I'm sorry but you need to reduce some of the foliage in your front yard".

The Diploma in Police Studies

The Diploma in Police Studies offers a theoretical and practical background to modern policing in its social context and to police administration. It is especially useful to those working in organisations responsible for the enforcement of criminal justice, whether governmental, non-governmental or private.

The Diploma is grounded in the social sciences and in particular papers in Sociology, Psychology, and Social Anthropology. Through the three 200-level papers in Police Studies students develop a basic understanding of the culture, and economic and political context of policing in New Zealand and other similar societies, the structure of police organisations and social factors involved in everyday policing problems.

The Diploma can be studied extramurally or on the Palmerston North campus. It requires at least two years of full-time study. Many students study part-time.

Many members of the police use the diploma papers as stepping stones to a degree. Others select only those papers accepted by the police for career promotion.

Contact Mary Roberts: M.J.Roberts@massey.ac.nz

French Revolutions

When she's not killing thistles or helping dock lambs on her Hawkes Bay farm, history graduate Barbara Grieve guides cyclists around the back roads of France, visiting vineyards and farms, and staying in boutique inns.

"I hadn't been on a bike since primary school, but it was something I'd always wanted to do," she says. A newspaper story about a father and son who cycled in Provence inspired her to launch her business at the age of 48.

As the owner of Barbara Grieve's Cycling Holidays in France, she has been organising cycling trips in France for 13 years. She planned the first trips while working as a secondary school teacher in Auckland.

"My four children were all living in Europe, and I had the idea that I could combine visiting them with cycling holidays," she says. She took a year's leave from her teaching job, and hasn't looked back since.

Barbara says she felt like a square peg in a round hole when she commenced her extramural study at Massey. It was 1969, and the young mother travelled through the night from her Te Awamutu farm to her first block course at Palmerston North. "I wandered around the campus early in the morning looking for my course, feeling like I didn't belong," she says. "I had been struggling with assignments. Then I met another student, who was then living at a convent in Hamilton. We became friends, and used to visit each other and support each other through our study."

Exams were traumatic. "I was expecting my third child when exam time came around. I was a week overdue when I had my oral. They told me I could have taken the exam in the maternity hospital. After I gave birth to Julie, I still had two three-hour written exams to sit, although I was feeding four-hourly. I was shattered.

"I thought the exams went horrifically, but by some miracle I got through," Barbara says. "I really wanted to keep my brain busy." She went on to complete a BA in history, all extramurally, before becoming a teacher.

Her love of learning and an urge to explore has now taken her much further afield.

She led her first cycling trip to Normandy in 1994. Since then she has taken trips to the Loire valley, Bordeaux, Burgundy and Provence. This year she will introduce a new tour to the Charente, a region north of Bordeaux.

"I move every two years to keep it interesting. My favourite part of the job is when I'm exploring routes. I get a buzz out of knocking on doors and turning up treasures that aren't listed in the guidebooks. I remember finding an old church in the village of Seillac, in the Loire valley. It was locked, but a woman emerged from the house next door with an ancient key and showed me around. These villages often keep detailed records – at one mairie they had a list of every flood since 1290."

Why France? "I love the history," she says. "My clients enjoy hearing stories about all the little places we visit, so I have to do my research." She contacts tourist offices and checks hotels, attractions and the cycling route a year in advance.

Barbara's French has improved since her first days at Massey. "I can get by," she says. She listens to talking books to keep in practice between trips.

Her clients are mainly New Zealanders, but Americans, Australians, English and Canadians also sign up for her holidays. "Most are in their 50s and 60s," she says, "but I have one woman in her 80s coming with me this year, and have had riders as young as 12."

Jo and Keith Barclay from Wanaka have been on three of Barbara's cycling trips since 2000. Despite not being regular cyclists in New Zealand, the idea of biking through rural France appealed. "The camaraderie was wonderful," says Jo. "We had so much fun. Cycling past fields of blooming sunflowers was a highlight for me. The riding wasn't too onerous, and we stayed in some fabulous places, like small chateaux in the Loire valley.

"I never saw Barbara panic – she could fix a puncture or put a chain back on without fuss," says Jo.

The tours are mainly on 'C' roads. These are the back roads that most traffic avoids because they are too windy or narrow – perfect for cycling. "When I do my reconnaissance I like to choose roads without a white line down the middle," says Barbara. "Many of these roads aren't even on the Michelin maps, so I use topographical maps to help me locate suitable routes."

Each year she visits France twice, in spring and autumn. Most cycling holidays are a week long, and Barbara rides along with the group. Riders can go at their own pace, and she uses walkie-talkies to keep them on track.

The rest of the year is spent with her husband on their Hawkes Bay farm. "Last year for my sixtieth birthday the whole family came cycling in Provence – including four grandchildren riding pillion," says Barbara.

She hasn't had to advertise since the late 90s, and doesn't have a website. "I get all my business by word of mouth, with many clients coming back for more."

She says the trips are designed to be relaxing. "The days get shorter as I get older," she says. "We ride about 45km each day, with lots of stops. We stay in interesting places. France has many charming villages. I like to arrive by mid-afternoon so we have plenty of time for relaxing." Riders' luggage is now transferred by taxi to the day's destination.

Bikes are hired locally. They are equipped with hill-taming gears, handlebar bags and gel saddles for comfort.

Barbara says she prefers to avoid the usual sights like museums, "unless they offer something really special". Instead they visit farms and small wineries where they can meet the locals, and lesser-known attractions like dolmens, aqueducts or old Roman roads.

After thirteen years of leading cycling trips in France, Barbara has lots of stories to tell, but doubts that she will write a book about her experiences. "I wish I had kept a diary."

From next year she plans to cut down the numbers of trips she leads, as spending time with her growing family takes priority. But she says she will never stop learning. "I love what I do – meeting wonderful people and absorbing French culture."

Barbara can be contacted at barbgrieve@xtra.co.nz

Photos by Libby and Pip East

CBT and the art of motivation maintenance

Beverly Haarhoff, senior lecturer in clinical psychology at Massey Albany, explains to journalist Jane Tolerton how students can use Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques to stay positive and focused throughout their courses.

What challenges that I'll face as an extramural student could CBT help me with?

If you have job and family commitments, as most extramural students do, then you need to work efficiently with the time you have. It can be pretty daunting and you can to slip into behaviours that sabotage your efforts. CBT can give you strategies to counter these.

CBT being?

CBT is a short-term psychotherapy aimed at finding solutions. It doesn't mean spending years in therapy. You can do it yourself, it won't cost you anything and it is a process that makes intuitive sense to most people. When you've learnt some CBT skills you effectively become your own therapist.

How do I do that?

When you encounter a specific problem, what we call a "triggering situation", CBT techniques help you identify and understand the interaction between your thoughts, feelings and behaviours in order to find a way through. In stressful situations, emotions can distort our thinking. CBT provides the tools to think objectively – to ask, "Is there any real evidence for this (self-defeating) thought?"

Example?

The "triggering situation" might be a difficult assignment. Instead of doing it, you tell yourself it's too hard, you'll never understand it, and you should give up the course now. If you examine your emotions, they are anxiety and sadness. Your physiological response is a knot in your stomach. And the effect on your behaviour is that you are using your favourite procrastination technique – watching television.

Examine each negative thought and ask, "What is the actual evidence for this?" You'll realise that you have coped with equally difficult tasks before.

Just doing something different will impact on your negative emotions, making you feel less anxious and sad. Writing a 'to do' list or tidying your desk can activate you, and suddenly you might find yourself suddenly feeling you can do something towards the your assignment. You'll learn to identify the way the "triggering situation" tips you into this cycle – and be able to take action more quickly in future.

Can CBT techniques prepare me in advance for the challenges I'll face?

Yes. Be prepared for motivation problems by writing down your short term and long term goals and keeping them in a place where you can regularly review them. Break them into small steps so that you get a sense of achievement as you tick each one off.

Keep yourself focused on your goals by rating their importance in your life. You could attach percentages. Realise that there are trade-offs, and it's important that your goals are in line with your values. One advantage of getting your degree may be that you'll be able to get a better paid job. But a disadvantage will be spending less time with your partner or children. Discuss your goals with them and come up with coping strategies together – because they will feel the impact too. If they can understand your motivations, they can support you. Otherwise they may feel left out – and you might feel guilty.

Many women find it difficult to put their own goals ahead of others' needs, and feel guilty when they do. Start practicing planning times for yourself before the deadline pressure is on.

Can it help a chronic procrastinator?

Often people think they can only work if they have a big block of time and put things off till then. But in a busy life time is always broken up. Try to do a small amount of work each day. Break things down into small steps – and use a diary to schedule study into small blocks of time. Give yourself rewards – like going to the movies or visiting friends – when you have achieved the small goals.

If I liked the CBT approach, what can I read?

Mind Over Mood, by Dennis Greenberger and Christine Padesky [Guilford Press, 1995] will give you a clear step-by-step process.

What about university courses?

Depending on your background, maybe you should get in touch. I just happen to be the coordinator of the post-graduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. The Diploma is open to health practitioners including doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists.

