



# Psychology News @MASSEY

School of Psychology, Te Kura Hinengaro Tangata

February/March 2009

Vol. 4, No. 1

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 captures what's been happening and what's coming up in the School of Psychology at Massey University.

## Active Links

If you are reading this newsletter on your computer the links can be clicked to access the listed webpages. Previous issues of *Psychology News* can be found at: <http://psychology.massey.ac.nz/news/psych-news.htm>

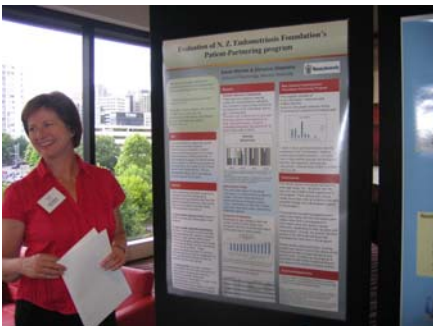
## Significant Events



### Australasian Society of Behavioural Health and Medicine Conference

Staff and students from the School enjoyed a successful meeting of the Australasian Society of Behavioural Health and Medicine in Auckland in early February. Kerry Chamberlain and Christine Stephens are members of the ASBHM executive and were involved in organising this conference. Four of our students attended: Annette Henricksen presented a paper and Barbara Horrell, Vicki

Beagley, and Karen Renner are pictured here with their posters. Kerry introduced an important keynote speaker from New Zealand, Professor Mason Durie who spoke to the largely Australian audience about health gains for indigenous people in New Zealand. The following picture shows Professor Durie with Kerry, Chris, Vicki and Annette. The School of Psychology was a major sponsor of the conference and our banner was prominently displayed. Here it can be seen in the background as another keynote, Robert West (a UK expert on smoking cessation) is being introduced by the ASBHM president, Jenny Bowman.





Next year's ASBHM conference will be in Brisbane, Australia. The Society is very supportive of students and early career researchers who are interested in health and aspects of health related behaviour. If you would like to join please contact Chris or Kerry.

Living in an Ageing Society  
**SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY**  
7 - 9 October 2009 • Wellington

New Zealand Association of Gerontology & Age Concern New Zealand Conference 2009

Age Concern  
Serving the needs of older people

New Zealand Association of Gerontology  
Te Kaitiaki Māoriwhiriwhiri Kaitiakiwhiriwhiri o te Kaitiaki

The New Zealand Association of Gerontology & Age Concern New Zealand are pleased to announce their first combined conference

'Living in an Ageing Society' from the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 at the Wellington Convention Centre

We invite you to submit a proposal to present at this conference (closing date for abstracts is 5pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)

The "Living in an Ageing Society" theme includes these strands: **Social Policy / Health and Resilience / Care and Participation**

Proposals may be for research papers, posters, descriptions of practical issues and interventions, roundtable discussions, symposia, or workshops.

**FOR FULL INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE AND TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL CLICK [HERE](#) OR VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE AT [www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009](http://www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009)**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Conference Manager at the numbers/email below.

Conferences & Events Ltd  
Email: [louise@confer.co.nz](mailto:louise@confer.co.nz)  
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**Mihi Whakatau**

The School of Psychology was pleased to have a mihi whakatau to welcome our newest academic staff member, Siau Tu Alefalo. Siau Tu has been appointed as Senior Professional Clinician to serve as the University supervisor for an exciting new qualification being launched this year for the first time – the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Practice (PGDipPsychPrac). The PGDipPsychPrac programme represents a supervised internship experience for students who hold at least a Master's degree in psychology allowing them to be considered for registration by the Psychologists Board under the HPCA Act upon completion of the PGDipPsychPrac.





Siautu has a BA and an MA in Education from the University of Auckland and a Postgraduate Diploma of Educational Psychology from Massey at Albany. She is currently working on her doctorate through Monash University. Siautu has a very distinguished record as a practitioner, having worked for Child Youth and Family Services (CYFS), Ministry of Education, Special Education and the Department of Corrections, among others. She is also a member of the Psychologists Board and has strong research and

professional interests in programmes that support Pasifika youth. Siautu's keen on family, music, and surfing, so she is not just a one-dimensional professional!

At the mihi whakatau, the Māori welcome was led by the School's Kaumatua, Mr Turoa Haronga, who then "handed the walking stick" to the Pasifika contingent to continue with a Samoan blessing, and a bringing over of Siautu into our School by her mum and dad. It seems Siautu is following in her parents' footsteps as her mother is an experienced early childhood educator and her father a recently retired Presbyterian minister. Siautu's partner was also present; he is finishing his teacher training and hopes to move to a teaching position in the Manawatu by the end of this year.



