



Psychology News @MASSEY

School of Psychology, Massey University

July & August

Issue 4, 2006

The School of Psychology at Massey University is situated on three campuses, Albany in Auckland, Turitea in Palmerston North, and Wellington. This newsletter is issued bi-monthly and is intended to capture what's been happening and what's coming up in the School of Psychology at Massey University.

Significant Events

Psycho-oncology Project

The Psychology Clinic at Turitea Campus has contracted to deliver a psycho-oncology service for MidCentral District Health Board. The Service is available to people with cancer at any stage in the cancer continuum and to their families/whanau. The aim of the Service is to improve quality of life by reducing distress, assisting with coping strategies, improving adjustment, and promoting active choice and participation in their medical treatment. This Psycho-Oncology Service is the first integrated psycho-oncology service in New Zealand.

In addition to providing a valuable service for the community, the Service will provide clinical training and research opportunities. The link with the hospital has already provided opportunities for research, with hospital staff approaching members of the Psycho-Oncology Service to collaborate with psychologically oriented research projects. Lizzy Kent is the Service Co-ordinator and Don Baken works as a psychologist for the Service as well as coordinating the associated research. Lisa Cherrington is employed as a part-time psychologist with special responsibility for ensuring the cultural responsiveness of the Service. Other psychologists associated with the Psychology Clinic are contracted to work with clients of the Service.

The Joint Centre for Disaster Research

Massey University and GNS Science held a function to mark the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Joint Centre for Disaster Research. The function was held at GNS Science in Lower Hutt on Monday 7 August. The Minister of Research Science and Technology, Hon Steve Maharey, was present to witness the signing of the agreement. The Centre will ensure that the natural hazards research of GNS Science is well integrated with Massey University's research on human behaviour and reaction to disasters. See press release at end of newsletter.

The Maori Research Roopu

The Maori Research Roopu room at Turitea was dedicated on 28 July in a small but very important ceremony. The Roopu/room has been named "Te Rau Aroha o te Pou Whatumanawa o te Kura Hinengaro Tangata mai te Whaea Ephra" in honour of Ephra Garrett's contribution to supporting Maori students and Maori research in the school over many years. Whaea Ephra came to the opening. The roopu has chosen "Te Rau Aroha" as the short version of the name.

Gender and language seminar

On Thursday 20th July Dr Ann Weatherall from Victoria University of Wellington gave a seminar in the School of Psychology at the Albany campus entitled "Social Psychology of Gender: From Difference in Speech to Relevance in Interaction". The large attendance attested to the interest in Ann's topic, as did requests for the seminar to be video-recorded for people on other campuses. Ann started her seminar by giving a clear and informative account of how research on gender and language has developed over the past three decades. She argued that a focus on gender 'differences' is counterproductive for a feminist agenda, and outlined theoretical ideas about gender being viewed more as a performance than something that is fixed and stable. In the remainder of the seminar Ann argued that conversation analysis is a valuable methodological tool in examining gender and language. Forceful examples from different New Zealand conversations were

employed to show how speakers use the concept of gender in their everyday interactions. These examples, and Ann's explanations of the conversational analytic method she applied to them, provided a concrete account of how and why she reached particular conclusions regarding an extract of the talk. Certainly Ann convinced me that focusing on the concept of gender as it is used in everyday talk, and examining what this concept does and achieves in this talk at a micro-level, is a valuable approach which has much potential for advancing our knowledge in this area.

Antonia Lyons

Albany Campus Research Day

Albany campus held their Research Day Out on Thursday 24 August. The event was an opportunity for postgraduate students to discuss and receive feedback on their research projects. In 2006, the School is pleased to announce that Associate Professor Neville Blampied, from the Department of Psychology at the University of Canterbury, presented a Distinguished Research Presentation entitled "Single-case Research: Tools for 21st Century Clinical Science" to start the day.

Campus News on Staff Activities, Achievements, Awards, Appointments and Departures

@Albany

Appointments

Janet Mak

Janet Mak is the new Secretary on Albany campus. She has taken over this position once held by Linda Kemp. The School is pleased to welcome Janet.