Massey University Qualification Review College of Sciences

The following programmes are scheduled for a Qualification Review in 2006

April:	Postgraduate Diploma in Māori Resource and Environmental Management Science Certificate Graduate Diploma in Science Graduate Certificate in Science and Technology Graduate Diploma in Information Sciences
July:	BApplSc, BApplSc(Hons), BSc, BSc(Hons), MSc, MApplSci, CertAgEng majors in: Animal Science, Animal Physiology, Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Engineering
August:	Certificate in Environmental Science, BSc, BSc(Hons), MApplSci majors in:
August Continued	Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Ecology, Environmental Science BApplSc, BApplSc(Hons), MApplSci major in Natural Resource Management Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

The review process is now underway and interested parties are invited to make submissions on any or all of the above programmes. All students, past and present, are welcome to submit to the panel. Comments in submissions can be directed to, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Programme Objectives
- Teaching Learning and Assessment
- Qualification Structure and Management
- Overarching Considerations, Treaty and Equity, Health and Safety

Comments are welcomed on any aspect of the qualifications you consider relevant and these can be made in any written format, including email, from individuals or groups and should be directed to Roger Birch.

Deadlines for submissions are: March 31 (for April reviews), June 20 (for July reviews), July 10 (for August reviews)

Please contact Roger Birch r.a.birch@massey.ac.nz if you need further information relating to submissions or qualification reviews within the College of Sciences.
Roger A Birch, Pro Vice-Chancellor's Office, College of Sciences
Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, **Palmerston North**

MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

PLANTING TALLER POPPIES

THE LOVELL & BERYS CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS

"I've always wanted to make a real difference," is how Jenny Tomes sums up her decision to abandon a successful electrical engineering career in favour of full-time study in Human Nutrition at Massey University.

Now completing her honours year, Jenny is passionate about preventing non-communicable diseases through nutrition. "Given the high prevalence of cancer and cardiovascular disease in our society, this is extremely relevant and Massey's EpiCentre is at the forefront of research in this area." Jenny's talent, hard work and dedication paid off in 2003 when she was placed on the Pro-Vice Chancellor's merit list. However, despite her obvious talent, Jenny describes returning to study as tough. "You're starting from scratch again and having to come to grips with the realities of student life."

Enter the Clarks. In 2002, Berys Clark and her late husband Lovell established the Lovell and Berys Clark Scholarships to make it possible for post-graduate students like Jenny to really take off.

As a recipient of the scholarship, Jenny describes the support and recognition as invaluable. "The Clarks' scholarship has been a big part of making this possible ... not just financially, but also the encouragement that you're heading in the right direction."

The Clarks successfully farmed in South Auckland for many years before Berys completed a degree extramurally through Massey University. Lovell never had the opportunity to undertake formal tertiary study and the two decided to set up a trust within the Foundation to enable others to enjoy what he missed. Three Clark scholars are supported each year.

"The real reward is seeing people making these huge contributions to society and knowing that you have played a part in that," enthuses Berys.

Funding like the Lovell and Berys Clark Scholarships ensures that Massey students like Jenny Tomes are given the help they need to really make the difference.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

FUNDING

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO PLANTING TALLER POPPIES?

Please contact Mike Freeman at
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2006 ENABLING EXCELLENCE AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY
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MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING ACHIEVER SERIES

Dr Peter Snell, iconic New Zealand sportsman and renowned scientist, teams up with other leading international academics, Dr Jung Uck Seo and Professor Allan Baker to span the disciplines of human health, telecommunications and avian molecular genetics. The Foundation brings these three esteemed Visiting Fellows to the College of Sciences later this year to work with staff and students and industry partners in areas of excellence at Massey University.

SIR NEIL WATERS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Inaugurated in 2004, this series honours the achievements of Sir Neil Waters, former Professor and Vice-Chancellor of Massey University. The Institute of Fundamental Sciences brings leading international scientists in the fields of mathematics, chemistry or physics to give lectures to students and researchers at Massey University. This year lectures are presented in mathematics by New Zealander and Fields medallist Professor Vaughan Jones of the University of California, Berkley, and in chemistry by Professor Richard Zare of Stanford University, California. For more information visit **ifs.massey.ac.nz**

CURATING (IN) CONTEXT

An international leader in public arts curation, British curator Claire Doherty will work with the LITMUS Research Initiative (School of Fine Arts) to realise a major contemporary public art project in Wellington city. Currently Senior Research Fellow in Fine Art at Bristol University of West England, Doherty is recognised as a key contemporary specialist in contextual arts practice. For updates and more information visit **www.litmus.org.nz**

AND...

Later this year the brown kiwi genome is sequenced, small and medium businesses are put under the microscope, eleven and twelve year olds get keen on kinetics, and great disasters provoke fabulous solutions...

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Massey University Foundation,
Private Bag 11 222,
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR JUDITH KINNEAR

The Massey University Foundation has been established to support the achievement of our researchers and students. Because the University meets all the administrative costs of the Foundation, all funds received through the Foundation are used for the purposes specified. I commend the Foundation to you and encourage you to become involved with the achievements of the staff and students at Massey University.

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All donations to Massey University Foundation made within New Zealand are tax deductible up to the maximum set by the Inland Revenue Department. A tax receipt will be issued for all gifts (*including anonymous gifts).

After the hurricane

James Gardiner writes

When Hurricane Katrina came ashore last August, world attention focused largely on the fatal flooding that devastated New Orleans and the botched aid efforts in the weeks that followed.

Yet most of the damage caused by the actual storm occurred in Louisiana's neighbouring state Mississippi, and eight months later, the cleanup continues.

Massey alumnus Dr Richard Watson is a professor at Mississippi State University where he has been the state specialist in pastureland for the past two years, a role that involves both applied research and directing the technological transfer between the University and the public and private sector.

You can almost feel Dr Watson's head shaking down the telephone line from his home in Starkville, about four hours' drive north of the worst-affected areas, as he describes the cleanup efforts and the huge difficulties faced by the farmers and others.

"It's not in the news anymore but if you go down to the bottom two counties in Mississippi not much has changed.

"East of New Orleans, a stretch of at least three to five miles inland has been completely destroyed. Every single building is flattened or gone.

"A lot of people still aren't back in their houses. In fact a huge thing at the moment is the insurance. A lot of insurance companies just aren't paying out, for whatever reason. They're saying things like it was wind damage that caused it and you're only insured for floods, or it was flood damage that caused it and you're only insured for wind. They're just being real shysters about it.

"The really daunting task is rebuilding. It's not just houses and buildings, you have to build industries, infrastructure and a tax base to support all that.

"A lot of employed and affluent people left the Gulf Coast and I presume there's a large proportion of them won't go back because there are no jobs, no schools, nothing to go back to."

He says a lot of the problems stem from the politics and bureaucracy at state and federal government level and a post World War II state history of embracing horticulture to justify converting the many armament factories into a huge farm machinery industry.

The state's agricultural sector was already on what he describes as an "economic knife-edge" before Katrina and although a $US87 billion federal relief package is on offer, this is offset by ongoing moves to cut back subsidies to farmers and other industries.

Coming from New Zealand to the United States agricultural sector was a bit like stepping back 20 years in time for Dr Watson.

He sees a rural landscape damaged by inefficient cropping industries propped up by historical subsidies. Cotton, corn and soy bean rank in the top four commodities in Mississippi in terms of revenue, but coming in at number four or five are the $800 million worth of state subsidies. In some places farmers are subsidised to grow certain crops regardless of the economic value. In other parts they are paid not to grow.

But now, with the federal government's massive deficit forcing drastic spending cutbacks and World Trade Organisation moves to stamp out trade barriers like subsidies, the crunch has come.

"The initial focus was humanitarian, feeding people, getting them water and shelter and medical care. It's actually the easiest part because you get attention, you get donations and people want to help, although as you know in New Orleans they had all the problems.

"Without being overly simplistic, America's aim since WWII is to be self-reliant on energy and food. The downside of that is they can't do it as efficiently as other countries can. They can't produce food as efficiently as say New Zealand, Argentina, Chile or China."

Again, Dr Watson seems at a loss to explain this. American farmers embrace technology, they have soils as good as anywhere on the planet and a climate – hurricanes aside – that is generally well suited to raising crops and livestock.

"But they can't see how they can achieve the level of efficiency that we can. Their ways of doing things involve very high inputs. They embrace technology, but producing something for a market? They just don't get it."

Dr Watson's expertise is in forage and pasture-based systems. The cattle industry is not directly subsidised, although subsidies in other areas mean cheaper feed. Even so, this is an industry that is struggling.

"They're so far behind in terms of their levels of management compared to New Zealand or Australia, they don't know how to use their land efficiently."

He has spent the months since Katrina taking groups of students down to the coast to rebuild fences.

"There are a lot of trees in Mississippi, and most of the ones within five miles of the coast were knocked down by the same 240kmph winds that knocked down all the fences."