Ian Evans, who is the coordinator of the new qualification, also welcomed her on behalf of the School, as HoS Mandy Morgan was teaching that day. Ian commented on the terrific support that the School had received from the Pasifika community in the College and the University and felt that that boded well for Siautu having a ready-made support

network. He said he was really looking forward to working very closely with her and felt he, as well as the new postgraduate students would benefit greatly from the strong professional contribution that Siautu would make to the programme.



Ian complimented the general staff for helping with the arrangements and for making sure we had a good lunch after the event.

### Turakina Maori Girl's College Visit

On 9<sup>th</sup> March, a group of year 13 students from Turakina Māori Girls College spent the day at the School of Psychology, Turitea. The college is a private boarding school for girls, based in Marton. Students are typically of Māori-descent and the college operates according to a kaupapa Māori focus. Natasha Tassell, who is an ex-pupil of the college, hosted the students for the day.

The purpose of the visit was to encourage the students to look at psychology as a possible career option. It was also seen as an opportunity to encourage recruitment of Māori into the profession, by raising awareness about the number of Māori students already studying, but also the range of supports available to Māori within the School.

The day was spent attending lectures, presentations, and generally familiarising the students with a university environment. A presentation and lunch by Te Rau Puawai was also organised, to introduce the students to supports available to Māori studying mental health and potential bursary opportunities.

Although Natasha hosted the girls, a number of staff members were involved with the day and assisted to make it an enjoyable experience. Feedback from Turakina was extremely positive, and they expressed enthusiasm about the possibility of doing a similar visit in future years.

The girls enjoyed the whole day, and were particularly enthused about the following:

- Ross's lecture, video clips and computer exercises
- Jan's relaxation exercise
- The lovely bags and other goodies from Te Rau Puawai
- All the kai [apparently it's the best they're ever eaten in their whole lives?!?!?!]

A special thanks to Helen and Hope who worked behind the scenes to get a lot of the little things organised, to Ross for allowing attendance at his lecture, and to the Māori staff and students within the School who assisted with the day. A special thanks also to Te Rau Puawai for hosting lunch.

### Te Rau Puawai



Te Rau Puawai is a Māori mental health workforce development programme funded by the Ministry of Health and delivered by Massey University, under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The programme provides scholarships to Māori who have a commitment to the enhancement of the Māori mental health sector.

The School of Psychology has a long history with Te Rau Puawai, with many of our Māori students having benefitted from being part of the programme and staff members serving as academic mentors for bursars. This year 38 of our Māori psychology students hold bursaries with Te Rau Puawai.

Natasha Tassell takes over the role of Te Rau Puawai academic mentor for psychology, which was previously held by Leigh Coombes, who did a fantastic job assisting students during the years she held the role. A number of staff across all three campuses have volunteered to serve as mentors for students throughout the academic year – a very big thank you to all for giving your time to assist our Te Rau Puawai bursars.

Te Rau Puawai held its annual head-start hui from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February at Te-Pūtahi-a-Toi. The purpose of the hui was to bring students and academic staff together, and provide support and encouragement for the coming academic year. As in previous years, the hui was a fantastic success, with staff and students alike enjoying meeting / catching up with each other.



The hui was combined with the 10-year anniversary of the programme, which was celebrated with a symposium and hakari. It was pleasing to see many past and current psychology students who are bursars of the programme attend these events.

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

## Albany Arrivals and Departures

### **Kathryn Lee – Academic Administrator**

We farewell Kathryn Lee from the Albany campus this month. Kathryn has been a part of the School for the past 5 years and is now off to fulfil her dream of marrying Art and embarking on her new journey - living as an expat in Taiwan. We hope she and Art have a wonderful wedding and offer best wishes for their future together. Kathryn has been a fantastic asset and support to staff and students in the School of Psychology - she will be sadly missed. Keep an eye out in our next newsletter for Kathryn's wedding photos!

## News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards

The North Shore Times ran a story on October 30<sup>th</sup> which featured Nik Kazantzis' thoughts on New Zealander's changing attitudes to depression.

### **Prof Stuart Carr**

Following publicity on the Global Task Force to Combat Poverty (see last issue of Psychology News for details) Stuart Carr talked to the *North Shore Times* (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) about his experiences teaching in Malawi and how they led to the formation an international task force with a focus on combating poverty in developing nations.

## Turitea Arrivals and Departures

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### Senior Professional Clinician Siautu Alefai

Welcome to Siautu who comes to us from the Corrections Department in Auckland. You will have read about the official Mihi Whakatau to welcome Siautu to the School of Psychology here at Massey University.

### Ann Rogerson, Annette Henricksen

We welcome two new GA's this year to add to our wonderful team. You will see them around at the Palmerston North Campus.

### Robyn Knuth

Robyn has been seconded to a 12 month position of Executive Assistant to the AVC (Research) from 20 April 2009 to 20 April 2010. This will be a great experience for Robyn and she will be replacing Frances Bell-Booth while she is on parental leave.