News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards

Professor Kerry Chamberlain

Professor Kerry Chamberlain made the front pages of Issue 11 of Massey News with his work alongside Helen Maddon on food messages and anxiety, especially among women.

Dr Antonia Lyons

Dr Antonia Lyons is now on the College Research Committee. Congratulations and thank you Antonia.

@Turitea

Appointments

Psycho-Oncology Team

The New Psycho-oncology team consists of Clinical Psychologists Lizzie Kent, Dr Don Baken and Lisa Cherrington, and Secretary Helen Goldstraw.

Departures

Dr Arnold Chamove

Dr Arnold Chamove has announced his resignation from the School. Arnold is a Senior Lecturer and has been with us in the School for just over 16 years, having played a significant role in developing our third year paper on animal behaviour, which is his speciality. Arnold has had a distinguished academic career, which includes working with Harry Harlow at the Institute for Psychiatry (London), and in an academic position at the University of Stirling, culminating in the major achievement of the award of DSc from Edinburgh University. Arnold's last official day at Massey will be 28 September. He and his partner Carol have various professional interests, including work in business mentoring/coaching, so he will doubtless have plenty to do after leaving us. We wish him well in these pursuits and thank him for his contribution over the years.

News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards

Professor Ian Evans, Dr Shane Harvey & Tomoko Yamaguchi

Congratulations to Prof. Ian Evans, Tomoko Yamaguchi, and Dr. Shane Harvey who have been successful in securing a small grant called the *Blue Skies* study award from the Families Commission. The research, called "Fairness, Forgiveness, and Families", is based on Ian and Tomoko's work on children's perception of fairness. The primary aim of the proposed study is to investigate children's perception of forgiveness from the point of view of the child.

Professor Andy Lock

Education NZ has awarded Andy Lock a grant of \$61,980, under the Education Export Initiative Programme, to develop the PG Diploma in Discursive Therapies which he coordinates. This programme is fully web-based. To date, enrolments have been restricted to small numbers so as to establish its innovative structure, whereby international experts provide a majority of the teaching in its theoretical and practice-oriented components. The grant provides the resources for a recruitment campaign to increase enrolments now that proof of concept for the programme has been demonstrated. It also allows for promotion of the Diploma as in offering in concert with overseas partners. Given the effort Andy and various colleagues have put in to get this programme in place, it is particularly pleasing that one of the main reasons for Education NZ providing this support is because they want to promote the structure of the programme as a potential model for others to follow in raising the profile of New Zealand Education in the global market.

Dr Fiona Alpass

Dr Fiona Alpass has received an award from the Massey Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund to support the "Cultural pathways to retirement" project.

Jhanitra Gavala

Jhanitra Gavala has been successful in receiving a Massey University Maori Award to support his doctoral study. The award provides for extra teaching assistance. This is the second time that Jhanitra has been successful in these awards.

Appointments

Dr David Johnston

Dr David Johnston will be joining the School in a .5 position as the Centre Director for The Joint Centre for Disaster Research.

News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards

Dr Steve Humphries

Dr Steve Humphries has taken up the role of College Forum Convenor for the Wellington campus.

PhD Abstracts

Narelle Dawson recently, successfully defended her thesis. Narelle's supervisor was Prof Ian Evans.

Narelle Dawson

PhD Thesis

**A Profile and Longitudinal Evaluation of Multiple Risk Factors, Protective Factors,
and Outcomes for Suicidal and non-Suicidal out-of-home Adolescents who
Applied for the Independent Youth Benefit (IYB)**

Abstract

This Research contributes new knowledge to those working in the areas of welfare, child and adolescent safety, and suicide prevention. The aim of this thesis was to succinctly provide clinicians, government and community agencies, researchers and policy advisors, with a snapshot profile of 2029 welfare seeking young people who were homeless and frequently discouraged by negative life events. The research aim was to identify risk and protective factors that impact life outcomes for those seeking the Independent Youth Benefit (IYB), and particularly, to scrutinize salient factors that led a vulnerable group of IYB applicants to die by suicide. It was further aimed that by documenting comments from 200 young adults from this population across a span of seven years, both gaps within the IYB process, as well as useful resources, could be identified in order to improve life outcomes for other homeless youth. For those who attempted suicide and survived, file records and interviews have indicated the triggers and life histories that potentially impacted their decision to try to end their pain of life, and factors that influenced survival and recovery.