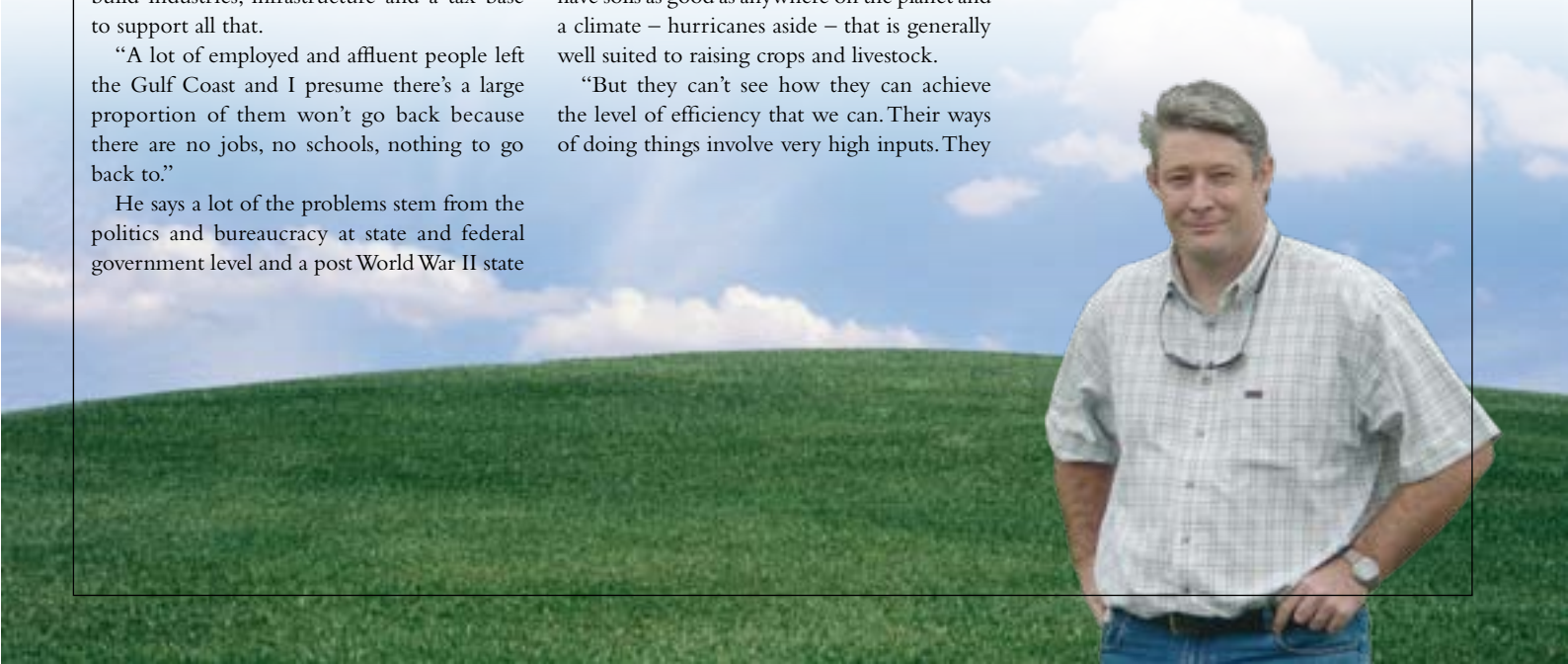
Afterwards, even if farmers could find their stock alive they had no way of containing them, so the animals have been free-range.

Salination was an even more widespread problem. The winds blew salt water up to 100km inland, contaminated pastures and water supplies. Some stock were killed drinking it.

The other big job has been organising food. Hay was donated from other states but the damage to roads made it difficult to distribute. Also, there was a drought lasting nearly three months after Katrina.

"Even now they're still struggling because they couldn't put their winter forage crops in like rye grass. I'm still trying to find feed sources and come up with ways that they can grow enough forage to keep their animals going through this coming summer."

Dr Richard Watson graduated from Massey with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1995. His master's degree was conferred two years later and his PhD in 2000.



On Turkish soil

Jane Tolerton writes

When Jan Beattie was putting the finishing touches to her geography MA (Hons) thesis on the impact of labour shortages on productivity on farms in the Manawatu, a career in diplomacy was not much in her mind. Jan – now Her Excellency Jan Henderson, New Zealand ambassador to Turkey, Israel and Jordan – planned to become a primary school teacher.

Hers was not a cosmopolitan upbringing, she confesses on the phone from Ankara, where she is based. Jan grew up on a dairy farm in Kopane, about 15 km from Palmerston North. Massey was the comfortable choice: close to home, and her friends from Palmerston North Girls High School were going there.

She was local, too, in her choice of partner: she would meet her husband-to-be David Henderson in one of her Massey geography classes.

And firmly locally located she might have remained had geography dean Professor Keith Thompson not given her name to the recruiters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and had her thesis supervisor Richard Le Heron not encouraged her to go along to an interview.

"I had never thought about a career in diplomatic life. To be honest, I had very little idea of what it would entail," says Jan. "And I came from a family who didn't think going to Wellington and working for the government was the best career. They were firmly private sector. So was David's family – from a sheep and cattle farm in Hawke's Bay. He was going back to the farm and I was going to be a primary teacher."

But the officers from the Ministry made a good case. "They talked about this wonderful career. I had always been interested in international issues, but more as a hobby – it was the travel opportunities that made me think why not give it a go." Jan had been no further afield than Australia.

After four years in Wellington working in several different geographical divisions learning the ropes, she and David set off for her first posting in 1983 – Thailand, where her role as second secretary in the embassy included managing the New Zealand aid programme.

"We could see then what a career in the foreign ministry would mean. Every three or four years you pack up and get to do something completely different. The opportunities just keep turning over and over – going into new political, cultural and social environments."

After four years in Bangkok it was back to New Zealand, and a year's maternity leave after the birth of daughter, Jennifer. David re-entered the paid workforce – he hadn't been able to take paid work on their overseas postings. "The ministry was very family friendly. I came back into it at the same point I'd left, and was assigned the following year. So even a year off, and a child, didn't interfere with my career progression," says Jan.

The Henderson family in front of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul. From left: Rachel, Jan, Jennifer, and David.

Her second posting was as deputy head of mission in the Solomon Islands, which included aid work as well as political and security issues. "It couldn't have been more different from Thailand, a large dynamic Asian economy. The Melanesian economy was still emerging and there were communal tensions that would later erupt into civil strife in the late 1990s. Usually we'd have stayed two-and-a-half years in the posting, but we asked to stay on because work and life in the Solomons had so much more to offer that we were in no hurry to come home."

The next home stint delivered second daughter, Rachel, and another year of maternity leave. Then it was on to a posting to Washington DC – dramatically different to the Solomons – and, after another interlude in Wellington, an ambassador's posting to Ankara, the capital of Turkey.

In the years since Jan's 2003 arrival "a deeper, more substantial relationship" has developed between New Zealand and Turkey, and this has led to an extended tour of duty for Jan. "There's a lot happening in the bilateral relationship, so it made sense to stay and embed the changes."

About 18,000 people – including HRH Prince Charles and Prime Minister Helen Clark – attended the April 25th dawn service at last year's 90th anniversary of Gallipoli. (On the 24th, Helen Clark and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan had met for a picnic lunch on the shore near Anzac Cove.)

The New Zealand ceremony was held up the hill at Chunuk Bair, the highest point reached by the New Zealand troops during the 1915 campaign. The New Zealand memorial is sited next to a monument to Mustafa Kemal, the Turkish commander who became Ataturk, the first president of modern Turkey.

"It is significant that each year brings more and more Turkish to our New Zealand commemorations," says Jan. "Their focus has traditionally been to commemorate March 18 as the victory over the Allied ships trying to push through to Istanbul, but we are noticing increasing interest, particularly among young Turkish people, in commemorating April 25 with the Australians and New Zealanders.

"We talk about the loss of Australians and New Zealanders, but it is important to remember that there were many more casualties on the Turkish side. We stress the legacy of Gallipoli, the bringing together of old enemies, the spirit of friendship and respect that was forged on the battlefield, and that now underpins a successful bilateral relationship."

Last year a 120-strong Turkish delegation, led by Prime Minister Erdogan and including four government ministers, visited New Zealand. As a result, the Turkish ministers of agriculture and education will visit this year.

The education minister will discuss prospects for more Turkish postgraduate students to study at Massey and other New Zealand universities. Says Jan, "Turkey sends a number of postgraduate students to study in Britain and United States, and they are interested in looking at New Zealand as a destination because it is safe, good value for money, and has a good reputation."

Jan could be filling out an enrolment form herself again some day. "I would love to go back to university. One of my sisters was a primary teacher. She recently took two years off and went back to Massey to do Development Studies. I envy her that. I'd like to take time out and do history, particularly history of religions."

For now she is on what could be an extended field trip for a history of religions course. "Living in Turkey, and travelling to Israel and Jordan

and the Palestinian Authority, I've been able to learn a lot about the religious context to issues here."

Making the most of what a posting offers comes easily to Jan. She believes that adaptability and flexibility are key personal qualities, and that she developed them as one of seven children in a rural New Zealand childhood. "You learnt negotiation skills early. You learnt to do your bit in the family. You developed the ability to make the most of rural life because things weren't laid on for you and there wasn't a lot of money around. Those skills have seen me through.

"In this job, you are thrown all sorts of things. Here it's the full range of trade, political and consular work, from assisting New Zealand earthquake engineers on a World Bank programme in Istanbul, to resolving trade access issues for New Zealand importers, to talking with the Turkish Foreign Ministry about political issues – such as Turkey's EU accession process because there is a New Zealand interest in how that's managed – and recently, speaking to a group of Turkish and foreign women on Women's Day."

Jan, Rachel, Jennifer and David Henderson at the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bair.