## News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards

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### Ann Rogerson

"Strait talking Ann ready for swim of her life" is the header title for an article written about her recently in the Auckland Central Leader. Here are some excerpts from the article about what she is doing.

Ms Rogerson, who belongs to the Roskill Aquasport Masters Club, says the idea of swimming the unpredictable piece of water between the North and South Island has been on her mind for a number of years.

"When I was younger you used to hear about people swimming Cook Strait and the English Channel," she says.

But a bout of rheumatic fever during her childhood prevented the 54-year-old from attempting the crossing until now.

While she's not set to attempt the crossing until April, Ms Rogerson is putting in the hard yards now, swimming in the pool and sea for up to six hours a day, five days a week.

And when the time comes to attempt the crossing, there'll be plenty of help at hand with a number of swimmers preparing to hop in the water with her for support.

One of those hardy souls is her coach Carmel Dickson, who believes her pupil has what it takes to make the crossing.

"Out of all the people in the club, she would be the one to do it.

"You need the right mental attitude."

Here is a link to Ann's web page. <http://ann.roskillmasters.com/>

## **Wellington Arrivals and Departures**

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We say a formal goodbye to Simon Bennett as Clinical Research Fellow but only for a short time as he will return on a casual basis as one of our Maori Consultants.

## **News on Staff Activities, Achievements and Awards**

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**Linda Jones**

At the College forum in Wellington last week, Linda Jones was confirmed as Deputy Forum Convenor.

# Research Matters

## Research Activity

### Research Update from the Joint Centre of Disaster Research



Highlights from the Update include reports on the following:

- Scientific Committee of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (SC-ICDR)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Emergency Management and Social Science Disaster Research in New Zealand
- NZAID Post Graduate Field Research Award
- JSPS Invitation Fellowship Program
- Many Strong Voices against the disaster of climate change
- Cellphones vs Sirens: Effective Public Notifications Systems for New Zealand
- Issues and opportunities for land-use planning for volcanic hazards in New Zealand
- Exploring Kaitiakitanga and Hazard Management in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Modelling livestock evacuation following a volcanic eruption: an example from Taranaki volcano, New Zealand
- Auckland DHB Evacuation Plan Project
- The role of religious institutions in disaster risk governance: the case of 2005 earthquake in Pakistan
- Older peoples' experiences of a flood disaster: making sense of an extraordinary event
- Tourism and earthquakes in the zone of the alpine fault: risk, readiness and resilience
- Rediscovering the events of May 1960: the impacts of the tsunami from Chile
- Pyroclastic Peril: Impacts and Short-Term Recovery Assessment of the 2008 Chaiten eruption, Chile
- The latest Research Update (October) from the JCDR is now available from [http://disasters.massey.ac.nz/pubs/JCDR\\_Update\\_March\\_2009.pdf](http://disasters.massey.ac.nz/pubs/JCDR_Update_March_2009.pdf)

The JCDR has a new website if you wish to explore further: <http://disasters.massey.ac.nz/news.htm>

# Staff and Student Publications

## Journal Articles

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- Becker, J., Johnston, D., Lazrus, H., Crawford, G. & Nelson, D. (2008) Use of traditional knowledge in emergency management for tsunami hazard: A case study from Washington State, USA. *Disaster Prevention and Management* 17: 488-502.
- Becker, J.S., Saunders, S.A., Leonard, G.S., Robertson, C.M. & Johnston, D.M. (2008) Issues and opportunities for land-use planning for volcanic hazards. *Planning Quarterly* 170: 12-14.
- Clarke, D., & Clarkson, J. (2008). Gambling behaviour and motivation in an urban sample of older adult gamblers. *Zealand Journal of Psychology*, 37(1), 31-41.
- Clarke, D. (2008). Older adults' gambling motivation and problem gambling: A comparative study. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 24, 175-192.
- Clarke, D., & Clarkson, J. (2009) A preliminary investigation into motivational factors associated with older adults' problem gambling. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 7, 12-28.
- Clarke, D., & Goosen, T. (2009). The mediating effects of coping strategies in the relationship between automatic negative thoughts and depression in a clinical sample of diabetes patients. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 46, 460-464 .
- Finnis, K., Johnston, D., Becker, J., Ronan, J. & Paton, D. (2007). School and community-based hazards education and links to disaster resilient communities. In Kelman, I (ed) "School Safety", *Regional Development Dialogue (RDD)* Vol. 28 No. 2: 99-1008.
- Leung, J., Deane, F. P., Taylor, J. E., & Bliokas, V. (in press). *Anxiety in driving assessment in individuals with cognitive impairment*. Disability and Rehabilitation.
- Leonard, G.S., Johnston, D.M., Paton, D., Christianson, A., Becker, J. & Keys, H. (2008) Developing effective warning systems: Ongoing research at Ruapehu volcano, New Zealand. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research* 172: 199-215
- Paton, D., Gregg, C.E., Houghton, B.F., Lachman, R., Lachman, J., Johnston, D.M. & Wongbusarakum, S. (2008). The impact of the 2004 tsunami on coastal Thai communities: Assessing adaptive capacity. *Disasters*, 32(1): 106-119
- Paton, D., Houghton, B.F., Gregg, C.E., Gill, D.A., Ritchie, L.A., McIvor, D., Larin, P., Meinhold, S., Horan, J. & Johnston, D.M. (2008) Managing tsunami risk in coastal communities: Identifying predictors of preparedness. *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 23, 4-9.
- Paton, D., Smith, L., Daly, M. & Johnston, D.M.(2008) Risk perception and volcanic hazard mitigation: Individual and social perspectives. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research* 172: 179-188.
- Pulford, J., Bellringer, M., Abbott, M., Clarke, D., Hodgins, D., & Williams, J. (2009). Reasons for seeking help for a gambling problem: The experiences of gamblers who have sought specialist assistance and the perceptions of those who have not. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 25 (1), 19-32.
- Pulford, J., Bellringer, M., Abbott, M., Clarke, D., Hodgins, D., & Williams, J. (2009). Barriers to help-seeking for a gambling problem: The experiences of gamblers who have sought specialist assistance and the perceptions of those who have not. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 25 (1), 33-48.