Four separate studies were included in this thesis. Study 1 profiled 2029 IYB applicants and determined the most potent risks that led to the granting of the IYB. Study 2 revealed the salient factors related to the suicide of 6 IYB applicants. Study 3 investigated the outcomes for those who were granted or declined a benefit across the variables of education, employment, income, adverse life circumstances, wellbeing, and family relationships. Study 4 examined a psychological construct, termed cynical distrust, which appeared to be a characteristic trait in welfare seeking youth.

Conclusions from this research provided indicators of youth who will usually be granted an IYB, they are, those who report bullying, abuse, parent psychopathology, single parent homes, a parent on benefit and foster placement. Applicants who reported suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts and had contact with Police and Child Youth and Family Services also were more likely to be granted an Independent Youth Benefit (IYB). If the applicants were Maori and had previously seen a counsellor for a mental health problem, they were also more likely to receive the IYB. However, when applicants were referred to Family Reconciliation Counselling (FRC), there was a statistically significant association between benefit application and benefit declined.

A unique finding from this population related to the association of 'unknown fathers' with suicide. Absent father literature is now extensive, however, little research has been conducted into the effects of 'unknown fathers', particularly for Maori youth who place much of their strength and wellbeing in their genealogy. Other salient factors leading to suicide for IYB applicants included, previous suicide attempt, co-morbid disorder, unresolved anger, no identified caring adult, foster placement and an impending legal or disciplinary event. Maori males with such factors posed the greatest risk for suicide. Counsellors, psychologists, families and policy analysts need to acknowledge that IYB applicants who attempted suicide, show cynical distrust, and were declined a benefit, had extremely poor life outcomes. The New Zealand youth welfare system could be functioning far more efficiently if documented recommendations become realities.

Student Activities, Achievements and Awards

The School is pleased to congratulate several of our students in this issue of the Newsletter:

Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships July 2006

Ella Kahu

Massey University Doctoral Scholarship

John Noone

Melanie Simons**

Amber Barry

Jamie Veal

** scholarship awarded for two years.

Massey University Masterate Scholarship

Frank Pega

Health Research Council Career Development PhD Scholarship in Maori Health Research

Hukarere Valentine for her work on wairua and health.

Whakatane Historical Society Scholarship

Niki Culligan, a doctoral student, has won the Whakatane Historical Society Scholarship. The Scholarship will assist Niki's research investigating the coping strategies of those with differing levels of literacy taking part in an adult-focused vocational course. Niki's supervisor is Dr Fiona Alpass.

Ephra Garrett Awards for Attendance at 2006 Joint APs & NZPsS Conference in September

Celeste Barcham

Ngawari Carr

Kara Mihaere

Completed Theses / Honours Projects

The following theses/honours projects have been completed since the last bi-monthly newsletter:

Student	Carol Osbourne
Thesis	Honours Project
Title	Assessing Barriers to Participation in Rehabilitation Post Stroke: The Relationship between client Satisfaction of Healthcare Services and Life Satisfaction from the Stroke Survivor's Perspective.
Supervisor	Professor Janet Leathem
Student	Michael Carston
Thesis	MA
Title	Stress, Well-Being and Hardiness in the New Zealand Military: A Transactional Model.
Supervisor	Dr Dianne Gardner
Student	Aniel Bjornholdt
Thesis	MA
Title	A Preliminary Psychometric Investigation of the Homework Rating Scale-II
Supervisor	Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis
Student	Dianne Neilson
Thesis	MA
Title	Mitigating Distress in New Zealand Police Officers Exposed to Children's Accounts of Traumatic Experiences: Emotion-Solving versus Problem-Solving.
Supervisor	Professor Ian Evans
Student	Julia Taylor
Thesis	MA
Title	Incidence, Epidemiology and Outcomes of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in Clients Referred to the Massey University Concussion Clinic
Supervisor	Professor Janet Leathem
Student	Keryn Smale
Thesis	MA
Title	Health Appeals in Television Food Advertising: A Social Semiotic Analysis
Supervisor	Professor Kerry Chamberlain
Student	Kevin Barker
Thesis	MA
Title	Resistance Training and the Elderly: An Investigation into Psychological Well-Being and Life Satisfaction.
Supervisor	Dr Richard Fletcher