Jan is one of a group of eight women ambassadors in Turkey who meet regularly. "Offshore diplomatic circles tend to be fairly male environments, particularly in this part of the world, so we find it useful to network."

The Hendersons will return to Wellington and their own house later this year. They'll reunite with Jennifer, who chose to go to boarding school in New Zealand and is now off to university. Rachel, having finished her primary years at the British international school in Ankara, will begin secondary school.

But the three years between postings will soon be over, and then it's another posting. It is an unsettled life, but she's not complaining. She doesn't know what her family's next posting will be. "But we've had interesting choices so far."

The New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair on Anzac Day 2005. Front row from left: New Zealand school essay winners; UK Minister for Veterans; Turkish Minister of Culture Atilla Koc; New Zealand Ambassador Jan Henderson; HRH Prince Charles; New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark; and the Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs

New Zealand veterans after the Chunuk Bair service. (The statue of Ataturk can be seen in the background.)

HE Ambassador Jan Henderson on her way to presenting her credentials to President of Turkey President Ahmet Necdet Sezer after her arrival in 2003

Reviewers: Adam Gifford (AG), Barbara Lambourn (BL), Malcolm Wood (MW)

History

Historical Frictions: Māori Claims and Reinvented Histories

by Michael Belgrave
University of Auckland Press, $49.99

The Treaty of Waitangi claims process has been a boon to historians, offering steady work and fascinating historical pathways to explore. It also offers unusual challenges. They may find themselves forced to explain and defend their work not in peer-reviewed journals or academic conferences but under cross-examination by lawyers and tribunal members.

Even more perplexing is what the Waitangi Tribunal may do with their contributions at the end of the day. For, as Michael Belgrave points out in *Historical Frictions*, his study of the claim process, one of the tribunal's main tasks is to make practical recommendations about resolving grievances, which means it is concerned about the present as much as the past.

"Interpreting the past according to present values and knowledge, rather than in the context of its own time, makes historians uncomfortable," says Belgrave, Associate Professor at Massey University's School of Social and Cultural Sciences at Albany. That observation is not an attack on the tribunal. As Belgrave points out, it is just the latest in a long line of commissions, courts and inquiries into New Zealand's past, dating back to within a couple of years of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

These periodic exhumations – the points of friction in the title – are part of the continual process of Māori and the state realigning themselves. While they have never resolved the problems of Māori marginalisation and resource loss, they have reduced tensions and provided opportunities for Māori communities to grab what was on offer. Don't expect finality from the current round, but "given the time and cost of the current round of claim and settlement, it is unlikely that a new round will occur soon".

This book does not try to give a definitive interpretation of the Treaty. As an elegant and valuable frame or reference, Belgrave argues that there is no one Treaty, or even two – an English one and a Māori one. Rather, the Treaty "is a touchstone for debates on the place of Māori in New Zealand society", which gets remade every generation or so.

The English text of the Treaty, written by James Busby, was a legalistic statement of rights. Missionary Henry Williams's Māori translation stressed relationships and the protection of Māori from what he regarded as the evils of colonisation. By the time of the Kohimarama Conference in 1860, on the eve of the Land Wars, Governor Gore Browne was emphasising the Treaty as creating a unique relationship between Māori and the Queen. After 1867, with a settler government in place and Māori representation in Parliament through the four Māori seats, it became a Treaty of rights to be tested through the courts.

Mid-last century the Treaty was a symbol of national unity and good race relations. This interpretation was rejected by Māori in the mid to late 1970s as the notion of unbroken Māori sovereignty emerged, leading to the 'modern' Treaty, with its emphasis on the conflict between the texts and the tribal nature of the guarantees under Article Two.

Add to this the concept of 'principles' introduced in the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975, which was an attempt by the drafters to sidestep arguments about which text was correct and to create a modern Treaty relevant to policy making in the present.

Belgrave worked for the Waitangi Tribunal during some of its most critical years, so has an insider's understanding of the forces affecting that institution. His expositions of four claims – Muriwhenua, Ngai Tahu, Taranaki and Chatham Islands – are an excellent overview, although his wrap-up chapter on the settlement process screams out for further exploration.

He rightly sees claims as an assertion of mana, which is one reason they re-emerge in different guises from generation to generation. He also sees the current round descending into a rehash of the Native Land Court battles of the late 19th century, which is why it is inevitable they will eventually be revisited.

An immensely valuable book and a cracking good read. *AG*

Natural History

Swimming with Orca: My Life with New Zealand's Killer Whales

by Dr Ingrid Visser
Penguin Books, $39.95

When it comes to what biologists refer to as charismatic megafauna, the orca is right up there. Sleek, powerful, smart – and with that aura of menace. Flipper with attitude.

And it is hard to conceive of anyone more obsessed with orca than Ingrid Visser. This is a woman who at the age of six or seven decided she wanted to work with whales and dolphins. Who bought the personalised number plate ORCA before she had any prospect of an appropriate vehicle to put it on. Who put the proceeds of a family inheritance towards purchasing the boat she used to pursue her PhD research.

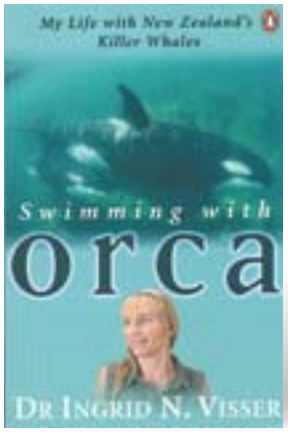
In *Swimming with Orca* she is eager to teach us something of what she knows.

Did you know New Zealand's orca have a taste for stingrays, venturing into estuaries to hunt them and occasionally tossing them like frisbees to stun them? Did you know that Kaikoura has a pod of orca that specialises in hunting dolphins? I did not. Nor had I ever thought about why on the shores of Argentina orca throw themselves onto beaches to pull back sea lion pups while in New Zealand the seals are unmolested and unfazed when a pod of orca swims by. Different pods of orca; different cultures.

Visser also tells us something about her encounters with particular orca. Orca are naturally playful and curious, and Visser takes to the water whenever she can to interact with orca she now knows as individuals. Is Visser transgressing boundaries here? I am uneasy, but Visser's argument is that in doing so she witnesses behaviours that would otherwise go unobserved. Perhaps, but it is difficult to say where Visser the scientist wanting data ends and Visser the self-described 'whale hugger' craving a fix begins.

What can be said is that Visser, with her singlemindedness, is a zealous publicist and advocate for New Zealand's orca. *MW*

Visser has a BSc majoring in zoology from Massey and an MSc and PhD (the achievement of which is a tale in itself) from the University of Auckland.



Training

Training Secrets: Helping Adults Learn"

by Geoffrey Moss
Moss Associates, $29.95

I've been a fan of Geoffrey Moss since I got hold of his *Trainers Handbook* in about 1990. Moss lives in Wellington and has been published in 16 countries and in nine languages.

This book follows his trusted format of presenting useful, practical information in a visually lively layout. A huge number of clever ideas, checklists, quotes and stories illustrate a very sensible and comprehensive approach to helping adults learn and practise new skills.

Says Moss, "There are many different ways to train, but always remember people learn best when they are enjoying training, learning helpful things, contributing with ideas and having fun."Those of us who have endured bad training will endorse that approach.

For people taking on training as a new role or wanting to freshen up tired skills, this will be an excellent resource. It has 190 pages packed with information to save hours of time and make training rewarding for everyone. *BL*

Moss is both a Massey alumnus – he graduated with a BAgSc in 1957 – and a former staff member. Reviewer Barbara Lambourn has a DipSocSci (Social Policy and Social Work) from Massey.

Aviation History

Lost... Without Trace: Brian Chadwick and the Missing Dragonfly

by Richard Waugh
Craig Printing Co Ltd, $59.95

It was a pretty thing, the 1930s twin-engined biplane in its blue and white livery, and one can imagine the excitement with which its four passengers boarded one morning in February 1962 for a scenic flight to Milford Sound. It would never make it, and despite the largest aerial search in New Zealand and four decades of trampers, climbers, hunters and scenic flights, where Dragonfly ZK-AFB lies and how it came to grief are unknown.

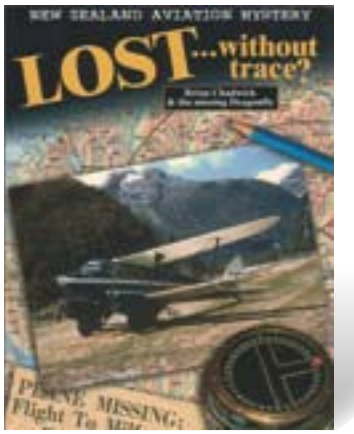
Richard Waugh has published a number of books of aviation history, which seems an odd thing for a Wesleyan Methodist Minister to do until you learn that Brian Waugh, his father, was a professional pilot. And Brian Waugh was also good friends with Brian Chadwick, the pilot of the ill-fated Dragonfly. Indeed, it was Chadwick who persuaded the Waughs to emigrate to New Zealand.

As is the pattern with his other books, Waugh's *Lost …Without Trace* is lavishly illustrated and exhaustively detailed. Waugh gives us Chadwick's biography and that of each of the passengers; he gives a history of the plane ZK-AFB; he relates all of the leads as to where the Dragonfly may have gone down; he even, in an appendix, gives the history of the two surviving planes.