Ronan, K.R., Crellin, K., Johnston, D.M., Finnis, K., Paton, D. & Becker, J. (2008) Promoting Child and Family Resilience to Disasters: Effects, Interventions, and Prevention Effectiveness. *Children, Youth and Environments* 18(1): 332-353. Retrieved from <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye>.

Taylor, J. E., & Sullman, M. J. M. (2008). What does the Driving and Riding Avoidance Scale (DRAS) measure? *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, <http://dx.doi:10.1016/j.janxdis.2008.10.006>

Taylor, J. E., & Harvey, S. T. (in press). *Effects of psychotherapy with people who have been sexually assaulted: A meta-analysis*. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*.

Taylor, J., & Paki, D. (2009). Wanna drive? Driving anxiety and fear in a New Zealand community sample. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*, 37, 31-37.

Veale, J. F., Clarke, D. E., & Lomax, T. C. (2008). Sexuality of male-to-female transsexuals. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 37, 586-597.

### **GNS Science Reports**

Paton, D.; Johnston, D.; (2008) A means-end chain theory analysis of hazard cognitions and preparedness. *GNS Science Report* 2008/19 30 p.

### **Other**

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#### **Paper in Proceedings**

Busch, R., & Coombes, L. (2008). Using Foucauldian perspectives to enable the reading/speaking/writing of mal/adjustment as moral subjects. In T. Bridgman & B. Edman (Eds.), *Conference on Contemporary Critical Theories: Conference Proceedings* (pp. 16-26). Wellington, NZ: Victoria University of Wellington.

#### **Conference Presentation**

Busch, R., & Coombes, L. (2008, December 13). *Using Foucauldian perspectives to enable the reading/speaking/writing of mal/adjustment as moral subject*. Paper presented at the Conference on Contemporary Critical Theories. Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

#### **Miscellaneous Reports**

Johnston, D., Becker, J., Paton, D. (2008). Building disaster-resilient communities: the need for community-based programmes. *New Zealand Local Government* 44(6): p.17.

#### **Conference Proceedings**

Johnston, D., Becker, J., Taylor, T. (2008). Community-based public education: Case studies in Indonesia and Thailand. Proceedings of the Indonesia-New Zealand: Promoting initiatives on disaster risk management conference and workshop, Jakarta 5-6 August 2008.

Johnston, D., Dolan, L., Saunders, W. Glavovic, B. (2008). Disposal of debris following urban earthquakes: guiding the development of comprehensive pre-event plans. Proceedings of the i-Rec 2008 conference, Christchurch 30 April – 2 May 2008.

Ronan, K., Johnston, D. (2008). Best practice workshop: Best practice in enhancing disaster resilience in communities and regions. Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian mental health and psychosocial disaster management conference, Brisbane 22-23 October 2008.

#### **Abstracts from Conference Proceedings:**

Johnston, D., Becker, J., Paton, D., Taylor, T. (2008). Community-based public education programs: Case studies from Indonesia and Thailand. Abstract, Proceedings of the Indonesia-New Zealand: Promoting initiatives on disaster risk management conference and workshop, Jakarta 5-6 August 2008. Retrieved from <http://disasters.massey.ac.nz>

Johnston, D., Dolan, L., Saunders, W. Glavovic, B. (2008). Disposal of debris following urban earthquakes: guiding the development of comprehensive pre-event plans. Abstract, Proceedings of the i-Rec 2008 conference, Christchurch 30 April – 2 May 2008.