Forthcoming Events

Upcoming Seminars Turitea Campus:

Dr. Nancy Pachana will be presenting a seminar titled; "Positive Ageing".

Date: Monday 2 October
Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm
Venue: Psychology Building, Room 2.22

Dr. Nancy Pachana will be presenting a seminar titled; " Behavioural and psychological symptoms in dementia".

Date: Monday 2 October
Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm
Venue: Psychology Building, Room 2.22

Professor Frank Dean will be presenting a seminar titled; "Facilitating recovery from persistent and recurring psychiatric disability: Description and results from the Collaborative Recovery Training Program.

Date: Wednesday 11 October
Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm
Venue: Psychology Building, Room 2.22

Preparing New Zealand for Natural Disasters

Monday, 7 August 2006, 12:11 pm

Press Release: Joint Media Statement

MEDIA RELEASE

7 AUGUST 2006

Preparing New Zealand for Natural Disasters

A new research centre established by Massey University and Crown Research Institute, GNS Science, aims to prepare New Zealand better for natural disasters.

Based at the School of Psychology at Massey's Wellington campus, the Joint Centre for Disaster Research will concentrate the skills of psychologists, sociologists, planners, geologists, risk assessors, Maori researchers, and economists from both organisations.

A function to celebrate the establishment of the Centre is to be held at GNS Science's office at Avalon, Lower Hutt, today. The Minister of Research Science and Technology, the Hon Steve Maharey, will witness the signing of an agreement between the two organisations.

GNS Science Chief Executive, Alex Malahoff, said New Zealand's vulnerability to natural hazards was the main imperative for setting up the Centre, the only one of its type in New Zealand.

"It will help to ensure that there is a winning team to serve New Zealand, with GNS Science's natural hazards research integrated with Massey's work on preparedness and reaction to disasters.

"Recent events in Indonesia and New Orleans provide strong evidence for the relevance of bringing a focus to this area where the physical and social sciences intersect."

Dr Malahoff said New Zealand had been spared the pain of a significant 'mass casualty' natural disaster since the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake, which resulted in 256 deaths. He said there was a degree of complacency about natural hazards and, as a result, many people did not fully appreciate the devastation that such events could cause.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of Massey's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Barrie Macdonald, said the centre will concentrate the expertise of both organisations.

"This is a valuable partnership that will draw on the University's established strengths in natural hazard planning. It will boost long-term projects such as our research on volcanic activity in the North Island and the building of communities that are more resilient to natural disasters."

Professor Macdonald said the benefits of the Centre include improved support for risk reduction activities, and a better understanding of how to recover from natural disasters. Centre staff would also work with a range of agencies to improve New Zealand's capabilities to respond to natural disasters.

Centre staff will teach at a post-graduate level, conduct research, and undertake commercial work for clients in New Zealand. The Centre's post-graduate courses will complement those taught at an undergraduate level.

Undergraduate Student Inquiries

Kathryn Lee, Jennifer Stillman, Natalie Allen, Harvey Jones and Mandy Morgan have been setting up some new addresses for undergraduate student inquiries. In case you want to pass any of these on to your students, or put them in administration guides for next year, they are:

psych.admin.auck@massey.ac.nz
psych.admin.pn@massey.ac.nz
and
psych.admin.wgtn@massey.ac.nz.

The next issue of this newsletter will be sent out in early November. If you have any news you would like to contribute to the September-October newsletter, please send the information to Rachel Geard: R.A.Geard@massey.ac.nz before 20 October.

Editor: Dr Ruth Tarrant
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