Where does the Dragonfly lie and will it be found? Waugh makes some educated guesses about where the plane went down and why, and no doubt the book will reawaken interest in finding its whereabouts.

Those who do search will have their work cut out. The bush on the flanks of the Southern Alps is thick, and has a way of holding on to its secrets. *MW*

Richard Waugh has a BA in history from Massey.



Popular Science

Hunting the Double Helix: How DNA is Solving the Puzzles of the Past

by Anna Meyer
Allen&Unwin, $33

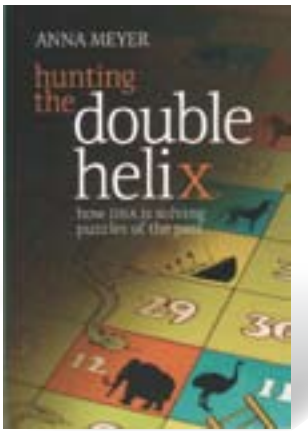
As if they didn't have enough to deal with, the police forces of the world are now apparently being confronted with the "CSI effect", an unlimited belief in the application of forensic science and DNA fingerprinting.

In *Hunting the Double Helix*, first-time book author Anna Meyer looks at how DNA analysis has been applied to some very 'cold' cases indeed. Were the Neanderthals part of our ancestry? (They weren't.) What agency was responsible for the Black Death? (Still debated.) Are we likely to be able to resurrect extinct creatures such as the Tasmanian tiger or the woolly mammoth? (Some day, perhaps, but don't hold your breath.)

Chapter titles such as 'Big bird' (about moa) and 'Cretaceous capers' (could dinosaurs be cloned) give something of the book's flavour: conscientiously accessible. Meyer devotes each of her seven chapters to a topic where the analysis of ancient DNA has either solved a problem or raised issues.

In researching her book Meyer spoke to two experts on ancient DNA, Massey's own Professor David Lambert of the Allan Wilson Centre, and Professor Alan Cooper (another New Zealander), who is a recent recruit to Adelaide University. However, most of the book's content has been drawn from her own reading. *MW*

Meyer, who has a BSc (Hons) from Massey and a PhD from ANU, is a welcome addition to New Zealand's small pool of specialist science writers.



As I embark on this new life adventure I can't help but be excited about the opportunities that lie ahead to offer you, our alumni and friends, the ability to stay in touch and remain life-long members of the University community. I know that the world is an exciting place and that we can all be successful in it. As individuals we need to decide what success means for us and visualise that success. Success to me at the moment is building relationships with you and connecting people together.

I have enjoyed nineteen years within the University's College of Science. I have seen how beneficial relationships between alumni and friends and the University can be for each other. I am delighted to now being a central player in building these relationships. I hope to meet you as we build chapters around the country and overseas, and at graduation ceremonies and reunions through the year.

As we develop together, we will be continually looking at ways to offer benefits to you. We will continue to work on the national insurance broking business initiative and a programme for you at the sports and recreation centres at each campus.

Later on in the year we will start our Court of Convocation elections for alumni representatives to the University Council. This is an opportunity for you to take part in our governance.

Please keep in touch with us by filling in and sending the Alumni and Friends brochure back to us that is included in this magazine or send us an email at alumni@massey.ac.nz. We can only keep in touch with you if we have up-to-date addresses.

Leanne Fecser
Manager
Alumni Relations

Two Events in China

Mike Freeman, Director of Alumni Relations, writes

In October, 2005 Massey invited alumni in China, and the families of some of our Chinese international students to gatherings in Beijing. These events were held in association with a visit to Peking University by a team of senior Massey staff led by the Vice-Chancellor. The Massey team participated in a science symposium with Peking University, as part of the very significant partnership arrangements existing between the two universities.

The New Zealand Ambassador kindly hosted a function for our alumni, to which alumni from other New Zealand universities were also invited. 40 Massey alumni, mainly from the Beijing region attended. The evening was a great success. Staff and alumni made full use of the occasion to renew old acquaintanceships.

The gathering for families was the first such event held by Massey. It provided an excellent opportunity for Massey staff and the families to discuss the issues encountered by students studying far from home. All agreed that it was very worthwhile occasion.

Massey in Mongolia

Professor Li Qingfeng who lives in Hohhot in Inner Mongolia, undertook a 10-hour train journey to Beijing by train to attend the alumni event and then, once the event was over, he boarded the train for another 10-hour journey home. He told the gathering that he was proud that we had a 50 percent turnout of our alumni from Inner Mongolia!

Professor Li did his PhD studies in seed technology under Professor Murray Hill. Professor Li is Head of Grassland Science Department at Inner Mongolia Agricultural University. He is heavily involved in organising the XXI International Grassland Congress, part of which will be held at Hohhot in 2008.

Professor Li with Professor Robert Anderson

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear with Massey alumni

Reception with some family members of current Massey students at China World Hotel

Director of Alumni Relations Mike Freeman (centre back) and Ambassador Tony Browne (centre front) with alumni

It is with great regret that the office of Alumni Relations farewells Paula Taylor who has been Massey's Alumni Relations Manager since February 2004. Paula is returning to Australia to her family and to other career interests. We wish her well and thank her for the tremendous progress that she has been responsible for. In particular, she can be proud of the range of benefits and services now available to alumni and the work that will lead to the launch of our network of chapters.

Alumni Relations • Private Bag 11 222 • Palmerston North • New Zealand •Phone: 64 6 3505865 • Fax: 64 6 3505786
Email: alumni@massey.ac.nz • Web address: http://alumni.massey.ac.nz

A Network of Chapters

We are well into a strategy to provide a network of chapters for alumni living in New Zealand or in other countries.

In New Zealand many of you will be aware of the launch of the Auckland regional chapter last November. In 2006 there will be launches of regional chapters in Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, and the Hawkes Bay. Working groups have been established in all these centres, and planning is well advanced.

Internationally, we are keen to follow up work in recent years and formalise chapters in Malaysia, Singapore, China, Thailand and other countries.

In Australia work will continue in July with gatherings in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane which will follow on from preparations begun in 2005. Expect to hear more from us on this shortly.

We welcome interest from all our alumni who would like to work with us to establish chapters in their localities.

Alumni and Friends Calendar of major events to November 2006

To date we have listed:

5-7 April	Auckland Graduation
14-17 April	Ag Science Reunion Class of '76, Palmerston North
8-12 May	Palmerston North Graduation
26 May	Wellington Graduation
4 June	J40 – Wellington School of Journalism 40th reunion
14-17 June	Mystery Creek Field Days
21-23 October	College of Education 50th Jubilee
October/November	Court of Convocation elections
24-25 November	Palmerston North Graduation

Please note these details are provisional and should be confirmed with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. To this list we will be adding Chapter launches and reunions in New Zealand and internationally. To confirm a reunion or event contact us at alumni@massey.ac.nz or visit our website at http://alumni.massey.ac.nz

Contact us if you would like to have a reunion or alumni and friends event you are organising published in this calendar.

Auckland Regional Alumni Chapter Launched

About 200 alumni and staff of the Albany campus marked the launch of the first of the new network of chapters in November. The campus presented an interactive display of the work undertaken by staff and students. During 2006 alumni will work with Massey staff to create a programme of activities of special interest to alumni in the Auckland region.

Wendy Emirall-Watts, John Farmer, Olaf Diegel

Professor John Raine (DVC Auckland), Maurice Greenough (MCom, Palmerston North) and Professor Robert McKibbin

Good News from Britain

Massey business alumnus Craig Sweeney (BBS 2001), who underwent a heart transplant in September last year, was released from hospital on 7 December 2005 and is now residing in a flat supported by his girlfriend Nadia and family and friends.

He has regular visits from health workers monitoring his progress and travels to the hospital weekly for tests. They are constantly monitoring him for signs of infection or rejection but, all going to plan, the specialists hope that he can travel back to New Zealand in about seven months time.

Craig had lunch with the All Blacks while they were in London for the game versus England, late last year. He sat with his old rugby team mate from East Coast Bays Rugby Club, Nick Evans, and Tana Umaga and provided them with advice on how they should be playing the game. Maybe that is why they won!!

Craig and his brother Charles participated in the annual mass haka on Waitangi Day in front of the Houses of Parliament in Westminster and had a great time.

News from London

Lynne Ciochetto of the Institute of Communication Design in the College of Creative Arts writes

Late in 2005, lecturers Jacquie Naismith and Patricia Thomas, Massey alumnus Brian Eagle and I hosted a party in London for graduates of the Visual Communication Design programme. The venue was branding consultancy Unreal Communications, located in the heart of London at Tottenham Court Road corner, where Brian has recently been made a partner. One of the highlights of the evening was discovering the range of careers people have pursued.

Julia Parkinson is working as a freelance art director specialising in fashion retailing. She was art director for the Esprit worldwide perfume launch for Christmas 2004 and has also done CD covers for John Waters and Paul McCartney. Apart from design, Julia has had a number of successful gallery exhibitions of her paintings.