### Presentations

Johnston, D. (2008). Emergency management planning: Lessons from recent & historical events. Presentation for the Joint centre for disaster research emergency management summer institute, Wellington, 11 February, 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). Developing effective all-hazard warning systems. Presentation for the Joint centre for disaster research emergency management summer institute, Wellington, 12 February, 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). The role of public education, community engagement and public participation in building resilient communities. Presentation for the Joint centre for disaster research emergency management summer institute, Wellington, 13 February, 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). Introduction to health sector emergency management. Presentation for the Joint centre for disaster research emergency management summer institute, Wellington, 14 February, 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). Community response and recovery. Presentation for the Joint centre for disaster research emergency management summer institute, Wellington, 15 February, 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). Impacts & mitigation. Presentation for the Planning for a volcanic crisis short course, Rotorua 24 September 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). People and hazards: Are we prepared and how are we responding? Presentation for the NIWA Managing extreme weather and flooding workshop, Wellington, 21 October 2008.

Johnston, D. (2008). And the walls came tumbling down: Surviving future disasters in New Zealand. Massey University Wellington public lecture series. Wellington, 2 October 2008.

Johnston, D., Lindsay, J., Wilson, T. (2008). Tephra trouble: Volcanic hazards roadshow, Auckland, 6 November 2008.

**IMPORTANT!** Please send information about "in press" or published research to [H.L.Page@massey.ac.nz](mailto:H.L.Page@massey.ac.nz). We will include research outputs information that you forward to Melanie Robertson. However, since outputs information does not include in press or in preparation research we'd still like you to keep us updated directly about such material.

**Please let Melanie Robertson know if you do not wish your outputs to be released in the Psychology News.**

# Student Activities, Achievements, and Awards

## Notes from the Doctoral Coordinator

Each issue A/P Keith Tuffin, the School of Psychology's Doctoral Coordinator, keeps us up-to-date with Doctoral news.

Notes from the Doctoral Coordinator. (Dec 2008 - Jan 2009)

### Oral Examinations

No reports of oral examinations during this period.

### Graduate Profile

In this newsletter we profile Dr Natilene Bowker (who graduated in 2004) and now lectures in Psychology at the Open Polytechnic.

Q For your PhD what did you study and what did you find out?

I discursively explored what it means to be online for people with physical and sensory disabilities. This involved interviewing about 20 people about their online experiences via email or an online, real time communication programme of their choice. Overall, the data showed that the participants viewed online interactions positively. Online access and participation enabled them to 'be' in ways not possible offline. For instance, they could demonstrate their skills, personalities, and interests, without the judgement of a disabled body.

Q What was the best part of doing a doctoral thesis?

It's hard to narrow it down to just one aspect. For me, it was a combination of studying intensely something I am interested in and having the flexibility to progress at your own pace, with all the support that is provided by the Psychology department (from peers to staff).

Q What was the most difficult aspect of completing your doctorate?

Discursive psychology was a completely new area so judging when and if I was on the right track, in terms of the quality of the data analysis, seemed elusive at times.

Q There is often much mystique around the PhD oral - could you tell us about your experience.

I knew that to reach the day of the oral exam meant that the thesis was pass worthy, so that gave me some relief. I was of course very nervous, but the sound of examiners' laughter in the room while waiting did ease the pain. The scariest moments were waiting outside the room and answering the first question. After I realised I could answer the questions competently, I was on a roll. Certainly, some difficult questions were asked, but having spent 5 years intensely connected to the topic gave me the knowledge and confidence to answer. I didn't feel anything was impossible to answer. The exam was also far shorter than anticipated - just under an hour. Then a short break, while they deliberated on the outcome, after which I then returned to find I had passed with some minor grammatical changes to make.

Q What advice would you offer those thinking of embarking on doctoral study in psychology?

Try to make the experience as enjoyable as possible:

Choose a supervisor you get on with and who is approachable. You are going to be spending the next few years in their presence. You don't necessarily need the world's no. 1 expert. Instead you need someone who has your interests at heart.

Choose a topic you like because you need to be able to maintain some enthusiasm over the long haul.

Break the tasks down into bite sized tasks, because little chunks are easier to manage in one go, than whole chapters.

Q You chose to formally graduate - is that something you would encourage others to do?

You don't have to go to a graduation ceremony, but wearing the gown and special hat was an occasion I won't forget.

Q What work have you been involved in since completing the PhD?

Since completing the PhD, I have had a range of jobs. I began as a generic writing consultant with the Student Learning Centre, then a postgraduate consultant for a few years, which led on to a learning coordinator position. Although these roles were not linked to psychology, they have provided opportunities to hone my teaching skills, with a focus on online learning. During this time, I also examined a PhD thesis, and co-supervised a PhD candidate in Education. Now I am about to take up a position as a psychology lecturer with the Open Polytechnic.

## Doctoral Confirmation Events

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Congratulations to ...

Congratulations to Michael Smith and Veronica Hopner who successfully completed their confirmation events and have had their doctoral enrolments confirmed. Confirmation events continue to provide each campus with regular seminars where the doctoral students present to staff and students. These events are an important milestone in the doctoral journey and it is great to see them being so well supported within the School.

## New Doctoral Enrolments

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- Mark Lewis - December - thesis title "Cognitive disability following brain injury". Mark is working with Duncan Babbage and Janet Leathem.
- Glenis Mark - February - thesis title "Exploring the holistic nature of rongo (traditional M ori medicine) practices" . Glenis is working with Kerry Chamberlain and Dr Rhys Jones from the University of Auckland.
- Susan Page - February - thesis title "Investigating the prevalence of seasonal affective disorder within a New Zealand population sample, or vulnerability to seasonal symptoms". Susan is working with Nik Kazantzis and Dave Clarke.

Jackki Yim - February - thesis title "The effectiveness of two novel treatments for affect recognition difficulties for people with traumatic brain injury". Jackki is working with Duncan Babbage and Janet Leathem.

## Other Student News

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### Wellington Post-Graduate Mentoring Programme Update

Maria Ulloa and Jack Noone have set up a mentoring service for postgraduate students living in the Wellington area. At this early stage there are eight mentors and 10 mentees currently enrolled. The mentors are Brett Hunt, Celia Falchi, Jackkie Yim, Anna Reynolds, Paul Wood, Clare Couch, Maria Ulloa and Jack Noone. They are all PhD or DClinPsych students in the School of Psychology. A "Mentoring Google Group" has also been established for students to ask questions about any aspect of research. This website also provides links to recent ethics applications, funding applications, and other resources. We are currently in the process of "matching" mentors with mentees via email and social events of epic proportion (TBA). Any postgraduate student living in the Wellington area (including Kapiti) can join the mentoring group by visiting <http://groups.google.co.nz/group/WPGMC> and clicking "contact the owner".

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## 'Social Psychology'

Congratulations to Anne Niko who will marry her partner Tahiwī Ormsby on May 2. Anne and Tahiwī are expecting their first baby in September.

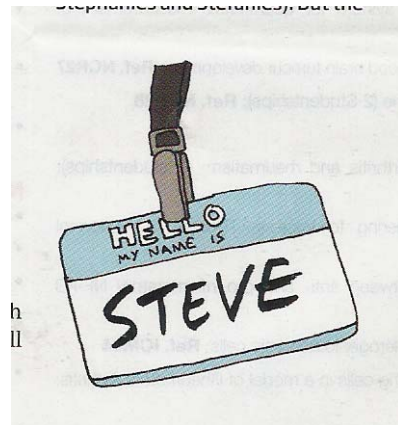
### ***Why Stephen Hills must name his next child Steve.***

*Psychology News* also received this rather interesting email (name and address supplied) ...

Stephen Hills officially belongs to the select group of scientists in favour of evolution whose name is Steve. His name is published on their T-shirt! However, this latest story from *New Scientist* (28 February, 2009, p. 56) shows that by signing up, Steves are not only committing themselves to the theory but to a new branch of science and concern about the survival of their own species:

The latest unusual unit to join the Titanic (weight), the Wales (area), the Olympic swimming pool (volume), the African elephant (large size) and the Kylie Minogue (small size) is the kiloSteve (Steves), which was coined this month by Project Steve. In a parody of creationist lists of "scientists against evolution", Project Steve has been gathering names of scientists in favour of evolution - as long as their name is Steve (or equivalent). The thousandth such Steve has now signed up, hence the kiloSteve.

We are sure this new unit will be invaluable in enabling people to comprehend large quantities of Steves. It could also highlight a dangerous decline in their number. The current population of Steves in the US is 2924 kiloSteves (according to the 1990 census, and including Stevens, Stephens, Steves, Stephanies and Stefanies). But the birth rate in 2005 was a mere 12.8 kiloSteves per year, far short of replacement level. This becomes more serious if you consider that when the census was taken, the US population density was a scant 304 nanoSteves per square metre. It is with sadness that we note in conclusion that while the Henry is a well established SI unit (measuring inductance), the Systeme International does not yet employ the Steve or its derived units. However, stephanometry is a young science so hope remains that it will soon be given proper recognition.