Many graduates have their own businesses or are working as freelance designers. Belinda Bonnette, whose career has included working in the Avalon computer studios in Wellington, has returned to her first love, illustration, and is running her own illustration business, as are graphic designers Rupert Sharp (Springboard Creative), Ailsa Campbell, fashion photographer Rachel Lum and Katie Taylor. Others are working in graphic design firms or in publishing, including Ivan Angel who works for design consultancy Salter Baxter, and Steven Boggs the art director for *TNT* magazine. Gaio McArthur Nguyen and Karolina Johnston are recent arrivals in London, both intending to work freelance as graphic designers.

A number of graduates are working in the film industry. Craig Penn has recently completed work on the animations for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Other films he has worked on include: *Harry Potter*, *Gladiator* and *Babe 2*. James Parr moved on from advertising to making documentaries, while Kate Hawley has done costumes for opera, films, television and theatre. Her movie credits include: *On a Clear Day* (2005) and *Bitter Calm* and her opera credits include *La Boheme* (New Zealand) and *Die Fledermaus* (London).

I didn't get a chance to talk to Reuben Sutherland, Carl Lough, Adam Pryor and Nick McFarlane who were also there.

• Top row: Rupert Sharp, Karolina Johnston, James Parr, Kate Hawley • Lower row: Brian Eagle, Giao McArthur Nguyen, Reuben Sutherland and Ivan Angell, Katie Taylor

2006 NEW ZEALAND ALUMNI CONVENTION
CONNECTING asia with aotearoa new zealand

New Zealand Alumni Conference 2006

The next New Zealand Alumni Convention (NZAC2006) will be held from 5 to 8 November 2006 at Te Papa Museum in Wellington.

The theme of the convention is "Connecting Asia with Aotearoa – New Zealand".

The convention follows on from the successful inaugural convention in Kuching, Sarawak, in 2004. It will provide an opportunity to connect with former colleagues, be inspired by leading New Zealanders and commentators, share some of New Zealand's most successful business stories, and learn about New Zealand today and opportunities for business and investment.

The convention will celebrate the lifelong connections that alumni and students from overseas, particularly from Asia, have made with New Zealand. Combining an interesting business and enjoyable social programme, this event has plenty for everyone. And when the business end of the convention is over, you might like to take the opportunity to visit Massey University.

For more information and to register your interest visit:

http://www.wellington.govt.nz/rd/alumni

Election to University Council

The Council is the University's body of governance. It is a vital part of the University structure. Two seats on Council are reserved for alumni of the University. Elections are held for these seats every four years. The next election will be later this year. We encourage you to participate in the process.

The Council establishes regulations governing all aspects of the election. These include eligibility criteria for those seeking nomination for election, and for those wishing to take part in the voting process.

Later in the year you will receive details from the regulations and information to assist you to take part in all aspects of the election process. To assist us please ensure that we have your most up-to-date address details. If you do wish to change details please complete the Keep Us Posted form that accompanies this magazine or go to our website http://alumni.massey.ac.nz.

At this time there is no other step that you need take to ensure that you are able to participate in the election process.

Massey University

ORDER FORM

ITEM	PRICE PER UNIT	QTY	SIZE	SUB TOTAL
APPAREL				
(Please indicate XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)				
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2. Beanie (possum-merino)	$35.00			
3. Cap	$20.00			
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17. Business Card Holder	$18.00			
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21. Coffee Mug	$12.00			
22. Greeting Cards (pack of 2 AK or PN or WN)	$7.00			
23. Greeting Cards (pack of 6 all campuses)	$21.00			
24. Key Fob	$6.00			
25. Lanyard (red/blue)	$4.00			
26. Leather Purse	$70.00			
27. Leather Wallet	$45.00			
28. Pen (in gift tube)	$19.00			
29. Photo frame (8in x 10in)	$45.00			
30. Stainless Steel Thermal Mug	$25.00			
31. Umbrella	$23.00			
32. University Crest	$60.00			
33. William Bear (in full graduation regalia)	$45.00			
34. William Bear (PhD regalia)	$55.00			
35. Wine Glasses (boxed set of 2)	$40.00			
JEWELLERY				
36. Charm (silver)	$9.00			
37. Earrings (silver)	$26.00			
38. Earrings (gold)	$50.00			
39. Lapel pin (silver)	$29.00			
40. Necklace (silver)	$35.00			
41. Tie slide (silver)	$80.00			
42. University ring (silver, men's)	$105.00			
43. University ring (silver, women's)	$75.00			

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Total $

All prices GST inclusive • GST number 11-205-615

Massey University

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Old Registry Building
Massey University
Private Bag 11 222
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Or drop in and see our range at the following locations:

Alumni and Friends Office
The Old Registry Building
Palmerston North Campus

Contact Office
Ground Floor, Block 4
Wellington Campus

Contact Office
Cashiers, Quad A
Albany Campus

You can also download the order form from our website:
http://alumni.massey.ac.nz

If you have any queries please contact us at:
alumni@massey.ac.nz

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Name (for order) _____

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☐ Mastercard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date | | | | 2 | 0 | | |

Cardholder's Name _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Benefits for Alumni and Friends

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations continues to work to improve its services and to expand the range of benefits it has negotiated for you, the alumni and friends of Massey University.

Several of the benefits currently offered or under negotiation were initiated by Massey University alumni. If you own, or are employed by a business or service that would like to provide a benefit to Massey University alumni and friends, staff or students, please contact us:
http://alumni.massey.ac.nz
Telephone: (06) 350 5865
Email: alumni@massey.ac.nz
Postal: Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North

Massey Library

Massey University Library offers alumni and friends a 50 percent discount on membership. For only $100 per year, you receive the same borrowing privileges as an undergraduate distance student. You can borrow books in person or have them delivered to you anywhere in New Zealand.

Karleri Photography

Karleri Photography in Auckland offers Massey's alumni and friends a discount of 10 percent on the cost of a portrait sitting plus print order over $250, or the choice of an extra 18 x 12 cm print. For every print order over $400, Karleri Photography donates $10 to the Massey University Scholarship fund. This offer applies to any individual, graduation, business, family, child and parent portraits in the Castor Bay studio or at a North Shore location.

Westpac University Visa Card

Earn great rewards with Hotpoints and support Massey students at the same time. At no cost to you, Westpac will donate 1 percent per annum of the interest-earning balance or a minimum of $10 per annum for each card – whichever is the greater – to Massey's scholarship fund. Apply today for a Westpac University Visa card!

Kanuka Grove Book and Resource Centre

Receive a 10 percent discount at Kanuka Grove on all trade items. With fabulous books for children and an extensive range of educational resources, Kanuka Grove has a product for you. Visit Kanuka Grove online: http://kanukagrove.massey.ac.nz or send your query via email to kanuka.grove@massey.ac.nz. The centre is located on the Hokowhitu site, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North. Opening hours are Mon- Fri 8.30am – 5.00pm, and Sat 10.00am – 2.00pm. You can contact the centre by phone on (06) 351 3329 or fax (06) 351 3324.

Duty Free Stores New Zealand

DUTY FREE STORES
NEW ZEALAND

Duty Free Stores New Zealand offers a 5 percent discount at all airport stores, a 20 percent discount on phone orders and internet orders, and a 5 percent discount on electronics and cameras at all locations (discounts can not be combined with other offers) to Massey University alumni at all of its stores across New Zealand. For every $50 or part thereof that you spend in their outlets, Duty Free Stores New Zealand will donate $1.00 to the Massey University Scholarship Fund. All you need to do is present the required coupon when making a purchase, or use the required code when placing an order over the Internet or telephone.

Career Move

In order to be a front-runner in today's job market, subscribe to Career Move, Massey University's unique career management programme. For only $125, the programme provides activities that will sharpen your career management skills and accelerate your progress towards your career goals. Visit http://careers.massey.ac.nz/careermove.html for more information.

Services for Alumni and Friends

Find a classmate

With a database of over 70,000 names, we can assist you to get in touch with your former classmates. The process for this is carried out adhering strictly to the Privacy Act (1993), so you can be assured that your privacy is protected. Contact us with information relating to the person(s) you wish to catch up with and, if it is possible, we will assist you to make contact.

Networking

Attending Massey University alumni and staff reunions and other events, or being involved in a Massey chapter, is an opportunities to maintain and extend your professional and social networks.

Reunions

Reunions organised by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations are held throughout the year. Visit our website and check our calendar for the latest details. If you are organising a reunion, there are a number of ways we can support you and help you to contact people you wish to attend. Contact us and we'll let you know how.

News from Massey

Keep up to date with the latest at Massey when you receive *MASSEY* magazine or when you subscribe to the *Alumni and Friends newsletter* or to *Massey News*.

- *MASSEY* magazine is posted twice annually to all alumni and friends. If you do not currently receive a copy either update your details via our website or contact our office (see base of page).
- *Massey News* is an online news service, published every fortnight. Subscribe online today at: http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz
- The *Alumni and Friends Newsletter* is a bulletin with the latest on events and activities of particular interest to alumni and friends. Visit our website to subscribe.

Memorabilia and apparel

Looking for a graduation gift or for something special as a memento of Massey University? Massey-branded memorabilia and apparel are available for purchase at all three campuses or by postal order. Visit our website to view our range online.

Share your news

Massey values the achievements and significant events in your life. Share your personal, professional, cultural or other achievements with your fellow alumni and the university community online and via Massey magazine. If you would like to submit images for publication, contact us directly.