### ***Wellington Block 7 staff seize the Nigel Christianson Memorial Psi Trophy***

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Wellington staff enjoyed a social function at The Lanes 10-pin bowling centre in Wakefield Street. The Lanes provides a great bowling, eating and drinking venue after a hard day's work! These days, competition for the Psi trophy is a three-way tussle between the school staff housed in Block 7, the clinic staff in King Street, and the staff and pg students at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research (JCDR). We competed for the Nigel Christianson Memorial Psi Trophy which has been in the firm grip of the JCDR for several months, David Johnston's group having reigned superior in the last two challenges. At The Lanes, Steve and Jack were the stand-out bowlers of the night, setting a hot pace for the rest of us. Needless to say, Steve and Jack were playing for Block 7. The photo is rather dark, but the eagle-eyed among us will spot a certain person developing her bowling skills.



## Psychologists outside of the School of Psychology

*In this new column **Psychology News** talks to psychologists with Massey connections who do not reside in the School of Psychology.*

*If you have suggestions of suitable candidates for future issues please let us know. Suitable candidates include psychology researchers or psychologists who work at Massey outside of our School, or who have a Massey connection but work outside of the university.*

*This issue's interview is with Dr Monica Skinner.*

### Dr Monica Skinner?



#### **Can you tell us about your background in psychology – how did you end up where you are?**

Wanting a change from my high school subjects (the classical, latin, french, german, science, history, geography) psychology and the social sciences seemed a good choice. The career prospects and pay checked out. So after a gap year to save for varsity (yeah right!) and gain work experience, library and then psychiatric hospital work ensued. I attended Canterbury (the old Town Site and Ilam initially) for its strong reputation in Clinical Psychology but after exposure to the diversity in Psychology and the opportunity to major in Sociology as well (being a joint Department = no time-table clashes), I found myself becoming

more interested in I/O Psychology by Masters level (Personnel Psych, Ergonomics, Organisational Psychology, Research and Statistics, a practical course and an a thesis). The highlights of my undergrad psychology I remember as: comparative psychology; Applied Analysis of Behaviour; training rats to produce impossibly complex and long sequences of responses; psychological testing; child development; brain and behaviour; visual perception; and statistics (also computer programming and the start of a long association with SPSS). Other students reported hating statistics but their asking me for help further increased my interest and confidence in teaching. I went on to assist in Sociology methods labs. Research was a key interest along with earning money – so I frequently undertook research assistant work for staff and despite the generous student scholarships and allowances of the time I still felt the need to have a part-time job cleaning the Varsity library for a time – there seemed to be only a handful of students in employment. A memorable project was conducting endless library searches for references/entries for a bibliography of the New Zealand Family. I ended up where I am now through the following jobs: psychiatric social work; Counsellor/Child Psychotherapist for the Department of Social Work; Secondment to Massey to write study guides for a Diploma in Welfare Administration; marking in Psychology; Graduate Assistant in Psychology (101 and 102 labs, methods paper 203, vocational and organisational psychology, and staff and student research) while undertaking a PhD in the area of work adjustment theory at Massey (getting LISREL here for a year was great – now a standard part of SPSS). Next jobs after my PhD were; Research Advisor Manawatu Polytechnic, administration and research support as part of the New Settlers Programme (a Public Good Science Fund and FRST funded research contract); teaching in Social Policy and Social work and marking and lecturing in the School of Business in Organisational behaviour, HR - Current HR Issues and Competitive Advantage. Along the way I have supervised student research at undergrad and postgrad levels in Social Work and Social Policy topics. Invaluable experiences that contribute to my current practice include the Psychiatric/Psychopaedic hospital work (with lots of on-the-job training and international workshops) and the DSW Counsellor role where I was also seconded for a day each week to the adolescent psychiatric and the child development units.

#### **What about your background in general - where did you come from? Do you have any non-psychological interests, hobbies, or quirks that you feel like sharing?!**

I am originally from a North Island Central King Country farm (sheep, cattle, cropping) situated in a beautiful valley through which the stream trains ran. Being a post-war baby-boomer of older parents I had the privilege of knowing English and New Zealand grandparents born in the 1880s - it is hard to believe I have known family born 128 years ago. The English, Irish and Scots were well represented in our valley, most either related or linked through marriage. The

local primary school was a great mix of maori and pakeha but the high schools did not offer latin – so it was off to Boarding School and the city life. The opportunities of sport and music (piano, guitar and singing) were great. I also played netball, swam and ran, then at Varsity it was basketball, canoeing those brilliant South Island Rivers (no helmets in those days!) and skiing at Temple Basin (home of the University club). Once a working person I turned my attention to dance as form of exercise and am caught up on a committee as secretary of a local Dance competition Association. Some of my other committee memberships have included the local committee of the NZ Psychological Association, a School Board and numerous school and sporting committees in support of my children. Photography (and videoing) has been an enduring interest and one I share with my husband (although our subject matter is somewhat different).

**At present you have a practice you work in and have come to teaching recently. How does teaching help you with your practice?**

I have been teaching or marking more years than not when I add it all up (about 23 and been associated with Massey now for 25 years) and been in private Practice currently for about 10 years but a further 5 years can be added from earlier Family Court work. My teaching and/or marking began as a level three student, continued throughout my Masters, to post- PhD and filling in temporarily to replace others leaving for research or work elsewhere. I now work mainly as a contracted professional with EAP Services (an employment assistance programme) and to a much lesser extent in private practice. However this first semester I am assisting with an extramural paper in the school in Personnel and Career Development. Teaching most definitely helps with my practice, especially I/O Psychology and it has encouraged me to maintain a current knowledge base. It has reinforced for me the importance of research findings being known and applied. It has therefore also served as a reminder of the lag that can occur between findings and their application in the workplace and the frustration that results from seeing unsupported or disputed practices and theories still in use.

**What areas of psychology interest you most? What have you researched and what are you currently researching?**

Over the years I have been interested in comparative psychology, behaviour modification, and test development and been involved in research in: psycholinguistics; work adjustment and the transition from University to work; and psychological and social well-being and the settlement of skilled migrants. I am interested in most areas of I/O research. I am currently undertaking research in the area of aspects of visual perception assessment in workplaces with the support, interest and involvement of Professor John Podd.

**What would you like to do with your psychology in the future? Future research? Teaching? What directions would you like to take it in?**

I would like to continue doing research as a priority and teach alongside where that is possible.

**What about working with students?**

I have always enjoyed working with students. I appreciate work of a high standard and like observing the sense of achievement and satisfaction students show when more complex subject matter or tasks are conquered.

**Favourite books**

Science fiction, short stories (e.g. Roald Dahl's), biographies and autobiographies.

**Favourite films/TV**

Older movies like: Capricorn One; Play Misty For Me; and China Town and for a more recent one: Blood Diamond. TV: – a lot of British Comedy; some NZ comedy e.g. Flight of the Conchords and currently the drama or is it a farce? - Burying Brian.

**Favourite meal**

Potatoes, bacon, grilled tomatoes and field mushrooms.

# People in the School of Psychology

## Interview with Siatu Alefaio

### Senior Professional Clinician Massey University

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*Q. Before taking up the role of Senior Professional Clinician for the Post Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice, where were you and what were you doing?*  
Auckland, in private practice, starting a PhD and involved in various Community advisory projects

*Q. So why did you decide to take on this role?*  
The role is a new venture, a step into the pioneering realm for Psychology in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Creating pathways for psychologists and meeting the demands for our workforce is paramount right now, I see this role as contributing to this and one that will be good for me, especially as I get to escape the Auckland traffic ☺

*Q. Tell us about your background in psychology - where did you study? What aspects of psychology interest you? Do you have a background in any other disciplines or professions?*

BA & MA at Auckland University, then worked for some years in CYFs, Youth Mental Health and then Education before going through Massey's Ed Psych programme to become Registered. Psychology as a practice offers some great insights for the realities of living life, it also continues to build on discovering and understanding humanity in many diverse ways. I'm interested in the way psychology has developed as not only a science but also a practice. The application of psychology in Aotearoa, New Zealand has yet to understand and allow for Indigenous Maori let alone Pasifika worldviews, I hope to contribute to this somehow.

*Q. You are our latest Pasifika addition to the Psychology team. How do you see your culture and background contributing to the Post Graduate Diploma Psychological Practice programme?*

As the programme is yet to start it is difficult to answer this question, but I would hope that the holistic nature of the Pasifika worldview of which I was nurtured will help to support the students in this final stage of their journey to registration as Practitioners of psychology.

*Q. Do you have any plans for how you would like the Post Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice programme to develop over the next couple of years?*

No plans as yet, only 'hope' to see the programme thrive and grow in its development, we are very much in the infancy stage. The best person to answer this would be Ian Evans – the visionary of this programme.

*Q. What is your favourite thing about your work?*

Meeting people, discovering new insights and being a part of peoples' life-journey is an amazing privilege.

*Q. What's your favourite book?*

The bible.

*Q. What is the last movie you saw?*

Slum-dog millionaire (a must-see!!)

*Q. Favourite food?*

Hmmm..... my mother's sweet lemon pie yum, yum ☺



### **Next Issue**

*An editorial note: I did not have a lot of news to share, so please feel free to inform me of any news you have for the next newsletter.*

The next issue (Vol 5, No 2, April / May) of *Psychology News* will be produced in late May. The editorial responsibilities for the next few issues will be taken up by Helen Page and Hope Hyslop and other members of the Publicity committee while Stephen is doing research. If you have any news, or fabulous photos, or research and publication information that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please send the information to Helen Page, [H.L.Page@massey.ac.nz](mailto:H.L.Page@massey.ac.nz) before the end of May.

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