For more information, visit our website or contact our office.
Web: http://alumni.massey.ac.nz Telephone: (06) 350 5865 Email: alumni@massey.ac.nz Postal: Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North

The fashion supporter

Vivian Zhong, MBA 2002

Liberation comes in many forms, including a no back, no strap, self-adhesive re-usable bra.

Called the Abracadabra, the bra was designed and is being successfully marketed by Auckland businesswoman and Massey alumnus Vivian Zhong.

"I had many strapless or backless items of clothing that I hardly ever wore," she says. "I found the available backless bras disappointing. So, seeing a gap in the market place, I developed my own adhesive bras.

"I visited many trade shows in New Zealand and overseas and went to many fashion boutiques to see what was hot and what was trendy. I felt there was a strong need for a reusable self-adhesive bra. I then visited textile suppliers and a number of manufacturers. I saw a local seamstress to discuss the best fabric to use and consulted with a bra specialist who lectured at Auckland University of Technology."

There was a silicon bra in the market but she felt that the product could be improved by using lighter materials.

The Abracadabra bra was launched in March 2005 and has been snapped up by a number of large department stores, including Farmers and Smith & Caughey.

The company has also launched silicon push-up pads and silicon nipple covers.

1951

John Hegarty, Diploma in Agriculture, has kindly forwarded a photograph of the 1949 Junior Seven-a-Side winners of the Rogers Cup. At back: Tony Marquet, Wally Bremner (Captain), S Green (President), A Soper, and Darryl Cotter. At front: John Hegarty, George Cately, and Brian Molloy (a future All Black).

1974

Jeremy Ballantyne, Master of Arts, has now retired now from a career in secondary teaching in the North Island. He spent 18 years as principal of Central Hawke's Bay College, Waipukurau.

1977

Eileen Braddock, Bachelor of Arts, is involved in assessment of learning difficulties for SPELD Hawke's Bay Inc. and SPELD NZ and Institute E.I.T.

Cheng (Steven) Phoa, Bachelor of Technology, returned to Malaysia in 1978 to work for Malaysian Airlines, initially with systems and methods and subsequently in information technology. He joined the finance industry in 1994, again working in information technology and is currently Head, Group IT Infrastructure Services with a financial company.

1978

Fung Lim, Bachelor of Business Studies, worked at Clark Menzies in Wanganui and later at Arthur Andersen in Singapore to satisfy the requirements for ACA and CMA. He writes that after six years at Arthur Andersen, he ventured into the video and film entertainment business, becoming a licensee for Twentieth Century Fox, Universal Studios and Paramount for Singapore and Malaysia. He has started a business in digital imaging and printing and is now married with a son and a daughter.

1982

David Mirams and **Jocelyn Mirams** (nee Harris), both Bachelor of Social Work, have lived in Brisbane since 1988 and now have daughters, age 21, 19, and 17. Having completed a Graduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood) in 1996, Jocelyn is now a teacher. David, who completed a Bachelor of Architecture in 2003, now works as an architect. Both of these qualifications were completed at QUT.

1983

Richard Lee, Master of Business Administration, worked in the education, banking and finance industries for 15 years after graduating. He was a deli/frozen food manager and central buyer for a wholesale firm in Wellington from 1997 to 2000 before becoming Head of Business Studies with a Wellington private provider and Business Communication tutor at Massey-Wellington. He has held his current position since January 2005. Richard writes that he is married with two teenage boys. His elder son is studying towards an engineering degree at Canterbury University.

1986

Jeanette Gilroy, Bachelor of Education, has been teaching at Horowhenua College for 12 years. She is head of Arts, which includes art, music and drama. She is a member of the school's senior management team and choreographer of various shows in drama, dance and theatre. "I have two children, my husband owns a popular hairdressing business Envy."

1990

Anthony Kettle, Bachelor of Veterinary Science, writes: "After graduating from Vet School I moved to Sydney, Australia and purchased a multi-clinic veterinary practice where I remained for eight years. In 1997 I was asked to set up a practice in Brunei and 18 months later became the Veterinary Officer for Jerudong Polo Club tasked with the care of the Sultan of Brunei's polo ponies. In 2001 I was offered a position as Veterinary Officer in the Royal Court of the Sultan of Oman and in 2004 took a new position as Veterinary Officer with the Dubai Racing Club. I am a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. I also have a Master of Business Administration degree from Edinburgh with a special interest in financial risk management. Adriana and I have three children - Emily, Maddie, and Allie."

1991

Martin Carroll, Bachelor of Social Work, worked as audit director for the Australian Universities Quality Agency from August 2001 until the end of 2005. In January 2006 he moved to Oman to take up a role as director for the Oman Accreditation Board.

Yuna Lu, Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, writes: "When I came back to China, I worked as an English teacher. I have been working very hard ever since I came back. I have got many very good students whose English is wonderful. I have upgraded as an Associate Professor of teaching English as a second language."

1992

Christopher James Burton, Bachelor of Arts, is HOD Drama at PNBHS and director of the school's major productions which include the NZ premiere of *Paris* in 2004 and *Hot Mikado* in 2005. "In 2006 I have been granted a year's leave and Penny and I are spending a year supply teaching and travelling in the UK, Europe and the US."

1993

Lorna Elizabeth Fraser, Graduate Diploma in Quality Assurance, writes that she spoke at a Quality Auditor conference in Louisville, Kentucky, USA in 1998. "It was a great experience and confidence builder. Since then I have changed my career from quality management to sales."

Michael Liew, Bachelor of Business Studies, writes that he worked for The Warehouse Ltd for 12 years as shipping manager and international logistics co-ordinator. "In 2002 I decided to broaden my career path and joined a prominent shipping company in New Zealand to learn all aspects of shipping/logistics movements within New Zealand and to worldwide destinations."

1994

Brett Russell, Master of Business Administration, writes: "In December 2004 I took up the position as chief executive officer of Speech New Zealand – a not-for-profit charitable trust funded only by our examination fees. Our goal is helping our nation to communicate. Our website is www.nzspeechbd.co.nz."

1995

Denise Burrow (nee Rice), Master of Education, writes that she looked for an area in education where she could use teaching experience and specific special education knowledge and found that working as a resource teacher for learning and behaviour fulfilled this criteria. She recently published an article in Kairaranga (RTLB / GSE publication) Vol 6 No 2 on a programme transitioning Year 8 students to Year 9 in Christchurch.

Pauline Oxford, Bachelor of Arts, writes: "After 20 years being employed in occupational safety and health, for the past 12 months I have been self-employed consulting and training in OSH related areas, as well as training businesses and individuals in aspects of communication skills and conflict reduction from a neuro-linguistic programming perspective. I am also one of only three New Zealanders who has travelled to Canada and completed training to be licensed to coach and consult in the Language and Behaviour Profile as developed by Richard Bailey and Shelle Rose Charvet. This is an expanding and exciting area of my work with numerous applications."

1996

Dwayne McNeil, Bachelor of Horticultural Science, has worked with P&O since graduating. He writes: "I am still with same company, but my role has changed considerably. I started as a storeman/clerk and I am now IT Administrator. I have a horticulture degree and I work in IT - who would have thought that would happen?"

David Slomp, Master of Business Administration, writes that he has just moved to Brisbane with wife Lee, baby Anton, Stella (3) and Alec (4). He transferred from Aluminium Systems NZ to manage the Australian operation in the Sunshine State.

1997

Stanley Bayne, Bachelor of Arts, is a volunteer biographer with Te Omanga Hospice (palliative care) Lower Hutt, helping to ease the path out of this world for terminally ill people.

Brenda Bowie, Bachelor of Science, worked at Kiwi Dairies (Hawera) after graduating and then travelled overseas for five years. She is currently employed with Fonterra Innovation as a technical officer in Palmerston North.

Craig Rooks, Bachelor of Technology, travelled overseas after completing his degree. He worked in the aluminium extrusion industry from 2000-2004 before taking his current role at Genoese Foods. He is married with one child, who is 13 months old.

1998

Sian Muir, Master of Business Administration, moved with her family to the US in 2000 were she worked at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. They moved to Northfield, MN, in 2004, where Sian works at St. Olaf College as the associate director for the Finstad Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and teaches two entrepreneurship courses. Sian serves on the board of the Northfield Enterprise Center, is an adviser for the Northfield College Board of Business Consultants and is an active member of the local Rotary.

John Paerau, Bachelor of Business Studies, is currently developing gridiron football in Auckland through secondary schools at the under-15 and under-19 age groups.

Niamh Parker-Field, Bachelor of Arts, has since completed a Graduate Diploma in Business (Marketing) at AUT (part time). She is currently living in the UK and doing freelance/contract work in marketing and communications.

2000

Thomas Muller, Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, is currently working on the establishment of a guarantee solution that ensures electronic waste would be recycled even if the producer went bankrupt or was closed down. See www.garantiesystem-altgeraete.de for details.

Alisi Navuga, Diploma in Business Studies, has continued studying since graduating from Massey. "At the moment I am in my final year of study at the University of the South Pacific. I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Banking, Finance and Information Systems. Personally I loved studying at Massey University and I don't think any other varsity can compete with Massey. I made a few friends there, although we seem to have lost touch of each other since I moved back to Fiji in 2001. I tell my friends that Massey is one of the best places to go for further studies."

John Rombo, Postgraduate Diploma in Education, writes that using Massey's papers he went on to do his Masters program at the University of Waikato. "Massey provides the best educational opportunities compared to any other university in the world. After finishing at Massey I have been to two universities but Massey still stands out to be leader in education and the quality of paper offerings. I highly recommend future students to go to Massey."

Timothy Scott, Master of Business Administration, writes that he was promoted to South Island regional manager of DeLaval Ltd in 1999. "I was involved in significant change management as we merged two brands, two distribution channels and two countries into one business. In 2004 I purchased a share of a milking machine, irrigation and engineering company located in Canterbury. Our main activity is building new infrastructure on dairy farms and servicing existing farms. The Massey MBA has provided excellent preparation for my new role running all our business activities."

2001

Trisha Brice, Bachelor of Regional Planning, married Richard Brice (also a Massey graduate) in February 2005. She travelled overseas from 2003 to 2005 and is currently working in Whangarei and about to return to Auckland to work.

2002

Simon Goodall, Bachelor of Science, runs a canine behaviour organisation in Auckland. He is a member of APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) and is New Zealand's only member of IAABC (International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants).

Toni Hunt, Master of Dairy Science and Technology, writes: "After working as a microbiology technician then process microbiologist at the then Kiwi Dairies (now Fonterra) in Hawera, I moved into process technologies. I now specialise in whey processing and ion exchange technologies."

2003

Yee Han Graham, Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, worked as the Clinical Psychologist in suicide prevention as part of the offenders management at Auckland Central Remand Prison after graduating. "Since then I have become a grandparent to beautiful Ella Mei Lin, my 11-month-old grand-daughter. I co-facilitated a workshop on Asian Mental Health at the Inaugural International Asian Health conference at the end of 2004. I have also kept up my professional development by attending the 2004 NZCCP conference at Queenstown and similar professional seminars. I am at now selling my private practice working with youth and migrants, especially Asian people. Being bi-lingual in English and Chinese and having been in an inter-cultural marriage for the past 28 years, I feel I have unique skills and abilities to bridge the gap between New Zealand health professions and Asians, especially Chinese people. I am passionate about being an agent of change, in particular using art, music and spirituality as tools under an eclectic approach to psychotherapy. I am interested to link up with other health professionals who are interested in Asian and youth mental health."

2004

Mei-Chu (Melissa) Hsieh Chung, Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching, writes: "Melissa's Language School is a professional language school. Our students are from elementary students to high school students, using a co-teaching method – one native speaking teacher and a local professional teacher."

Vicki Dowd, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts, writes: "After gaining my postgraduate in autism I am proud I can specialise in this field and bring empowerment and solutions to families experiencing autism. My own Aspergers condition has helped me identify with autism sufferers."

2005

George Corbett, Graduate Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health has recently been promoted to National Health and Safety Manager with Menzies Aviation, a large multinational ground handling company with its head office in the UK.

Xianmin Zeng, Master of Management, writes that with eight years' work experience in the telecommunication industry and a Master's degree from Massey University, he has found a good position in ZTE Corporation – China's largest listed telecommunication manufacturer. "As a marketing manager of the International Marketing Division 4, I am contributing my energy to market development in West Europe, East Europe, and Pakistan."

Becoming a corporate trainer

Jacque Aldridge, MA (Soc Sci) Hons 1982

Although science was my passion at school – physics, maths and all that – I hated being only one of three women in my year two class at the University of Auckland. So with great sadness I dropped out.

But then, taking my toddler to play centre, it was with great elation that I discovered the social sciences. Along the way I trained as a teacher.

When I'd completed my master's degree, I knew I didn't want to go back to schools – children and classroom teaching are great, but I didn't like the way schools are organised.

For a number of years I did various things: remarried, had two sons, got by, as you do. Then I started to organise seminars with guest speakers and to run small sessions myself. People began to ask me to facilitate workshops and chair meetings. I began to wonder if I should be running my own seminars.

At first I had some self doubt – a female characteristic I think. But heck, I thought, I've got curriculum design papers in my honours degree. I've taught at pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools. I have taught community education classes at night school. I have taught university extension studies. So why not?

So I became a corporate trainer. My clients come from all sectors. It sounds glamorous, I know, to be travelling to Sydney (I have an office there) and around New Zealand, and while I do find the life interesting and challenging, there are negatives. I can never be sure I'll be there to harvest the first spuds, to get to that social engagement, or to share my husband's pillow for more than a few days in a row.

Some New Zealand companies hire overseas trainers. But a prophet is not without honor except in his own country. New Zealand's trainers are among the best in the world,

Volcanoes in Vanuatu

When eruptions began on the Vanuatu island of Ambae in November 2005 Dr Kárely Németh from the Institute of Natural Resources was on his way to the centre of the action.

In March last year I started a science and technology postdoctoral fellowship with the director of the Institute of Natural Resources Dr Shane Cronin. My work has the seemingly obscure aim of studying mafic explosive volcanism in the south-west Pacific, focusing on the Vanuatu volcanic arc. 'Mafic' refers to a primitive type of magma, which usually comes directly from a very deep source and is generally rich in iron and magnesium.

From the first moment of arriving at the islands of Vanuatu I was captivated by the Pacific rhythm of life. I was also unprepared for a series of surprises in my field of volcanic explosive processes. I never imagined that Vanuatu would treat me so well: almost every trip since March 2005 has brought new discoveries that take me closer to my 10-year quest to understand ocean-island volcanism.

Field studies on the islands of Ambrym and Tongoa highlighted that many well-published theories of the volcanic history in this area were in dire need of revision. These hypotheses, which had been accepted as fact, have dominated the assessment and planning for volcanic hazards in the south-west Pacific for more than 15 years, but it now appears most were incorrect.

As a result, my project has taken on a new impetus to establish a full and rigorous collation of volcanic history from the area, and thus de-mystify the events described in colourful and deeply rooted legends. One of these includes the story of Kuwae, an island destroyed during a huge volcanic cataclysm which legend says was brought on by the vengeance of a powerful young man.

These may be local stories, but past geological work has given them global importance, since the eruptions are thought to have generated world-wide impacts on climate and are used in global volcanic output assessments as well as type examples of giant explosive processes.

Our work casts serious doubt over the size of the Kuwae eruption, previously recorded as one of the 10 largest events in the past millennium, and its impact on the Earth's climate.

I am no stranger to active volcanism, having worked on eruptions in Italy, Mexico, Chile and Argentina, but each time I return to Vanuatu the volcanoes have shown how alive they really are. In April, I arrived in the middle of a large, ongoing gas eruption of Ambrym, where extensive acid rains were destroying the local gardens.

In July, only one day after arrival, I was bundled into a small plane with my Massey colleagues to observe in unbelievable detail an explosion and ash cloud from the same volcano. The weather was so good that we could deviate to Ambae volcano, where we saw ominous stirrings in the upwelling of sulphur and gas in its surrealistically grey/blue-coloured acid lake.

The last major event from Ambae was in 1870, when explosions through the lake caused volcanic floods and mudflows, destroying villages in the valleys. It is widely regarded as the most dangerous volcano in Vanuatu because of this crater lake. Massey research led by Dr Cronin has helped local emergency management authorities and geologists to establish volcanic warning systems, hazard maps and emergency management plans at the community and province level.

During the annual Geological Society conference at Kaikoura in November we received an urgent call from the Vanuatu Government: Ambae is going up. A day later I was on Ambae, equipped with a satellite phone, a variety of sampling devices and a seismometer, and spent five hours trekking through mud and dense rainforest to the 1440-metre summit.

Before me was a scene akin to Dante's inferno. Spectacular black jets of wet tephra burst and expanded from below the surface of the lake. The black rocks created clouds of white steam as they fell back into the water. Large chunks of rock and lake sediment were being thrown up to 300 metres above the vent, and a small island of debris was forming around it. A giant steam and ash cloud rose several thousand metres into the sky.

Back down on the densely inhabited lower slopes of the island, around 4,000 people had been relocated to parts of the island protected from the likely impact of lahars. Some had travelled to the nearby islands of Pentecost or Maewo.

Vanuatu Mobile Force boats brought food and water, while the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations were making huge efforts to support people who had been moved from their homes to temporary accommodation. The process went smoothly, mostly because of the calmness of the Vanuatu people, and perhaps due to the well-structured local society.

I spent the next few days observing activity, collecting samples and monitoring seismic stations, along with scientists from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences. Since the Massey team are the only non-Vanuatu vulcanologists working up there who have made the effort to learn the language, Bislama, I was also heavily involved in giving advice and reassurance to the local residents at many community meetings.

Using the satellite phone, I was able to call Dr Cronin at Massey several times a day. He collated all eruption reports and provided regular email and phone updates and advice to authorities in Port Vila.

During this first week of the eruption, this was the only way information was getting out of the island. Most local phone lines were not operating. Flying back from Ambae a week later, I was treated to further amazing views of the growing island and ongoing eruptions in the lake.

These eruptions on Ambae gradually died out in the first week of January. The new island in the lake of Ambae has reached a cone size of about 500 metres across and 70 metres high. Later this month we are planning a new expedition to land on the new island, make observations and collect samples.

Ambae has definitely been one of the highlights of my career in vulcanology.

Dr Kárely Németh

An eruption in the crater lake of Ambae volcano, Vanuatu

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